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Week 8: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Governor Mike Huckabee #3

James: What a blessing to be with you. All of you here are a tremendous blessing. Thank you! All of you. You're a blessing. All of you are worthy. Don't you ever let the enemy tell you you're unworthy, unfit -- that's one of the biggest lies. You just yield the clay of your life to the master potter and he is going to make you a vessel of honor and a channel through which he flows his love and his truth and his freedom and his blessings. You are a chosen vessel.

We have a chosen vessel here who wrote a wonderful book. I think that you're going to find yourself almost leaping through it because as you read it, it's going to lift you up. And you know the author because he is a statesman, not only the governor of the great state of Arkansas, which is truly a great state with great people, and they're great neighbors to Texas, and I thank God for you, and pray for us, okay?

I once made a statement. I said, "You know Texas is the greatest nation. All we need is a little more water and air conditioning." A guy stood up and said, "Man, that's all hell needs."

[Laughter]

An Arkansas guy can handle that. Would you welcome back to *LIFE Today* Governor Mike Huckabee?

Mike: Thank you.

James: I'm asking you in this program to wear the governor's hat, the statesman's hat, the pastor's hat and the father's hat above all -- just the neighbor. Talk to us as concerned people here

in America and people watching all over the world who love America. People are praying for America because if freedom fails here, the whole world is devastated. So talk to us out of your heart. What do you pray and what do you hope the book accomplishes? Because you want people to be able to hear from God the Father, "Well done."

Mike: James, when I grew up there's a thing in the south, when a family has a death in the family, one thing that you can always count on is that people will come, they'll bring hugs, they'll bring lots of food, more than a family could ever eat and one thing that will always be there will be a big bowl of potato salad. One of the chapters in the book I call "Potato Salad Time" and here's why. One of these days, the potato salad is going to be brought for me. They're going to bring that bowl for me. What are people going to say about me at potato salad time?

So it is sort of a euphemistic way to talk about death without saying, "Mr. Smith died. Its potato salad time over at the Smith house." We're all going to experience potato salad time. We need to live our lives for the way it ends rather than for living it just for the weekend or for next summer's vacation.

And how do you do that? It's putting the big things first and foremost. For example, I think we've got to get back, and this is part of the therapy that I had in writing the book. What matters is family. What matters is that we raise children who grow up to take our places and do a better job than we did. If people are only busy trying to get a better income so they can give their kids' things, but they don't give kids character and they don't teach kids how to love each other in a marriage, then what are we giving them? We're giving them stuff that will be destroyed. And that's the kind of mistake I think that many American families have made. So focusing on what real family means.

Every kid in this country is better off with both a mother and a father. I realize some great kids come out of broken homes. They have and always will. But the best environment for a child growing up is to have a mother and a father who love the children and the mother and father who love each other. We have almost lost sight of that.

We don't help people to understand that faith is not an event. People think when I go to summer camp I'm going to have a faith moment. Faith is a process. It is something that happens throughout the entirety of our lives. I hear people say, "That person really offended me and they did it on purpose. I've tried to forgive them but I just can't."

And my response to them is, "Try it again -- and keep trying."

The trying of your faith works patience but let patience have its perfect work. And sometimes we forget that. So I want people to understand that faith is a lifetime process. It is not a single event. And it is going to be in our lives like riding a bicycle.

When people say how do I learn to forgive? How do I learn how to give generously? To be a tither? To be a generous giver above that? How do I learn how to love people who are mean? How do I learn how to accept the difficulties in life when something has happened to me that I've got a diagnosis of a disease that I didn't want? How do I deal with that? I've tried and I can't. Try it again. That's how you learn to walk. It's how you learn to ride a bicycle. It's how you learn to play a musical instrument. You do it over and over until it becomes a part of your make up.

That's what real faith is about, James. It is not just this, please God, hit me with it. Come on down. I wish it was. How many times have we all prayed for that?

So I want people to understand that we're moving toward potato salad time. We're moving toward the finish line but we never stop moving. We never get to the place where we sit, fold our arms and say, "Okay God, this is as far I can get." Because that's not true.

God wants us to be move to the place where he looks at our life and he says, "Well done, good and faithful servant." That's what determines the evaluation of my life. You're not going to be judged by the people that don't like you. Not even by the people who love you. You're going to be judged by the God who made you and has a perfect plan for your life.

