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Week 27: Summer WFL

James and Betty Robison

"The Future of Freedom" #1

James: James Robison here; my wife Betty welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I think if I had a fire drill alarm, some shrill sound, a cannon blast, I found myself saying, what would it take to get you to just settle for a few moments and let us talk to you about what we believe the Father in heaven who loves us all so much wants to share with you? It's his heart. You've been -- listen to me -- you've been so amazing at seeing the least of these in the farthest reach of this planet and saying, "I'll give you water. I'll feed you. I'll love you. I will help *LIFE Outreach*, James and Betty and the missionaries show you the love of God."

You're amazing. You don't know how much I wish we were just sitting together. I think I would probably have to resist the desire to come over and sit real close to you, and in the most appropriate fashion, embrace you, give you a hug or a handshake and just say thank you for not overlooking the least of these. Thank you when you see a need, a heartache, what appears to be the most desperate situation perhaps we can ever witness, you don't look away.

Betty, our viewers look in and I think so often with the eyes and the heart of Jesus you reach out. They become a miracle; don't they?

Betty: Absolutely! Thank you so much for that. We feel your heart as you give to help others who are in such desperate need, sometimes life and death situations and we thank you so much for that. We also want to be able to minister to you and your needs and what is going on in your life and all around you.

James: Well, the reason that we're talking to you today is to share what I think is perhaps at this moment in our journey, more than 56 years married, we have 75 years on this earth, we've both been believers now for way over 50 years and it's just an amazing thing to see what's happening right now. And the chaos and the confusion and the hatred and the tension and the deception, it is probably as high as we've ever witnessed in our journey here in the United States.

But now listen to me. Betty and I have been spending a tremendous amount of time with people who love God with all their heart, with church leaders that you greatly respect; with people who love, in our opinion, many times like God loves. And as we prayed together, God has revealed to us some things for you. This is what I want you to hear. If you've ever just focused and listened -- now don't miss this -- we always focus on the least of these. What God is telling us to focus on right now today and through this week, and in the series of share times and programs, is God's focus on you. We want you to understand how important you are to God and his kingdom purpose and every concern you have, every load you carry, every burden, every weight, he cares for you so deeply, so fully that we really feel that God wants us to help you understand that.

Now get this. He not only wants to reach out and touch you in the area of need but he wants to show you how much he loves you and how much love he's anxious to flow freely through you when you become that totally yielded vessel connected to other members of his body, totally committed to the head, Christ, so that we, not as a bunch of somebodies or highly visible, gifted people but as uniquely designed members of his body, fit together, loving one another, supplying every member in the body as it has need, for the kingdom purpose of God. Again, not as a bunch of somebodies but yielded members of his body submitted to the head.

Now listen to what Paul said in Ephesians four. He said, "I want you to seek, strive diligently" -- don't miss this -- "to preserve the unity of the spirit in a bond of peace." What unity of the spirit? The unity of the Spirit into which you were born supernaturally

when you became a Christian; when you were born from above. You were then born into this body of Christ, the church. And as you were born into that you were born in with the desire to live in supernatural unity submitted to the head.

Now listen to what he said, "I have placed in the church gifted, supernaturally enabled, and gifted individuals, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers!" These gifted individuals, Betty, we have had these individuals come through this *LIFE Outreach*, *LIFE Today* studio for 25 years. The most respected, loved, highly regarded leaders, and some in the body of Christ that you would have never seen but you met them here. And they're uniquely designed members of his body who have such a dynamic testimony of His grace and his power that it's captivating. It has a transforming impact.

And it is your love and your support that enable them to come through and share what God put in their heart, and for Betty and me to be able to point at him and them, and you see the importance of seeing him in others, and not cutting yourself off from uniquely designed members and a spiritual supernatural thing is happening, the leaders in the body of Christ coming together and loving him and loving one another in the family and then loving their neighbor properly has had a transforming effect on all who see.

And what's happening right now with all the chaos and the upheaval, and the tension and the anger and the deception and the manipulation, and the idolatry, and casting aside the truth of God and changing his truth into a lie, and teaching something other than God in all of our academic institutions and schools, and funding it with the people's money and allowing a Caesar or a Pharaoh power or world power that denies God to be controlling.

Yet in the midst of all this, you're seeing the beauty of the family. You're seeing the majesty of his glory and you realize -- please don't miss this! All of this has happened for every one of us in the body to understand what Paul completes in that explanation of the gifted ones who are teaching us, to lead us not into just unity of the spirit but unity of the faith where I trust that our confidence is not in a Pharaoh or a Caesar or some other source but God. And where Christ is really the head, not our denomination or our

sectarian position or political partisanship but the principles and teachings of God, until the body of Christ is built up into the fullness of the statue of Christ.

In other words, Betty, the body of believers reveal Christ because as members of his body we are as connected to each other as the body parts are, and all of them are important, and submitted to the head, Christ, and then we begin to function healthily extending his hands of love which you've done that and put those arms around a broken overlooked world. But now, God is saying, "I want to heal your land. I want to heal nations."

But now listen, I have to speak to those of you in the nation that we happen to live in, the United States, where you see visibly this chaos and this tension, this hatred, this animosity, this dissension, this division, this accusation. Here is what I want you to know. God's answering the prayers of those of you who are serious. Those of you who want his will to be done. Listen to me! Thy kingdom come, he taught us to pray. It's in the model prayer: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Where? On earth, in us, right here, right now for your purpose. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"; that means it is possible.

