

3/20/19

Week 12: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

"Thy Kingdom Come"

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison with my beautiful wife, Betty. It is just such an honor to be able to share this time with you.

I don't know whether it's really say hit home like I hope it is but I've made the statement and I've made it now quite a few times. I actually preached this message in the baccalaureate at Liberty University two graduation times ago; that the Lord didn't leave us here to get us out of here.

Excuse me, if you'll look at Acts chapter 1 and just begin reading, in Jesus' final words, what he said to them, and how they responded to him when he was delivering his message before he ascends into heaven. He said, "You heard from me... John baptized with water, but you'll be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they heard him they came together asking, saying, "Lord, is this the time you're going to restore the kingdom to Israel? You want to set up this earthly kingdom?"

Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the times or the epochs which the Father has fixed by his own authority."

Why do we get so caught up discussing those times? Paul writing to Timothy said, "In the last days these things happen." Then he made it clear in the next chapter, "These are my last days because I'm about to depart. But I have run the race, I've finished the course, I've kept the faith and there is a crown of righteousness. I'm going to be with the

Lord. Not only me, but all who love his appearing."

That doesn't just mean his second coming appearing, but just everywhere his manifest presence is released. And he's challenged Timothy to live in these last days with fervor and fire and faithfulness. And the faithfulness of those Christians caused the most evil empire, hard to imagine anything more evil than what we're seeing in many lands and in our own country, it is appalling, but it was worse than with Rome and yet it brought this evil empire down, and established a center for the Christian faith where that spiritual awakening led to all the great spiritual awakenings up to this day.

So don't get caught up with getting out of here. Do you remember how Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew Chapter 6 when he gave us what we call too often the Lord's Prayer? The Lord's prayer is in John 17, that's the Lord's prayer; the model prayer that we call "The Lord's Prayer," "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name," and so forth.

We say that but remember this; this is what I don't want you to miss. Please don't miss this! This is what Jesus taught you to pray. Would he teach you to pray something that wasn't important? Would he teach you to pray something that is impossible to see answered? Would he ask you to pray for something foolish, meaningless, a waste of time? Of course not!

So he said, "Pray thy kingdom come." Pause a minute. When he first started preaching he said the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Then he later clarified and declared the kingdom of heaven is in you. The kingdom of heaven is not of this world. It is of another kingdom realm but it is very much in the world because I have sent you as sheep in the midst of wolves, not to be slaughtered, in the shadow and shelter of the ultimate shepherd.

Well, we've got this bronze of the Shepherd with the sheep in his arms. He will carry us. Do you realize that what LIFE Today does day after day, and enables all over the world, is to get people all over the world who are the least of these, the too often overlooked,

into the arms, the loving arms of the shepherd? Because as the family of God, the people of God, we put the arms of God around the broken, overlooked, least of these. And Jesus said, "When you do that, you've ministered to me. You're greatest in the kingdom, you're a servant fulfilling my will, accomplishing my purpose -- you're the greatest."

If we can get every believer to rise up together like a family in love with the Lord, in love with one another, loving our neighbor, it will be like a mighty army that impacts and storms the gates of hell. The gates of hell are not to prevail.

Listen to what Jesus said. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done," where? "On earth, in earth, in us, through us, as it is in heaven." Is it possible for the will of God, Betty to be done on earth as it is in heaven? That doesn't mean everything on earth that the enemy Lucifer, the cast down angel, demonic force, evil force that said, "I'm going to be like God without God. I'm going to mislead," and that's what he's committed to do, that force will be here but that force is not to be prevailing. God's will is to be done here. Does that mean his will, God's will could be done right here on earth through us?

Betty: Absolutely! And that's what we're supposed to be, those vessels that he fills with his love and his forgiveness and his kindness and his will for our lives. We can be a part of showing people what God's love is about.

James: And what his kingdom looks like. What the rule of God looks like in our life. Please understand that the gates of hell are not to overcome your home. By the way, you don't have to let predators and trespassers in your house. You've got locks on your door. You do not want some federal government, some form of Caesar or some form of Pharaoh or Potiphar or any other power to tell you you just got to let trespassers sleep in your yard, come in your house and you're -- you don't! You can have locks and walls of protection.