James: And he loves us so perfectly. You know what he does do, when you pointed out all

those things, he is offering to be a source of strength and to send his spirit. You and I are Baptists but I think we believe full well in the importance of the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit living in us. And what I found, Mike, because I've been hurt a lot in my life, I have a forgiver living in me. And if in faith I would yield this clay, this vessel to the fullness of that spirit, that forgiver can only forgive. That has enabled me to forgive people I would have said I can't forgive. The beautiful thing when I forgive it changes me and many times them and it begins it change everything around me. Does that make sense that we can ask for this help in those areas where we feel so weak?

Mike: I travel a lot and I'm on the road all the time. I will get on an airplane and I'll say, "I'm going to fly to California." Well, actually, I'm not going to fly to California, the airplane is. I'm going to be in the plane and wherever the plane goes I go. When the Bible speaks about I'm in Christ, it's not so much that I am Christ because I'm not but I am in him. How do I forgive? Because I'm going where he is going. If he is going to forgive, hey, I've got to do it because that's where he is going. If I'm going to be generous and I don't want to be generous, if I'm in Christ, I'm going to be generous because that's who he is.

Those are the ways in which our lives move toward that finish line so that he can look at us. Instead of saying, "You just failed to live up to your potential" or "You lived a life of mediocrity. You could have done worse but you sure could have done better."

But if God says, "With what I gave you," and he doesn't give us the same things, doesn't expect the same things out of us, but if he says, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You took the keys in your hand and you drove a church bus and picked kids up who got to know Christ." "You had a hand and you dialed phone calls by the hundreds and invited people to an evangelistic meeting to hear a James Robison message and they came to Jesus." "You had a spoon and you stirred things in your kitchen and you took food to people who are hurting and who have been through surgery and you fed them and you nourished them but you loved them." You used what you had.

And there are going to be some people in heaven that God is going to reward not because they

were famous, not because they were ever the lead story in the six o'clock news -- and let me say to you, that's not all it's cracked up to be.

[Laughter]

There are going to be some people that God is going to say, "You did exactly what I put you on earth for." You made gloves for little kids. You went over to someone's home and just hugged them. You mowed their lawn when their dad couldn't be there to do it. Those are the things that we think are unimportant but those are the things that at the end of this life will be the reasons that God says, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

James, when I see the things that you're doing with the water, and there are people all over the world and they will say, "I wish I could do that. I wish I could!" And the truth is, God is saying you can. You just have to make that a priority. Those are the ways at which God tells us like the perfect father he is that we can do rather than what we can't do.

James: You talk about such calm things yet you do talk about things related to food. Food's good. You talk about a fork, a special... What's the deal there?

Mike: There was a pastor who was called to the home of one of his members. And when he got there she said, "Pastor, I've been diagnosed with a terminal illness and I'm not going to last long. I want to plan my funeral."

She said, "I know a lot of people would think this is morbid but it is not. I want to take this burden from my family and make it easy on them so I have it all figured out." She went through the service, the songs and what scripture she wanted.

She said, "I have one other thing. And pastor, it is kind of an unusual request." And he was thinking to himself oh yeah, everybody thinks they have an unusual request. Then she said, "When they put me in the casket, I want them to put a fork in my hand, not flowers but a fork. And I want that fork to be in my hands so when people come around they're going to look and

they're going to say, "What on earth? Has she lost her mind as well as her life?"

"And then pastor, when you do my message, I want you to explain why I have a fork in my hand."

And he was of course, by this time bewildered. He said, "Well, you'll have to explain it to me."

She said, "You know when we have those church potluck suppers and everybody brings so much food? There's pot roast and fried chicken and potatoes and we eat and we keep eating and we just think we can't have another. And then everybody's reared back and the ladies come and they pick up our plate. But here's something that they will always say when they pick up your plate, 'Keep your fork -- keep your fork!'"

Now everybody that's ever been to a church potluck knows what this means.

[Laughter]

"Keep your fork" means it ain't over.

[Laughter]

You stuffed yourself with all these dishes but keep your fork because the best is yet to come. Dessert is on its way. There is chocolate cake. There is lemon meringue pie. Folks, you thought it was over. You thought it couldn't get any better. But the best is yet to come. Keep your fork!

She said, "Pastor, you tell them keep your fork because the best is yet to come."

This is God's great message for us. This life, as important as we think it is, it ain't over yet. The best things we've had in this life, just remember, there's something yet to come. Keep your fork.

Betty: Amen!

James: Do you appreciate this man?