The Bible teaches that the hedge of protection that we all need is God's word. And God clearly teaches that, "When you refuse to honor me and glorify me as the God I am, then

I will give you over to your choices and then when you decide to change my standard, my word into a lie, then I will give you up to the controlling forces of your own appetites and the appeals of this world."

See, if you do it God's way and you follow his principles the blessings of doing that are so amazing. It is like what Israel found in the land flowing with milk and honey and where the enemies were overcome by the power of God and all the fruitfulness. And God said it is going to be so great, it is going to be so awesome, you're going to see such amazing things. You've got to be careful that you don't think you did it yourself, become arrogant and proud, take your eyes off me, forget my standard and suddenly find yourself worshipping idols.

The greater the blessings freedom offers, the more opportunity it is to worship some aspect of that blessing, that benefit, that prosperity. You see what God's principles accomplish. You must understand that the what of those principles and the effect of them is so great you've got to know the who of the Father and the relationship with Jesus, the king to establish this kingdom life of overcoming life as more than conquerors in Christ, suited up in an armor of God that quenches even the suggestions of the enemy and brings thoughts captive with the mind of Christ, and the gates of hell are not allowed to prevail.

That's the only way that becomes reality right here is when we truly yield this vessel to the fullness of the Holy Spirit that Jesus has told them to tarry for. And when they did they were filled to overflowing and the weakest, most apt to stumble, boastful disciple who'd denied Jesus three times becomes in the power of that spirit the keynote speaker at Pentecost. So don't judge people by their actions. Look at them with prayer, with the potential of what God can do in any yielded clay and any vessel.

I showed you earlier in the week that I write down notes now that I get so frequently from the Lord. Please don't hear this as strange talk. Paul said he prayed without ceasing. That didn't mean he was locked up in a closet or down on his knees; it just meant "I live in constant communication with God." Prayer consists of us sharing our heart and listening

to hear the Father's heart.

I said if you'll write down these glimpses, these lightning bolts of glory when something comes from him, I just write it down, you will find many times scores of verses that basically say it, maybe in a little different flow but the same thing. So faith comes by hearing, the ability to hear God comes by the Word of God. So if you want to tune your hearing get to know the Word of God and then you'll be able to hear the voice of God.

Now I want you to listen to something I wrote because it really does apply, it really applies right now. Listen closely to it. By the way, these things come to me. I don't think them up. When they come I'll write them down. This is like a spirit of revelation. It is not extra biblical revelation. It is Jesus who is in us and his spirit, the same one guiding us to all truth. Listen. It is very important you hear this.

For the Christian, we must understand that we can enter into serious heated debates and discussions and desire to prove a point. Iron sharpening iron; there will be some friction. That's to be healthy friction to make us sharper. It is not friction when you do this. That's just a head-on collision and everybody is doing it. That's the way congress tends to meet. We've got to pray for them to come like this and friction make us all sharper.

All right, we may have a desire to prove a point, even a theological point. Don't miss this! But not at the expense of destroying the other person. In a Christian's life we need the spirit of redemption. We must discern spirits. Even if we have great theological differences, a redemptive spirit helps others see more clearly. Sometimes that takes time. That's what love is. Love is patient. It's persistent and patient and determined. Love is not cruel, it's not mean or hateful. There can be strong rebukes but there is still such an important line between the spirit of redemption and the spirit of destruction. While you're correcting and instructing, be careful that you're not tearing down and destroying that other person.

Please hear! If we want his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, we give him the

yielded vessel, allow him to fill us to overflowing with his spirit of love and joy and peace and patience, goodness and kindness, meekness, be very teachable, self-control, under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Betty, you and I, and many times you've sat in situations where I'll have the most diverse people from the religious community or even the political community, businessmen or whatever, and you'll watch us begin to talk and redemption flow, and you see people that have been taught to despise one another come together in indescribable supernatural love, have you not?

Betty: Absolutely.

James: And doesn't God want to do that in every area of life, including our national political life, even in Washington to get people to come to the table of reason in the presence of love and understanding, and with the glory and grace of God being spilled in the spirit of redemption? Can't we pray for that and see that too?