[Applause]

I promise you, the best that we'll ever hear is, "I'm ready. I've kept the faith." And he says, "Well done." When he says, "That's good."

It's really been a blessing to us to be able to say to our children and 11 grandchildren, eight of them married, and they're married to spouses that love Jesus, and all eleven of our grandchildren love Jesus, and our three little great grandchildren, the oldest one is -- four great grandchildren. I was trying to tell the age of the oldest one is three. Four; the oldest is three. I know they're going to grow up and love Jesus.

Mike, when you can talk about your family and all of them love God and they love each other, those cousins love each other. It is a beautiful thing to see. Nothing more beautiful. And my prayer is that the Father can look down at his family and say, "Look how they love one another. Look at the joy. The best is yet to come."

I want us to reveal to the world the glory that's to come by allowing the King of glory, Christ in us, the hope of that glory revealed. You know the song: My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord, that just keeps going over and over in my mind. But I'm seeing and hearing something a little different. My eyes have seen the coming glory of the Lord as greater heart's desire than the Lord coming in glory. I want his glory to come on us and the whole world see the manifestation of that glory and that hope. Does that make sense?

Don't you think that is a possibility? Don't you believe that if he told us to pray, because his kingdom, he says has come, "the kingdom is at hand. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Do you think that Jesus would teach us a foolish prayer and make a foolish prayer the model prayer if it was not possible for the will of God to be done on earth? Don't you think it's possible?

Mike: Not only possible, it's the only thing that makes sense. Everything that God tells us to do is practical. It is practical. It is for our benefit.

Sometimes people try to make things too complicated when they read the scripture and when they think about what God says. It is all for our benefit. If God tells us not to steal, it is not because he doesn't want us to have stuff. It is because he knows that if we have something that we don't truly earn or we don't have it honorably, we'll never be happy with it.

So there is nothing in God's word that is without purpose and merit. And it's practical, useful and it works.

James: And you don't covet what somebody else has. You rejoice with those who rejoice. I have so much fun watching somebody build a home, watching somebody get an opportunity, get a new car. I never want that car. Do you know how I pray when I see beautiful homes going up somewhere or just a modest home? But it is their first home, it is their home. Do you know what I pray? God, please let a home live in that house. Please let a family...

You know what I see when I see a "For sale" sign go up. God, I hope they didn't lose a dream. I hope they didn't lose a job. To me, this is weeping with those who weep, rejoicing with -- it is a joyful way to live.

Every time I see you, everything you do, you brighten my day. And it isn't just because you're grinning. You brighten my day because you're so full of the life and love of God. And frankly, Sarah brightens my day even when people are trying to beat her up. I see her sometimes, they're all throwing stones at her and she handles them. She is a blessing.

Would you say God, thank you for Mike Huckabee and for Sarah -- for the whole Huckabee family? God bless you, Mike. Thank you. His book is in the bookstores. Run get one. Order it online. Get one for a friend.

I'll tell you what, you've talked about the fact that we love giving people water. We love feeding the hungry. We love rescuing girls and boys that have been trafficked sexually and watching their whole life change. The love of the viewers has done miraculous things all over the world. That's what the church, that's what the family of God does. That's what caring people do for their neighbor. I see you trying to inspire that.

I see you, every time you talk, and I'm not kidding you, it can be a tough interview, you always brighten our day and we just thank you for it. Again, would you thank Governor Huckabee for being with us?

[Applause]

We are, and Mike has already referred to how important it is that people who watch this program love their neighbor so obviously. I want you to look in on a scene that I believe will touch your heart. And when you know that people are praying and hurting in these areas and you have the answer to their prayer and then a fact you are the answer to their prayer, I think you'll be excited about seeing that answered prayer. Watch.

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.

>> It's a good time to share a little bit about my faith because when my husband died, I was depressed. Church members came over to my house, and they comforted me.

Tammy: We've gotten a chance to spend some time with Leah today and getting to hear her story. Come to find out, we have a lot in common. We're both widowed.

Open Captions:

>> We drink water from a small river down that hill, there. Due to the water, one of my sons is dead. Before that, my husband died.

Tammy: When I come into these places and I see their water sources, and knowing that it's a very hopeless situation for them, that water itself has brought death to her family. I would love to extend a hand of hope to Leah and many people just like her, especially in this village, to be able come in here and drill a well that will give her life -- and life more abundantly. It would take away the hardship that she feels, that would take away some of the pain that she feels, to know that you have fresh water every single day. I know that's what you asked me for.