Betty: Absolutely! Sometimes I think as Christians, we need to be reminded of that moment, that time in our life when we were so down, we were so out, we felt so sinful and we needed help and we were hurting. And we heard someone talk about Jesus and we wanted that love. We heard how God loves us, how much he loves us. And we went and we committed, we submitted our hearts and our lives.

Sometimes I think we need to be reminded of that moment and what that love felt like that came from Jesus that we might be filled with that love to overflowing so that people who don't know him will be attracted to what they see in us, and that is God's love, so much, that he gave his only begotten son for us -- the only child he had -- and he gave it because he loved us. Unlimited love that's indescribable how long, how wide, how deep he says in Ephesians three is his love. We can feel that love every moment of our life when we're in sorrow, when we've lost a loved one.

When we lost our daughter I'd never felt so much the love of Jesus come and put his arms around me. We need to capture that again. Allow God to fill us with his love so that we can show that love to this world.

James: Father, I want to thank you for the love that you've put in my beautiful helpmate. Lord, I just thank you for that preciousness that's impacted our children, grandchildren, now great-grandchildren and people all over the world, the way she lifts me up. Thank you, Lord.

What you see flowing out of her sweet heart was what we launched this *LIFE Today* outreach, calling the family in the family room to really get to know the Father, and really begin to love the family and the family look like the Father. We're seeing that.

Betty, one of the most beautiful expressions is the way our viewers will, right now while we're talking, Father, I pray for every person with a broken heart. Let them reach out and get arms around them.

Do you realize that while we're talking hundreds and nearly 2,000 people at least will be calling now, most of them saying, "Would you please, please help me. Hold my heart." Many of them who are calling are lonely.

See, do you know why they're able to call? Do you notice it's paid for by love, that number? You're the love that pays for it. The love of God in you. Then when we show you what we're about to show you with precious children, think about this, little children and girls that are being taken slave -- now think what I'm saying. I'm not exaggerating. We're talking about trying to get little bitty children.

Can you imagine somebody being in such bondage that they would want to have sex with a little child? Oh God, how sick are we? Listen to me. We're all sick without Jesus. So we're praying for God to set those people who are trapped by their appetite. But then they

capture these little children, they capture women and they make them sex slaves.

And you the viewers said, "James, let's rescue them. Let's do that. And let's restore them. We're going to reach them, we're going to rescue them, we're going to restore them."

I want to ask you to do that right now. I want you to watch very closely because this shows you what you're the answer to. Yes, you are. God through you. And I'm going to ask you to help us rescue as many children and set free as many women, and many of those who are being trafficked, I want you to help us set them free right now, please. Thank you.

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> Over 70% of human trafficking victims are women. Over 50% are sexually exploited.

Sheila: I have walked these streets in Southeast Asia before but there is a real fresh sense of the darkness getting heavier and greater. Trafficking is a multibillion dollar business now and there are so many people on the streets looking out to make sure that no one interferes with their business or comes near.

Open Captions:

>> Over one million children are trafficked every year. Human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing crime worldwide.

Sheila: They came here, so many of these towns in Southeast Asia, thinking they were going get a legitimate job. They were told, "Yeah, come! Come to the city. You can be a waitress or work in a hotel." So they come full of hopes and dreams ready to make some money for their family. And then they're immediately trafficked. And you never -- you

never hear from them again.

Open Captions:

>> Unlike the drug industry trafficking victims are abused over and over again.

Sheila: Jesus said, "When you visit those in prison," there are different ways to be in prison. You can be in a prison in a club every night for two years. "When you visit those, when you care for those, you've done it for me."

So this is our moment to be Christ in the flesh to those who are broken.

End of clip

In the studio

James: As you watch Sheila with her arms around that trafficked woman in prison, in bondage literally, you put God's arms around her. Sheila expressed what your heart does.

Sheila was expressing what those mission and relief workers do all the time, Betty. When you watch a scene like that, which I know it is hard for you to even fathom and understand that that can ever be happening in our world, this great world God created and the enemy has made such a mess of, what goes on?

Betty: First of all, Sheila, thank you so much for doing that. I know it is very difficult. It breaks your heart. But it's worth it if we can show those that care what they can do to make the difference.

I'm a mother of two daughters. I'm a grandmother of five granddaughters and have three beautiful great granddaughters. I can't even imagine them being trapped like this. And just crying out in their hearts for help, "Somebody please hear me! I'm crying. I'm hurting. I'm trapped. Please somebody set me free."

We can be a part of that. These precious little ones shouldn't have to go through what they go through; their bodies being torn apart and abused like they are. Please join with us and let's get them out of those situations. Let's show them hope and life that only comes from Jesus and in the lives of people that care about them. So please join with us.

James: I'm very, very confident that you're going to do that.

I found myself just even praying while Betty was talking, gratitude for the way she expressed God's love that you help us share so freely, and I was just praying and I just said out loud, "God, would you not only set those who are trafficked free, but would you set free the men or the individuals that use those women, trying to gratify appetites that will never be satisfied apart from getting right with you? Please God set them free."

You see, it is because men are in bondage and trapped by their appetites that that even is possible and because people are so greedy for gain. Those women are not even trying to make themselves look attractive to be successful because they will themselves benefit more. They're just doing what they have to do to stay alive -- to eat, to not be beaten or killed. They are totally in prison. They're captives. And if Jesus came to set captives free and he can set them free because boy, do they want to be free, but they're going to have to have God's love through us.

Like I said, you the viewers, we showed that reality on television. You said, "Pray for these people. Pray." You said, "We've got to help them!" That's what you said. You have carried us with the love of God and your prayers to so many places and to so many people in the world -- all over the world, you've carried us.

And so I want to ask you right now, please. Let me tell you just how strong the love of God is in you the viewers. We have a \$320,000 matching gift to double what you give. It takes an average of \$128. I want you to let that sink in because I'm asking you right now to really give that amount today; to get your bankcard, go online, write a check, make it

to *LIFE* and send it. \$128 is what it takes to rescue someone and get them into restoration. That's what it takes per year and that's going to be matched. If you give \$128 it will not just rescue one but two.

\$1280 we refer to many times as rescuing ten, there are many of you watching today, some of you have never helped but you're hearing what I'm saying about the family of God revealing the love of the Father and getting his arms around the broken just like Sheila was. You're going to say, "You know what, James? I'm going to give the \$1280 to rescue ten" but now because of that love gift, that matching gift, it's going to be doubled and you'll rescue 20.

Please right now go online or dial that number, get your bankcard, use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us on that number and tell us you're mailing it today. We need to know, we've got to let the missionaries know, we've got to let the relief workers know it is coming. We have some very special gifts for you. A beautiful Name with Jesus throw, you're going to love it. A beautiful devotional study book that will just really reveal the promises God clearly to you. And then the beautiful bronze, In the Arms of the Shepherd.

Would you right now please put God's arms of love around someone like Sheila did?
Let's rescue them.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there is a darkness where a world of innocence is lost and abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of children with no one and nowhere to turn for help. With bodies broken and hopes crushed, these young victims are trapped in a never-ending nightmare.

Today, you can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue, and restore these young ones to the life God designed for them to live. With a generous \$320,000 matching gift, now your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 mission rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

And with your donation of any amount, we'll send you *The Promises of Christ* gift book filled with beautiful photographs, scriptures, stories, and commentary from James Robison.

With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive "The Names of Jesus" throw. This beautifully woven blanket features the names of Jesus in many languages. It will make a lovely addition to your home and serve as a beautiful reminder and spiritual comfort to the Lordship of our savior.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help rescue 20 children. And you may request our beautiful new bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I just say thank you from the bottom of our heart for letting us share our heart but the heart of God with you every day. We're going to be doing this often.

The Promises of Christ, gosh, that's what people are calling right now for to express the promise he offers with their gifts to set people free. But also, people are calling right now finding someone praying with them and getting arms of love around them because you make it possible. We're sending this gift for any gift you make to just help us rescue

those who are trafficked. Thank you for doing it.

Please encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. Remember, if you want to go back and listen to anything you've heard and maybe slow it down, pause, take notes, maybe write something down you heard, go to LifeToday.org. And then remember we have a website where I'm flowing the greatest minds and the greatest wisdom I know dealing with our national issues, which many people would call those dealing with political challenges: Stream.org. Go to stream.org. Listen to voices of wisdom, all of them redemptive even while corrective but showing us the way out of darkness.

Thank you so much for watching *LIFE Today* and sharing *LIFE Today*. Thank you.