So I'm going to turn around and I'm going to ask you, would you please consider helping Leah and many, many people just like her right here in this village? And I'm hopeful that out of our own obedience we respond in Jesus' name. I promise you, it won't be in vain.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, I don't think there is anyone who can watch that and I think most of you know, Tammy Trent, great musician, great artist, great writer, her husband drowned and he was a swimmer. So she's been single. But she's a missionary and she is full of life. So she understands the pain of death. Here she lost a husband in water. These people are losing their family because of water. What goes on in your heart because our viewers are the answer to that heart cry? They're the perfect solution.

Betty: You really are. You're so important to what God wants to do. As Tammy said, "Reach out in hope." A hand of hope offer your help so that these children won't have to die, these family members won't have to die because of the contaminated water. I think about that wife, that mother, especially a mother. She probably doesn't even tell her children when she goes after

the water, "This water is going to kill you. Drink it. It's going to kill you." She couldn't do that but she knows. She knows in her heart what it's going to do to her children.

So please, join with us. Let's let her have a choice to offer her children fresh clean pure water. Please do it for the children.

James: When you see the joy in a little village from all of the families, just water coming out of the ground, see in most of those places we know there is sub surface water because there will be boreholes that become filthy and contaminated and they become killers. We can access it. That's the reason we're able to drill in most villages for an average of \$4800. You walk in with a miracle and put it in the center of their life. That's why we've been able to win millions and millions of people to Christ. When they see love, they're willing to listen to the story of love because it becomes so believable.

God expressed his love in giving us his son and offering us life. That's what we're giving them. And then we tell them when we give them Water for LIFE, about the water of life. And millions have not only had their lives saved they come to Christ. You're making this happen.

Our viewers tell us that we love to do everything that the missionaries do and support them. But nothing gives us greater joy than giving them water. For Jesus to say, "If you just give a cup of water, you won't lose your reward." By the way, I think it is reward enough just to know we're an answer to mothers' prayers, their kids are going to have life, and they're going to have a future. When I give, I don't think about what's in it for me, I think about what love is doing for them.

Would you right now take your bankcard, go get it or get a check, get your bankcard, use it like a check? Dial that number, it is a life line right now, always a prayer line but right now it is a life line. Would you dial it? By the way, if you ever get a busy, say, "Thank God people are calling!" But you call until you get through and you make the gift God puts on your heart.

The wells are \$4800. Could you drill a well? I pray you will if you can; \$1200, three people

join you, another well; \$2400, another joins you, another well; \$48, 10 people basically water the rest of their life. That's what it does in their village. Would you do that? Whatever level you can help, please do.

We've got some beautiful gift offers to send you. If you'd like to have Governor Huckabee's book, I'm telling you, you won't be able to put it down. It is going to inspire you to be the source of hope and light for the neighbors and people you know. It will bless you. If you'd like to have it you say, "James, I'm going to give a cup of water. I'm going to give that. Would you send me Mike's book too?" Yes, we will. We'll be glad to.

Thank you so much for going online or dialing that number. Thanks for the gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Today, a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable -- give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice what's a mother to do?

With your help, clean water is on the way. Mission Water for LIFE provides a way for parents to save the lives of their children, to offer them a bright future free from the fear of death. With your gift today, you can help drill and establish the first 200 water wells of the year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children, a gift of \$48 will help provide for 10, \$72 will provide for 15, and \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift, we'll send you the *Praying Grace* 55-day devotional. This new devotional will help you renew your mind to the realities of God's grace and help you pray powerful grace-based prayers for each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the "Praying Grace" tumbler. This reusable 16-ounce container is constructed with insulated stainless steel, perfect for hot or cold beverages.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people, or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request the beautiful, new commemorative bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: It's been a joy to be visiting with you this week. You can watch any of the programs online, LifeToday.org. And Governor Huckabee has been a tremendous blessing to us.

I want to just say thanks, Betty and I want to say thank you for giving a cup of water, a well of water, giving toward it. Thank you for your love.

Thanks for praying for Mike. We're sending the book to anyone who would like to have it who says, "James, I'm going to help with the water. Would you mind sending me Governor Huckabee's book?" We'll gladly send it to you, along with the other gifts. We just pray you'll be blessed by what you read and become a blessing.

Let's all say thanks to Mike Huckabee for being with us.

Mike: Thank you!

James: Bless all of you. Thank you.