I've said this many times and going to repeat it again. Don't miss it! Jesus did not leave us here to get us out of here. We're going to get into the final kingdom where there will be no enemy, no gates of hell, no assault, no dissension, eternal, eternity in the presence of God where the former things have passed away.

But in this lifetime he said we are to be ambassadors, the priests and kings. We're to be his witnesses. We're to be more than conquerors, as soldiers, good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ, suited up in armor to take on the powers and principalities in the realm of deception and darkness with the father of lies, the great divider, the great deceiver, the great murderer, the destroyer of everything precious, is seeking to prevail here because he will not prevail in eternity. And he does not have to prevail now. If Jesus said the gates of hell are not to prevail against the church that means the influence of the body of Christ, submitted to the head, revealing him high and lifted up through the body so that he's

drawing men to himself. That's happening.

Now listen to me right now. God is answering your prayers. Don't miss this. Every one of you that's saying, "God, we can see this mess! God heal our land." He said, "I will but you turn from your wicked ways. Indifference, trying to seek comfort rather than my will, not being bold and courageous as witnesses but covering up and pulling back and withdrawing, don't do it! Stand strong! Become the shining city set on a hill."

Betty and I began praying almost ten years ago, and nine years ago I started calling church leaders, the highest level leaders from all different groups that know Christ and believe Christ and believe the Bible and believe that we have reliable standards and principles upon which we can build a house that withstands the storms, hearing and doing the words of Jesus. And when the storms come the house stands. The marriage, the family, the community, the city, state, nation, on that foundation.

And we began calling leaders together who understood the importance of that. And they began gathering with us. As a matter of fact, I'm posting on line the names of scores, even hundreds of leaders that came here to pray, met with us when we would pray together for two days at a time and people would look around the room and say, "We were taught not to like one another. We were taught to stay away from one another." But they began coming together to pray. I'm telling you, I began to watch God work miracles.

And God began to show that he was going to raise up in answer to prayer individuals that would expose the corruption and the works of the enemy in the highest places. We're warring not against flesh and blood, not against political parties and individuals but against principalities and powers in the realm of deception and darkness. And we would be able to overcome in the power of the spirit, in the armor of God, we would be able to quench the fiery suggestions and darts of the enemy and take every thought captive, obedient to Christ, and we would begin to see him answer prayers by exposing the enemy, exposing the deceiver, and giving us the ability to overcome and root up and tear down things that needed to be rooted up and torn down. And that God would raise up

individuals in answer to our prayer. Not perfect individuals, but individuals who could accomplish the task of according to our prayers and the will of God to deal with the problems.

Now I'm telling you it's not because we suddenly find a leader or a king that's perfect. We have a king. We don't need a Caesar or a Pharaoh. We have a king -- the king of kings, the Lord of lords, who holds all kings in his hands and he can shape them according to the prayers of his people.

Listen to me. If we, the people of God, will keep praying and say, "God, help us to turn from every failure, practice, sin, wickedness of indifference, lack of allowing you to take the talents you've given us and use them to its fullest to total fruitfulness, to accomplish your kingdom purpose, everything we've missed, Lord, we repent of. Forgive us! Strengthen us. Express your life through us.

If we say that and we mean it, God is going to use us like his beautiful body to reveal his kingdom will, his love for you, to you, and through you to not only the family of believers but every neighbor and to the ends of the earth. The enemy is seeking to destroy the fruitfulness that freedom has afforded us, the opportunity it's given us. God is saying, and I heard this so clearly. If you've watched me on television over the last years you've heard me say it, the Lord made it clear to me.

I told you this and I'm not exaggerating, I spend more time in prayer than any single thing I do and most of my praying is meditating and listening to the father's voice and his heart. And he made it very clear -- please don't miss this -- he said, "James, I'm extending the same invitation to America I extended to Jerusalem in the face of desolation when they had thrown aside the prophets, when they had cast them down. And I said I want you to come like chicks to the wings of the hen to the shelter and shadow of the Father, to the security the shepherd offers. I long for you to do that knowing it will be level.

He made it clear, "I'm extending that invitation of grace and mercy to the United States

and if people will come to me I'm going to heal your land, I'm going to restore you to fruitfulness. Yes, I'm going to bless you. I'm going to give you opportunity and you need to listen to the message of Moses and the prophets when I led all of my people out of Egyptian bondage. I wanted to take them into the Promised Land that flowed with milk and honey where they would be in a fruitful land that they could oversee and be blessed beyond measure.

But I warned them, be careful! My word is not an idle word. It's your life. And you obey my word that it may be well with you in that land of freedom. Because if you do not you will find your way back into bondage. God is saying, "I want to lead you out and I'm going to bless you beyond measure, more than at any time in history so that you can bless the world with the power and transforming truth of the gospel, and get my arms around the world.

Betty, I read... we gave this away years ago, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey. By the way, it will be coming out later this year in an updated version. In this, Dr. Brand talks about how uniquely the body is made. We're fearfully and wonderfully made, and they tried to show us how the church is uniquely made. You and I have been fit together by God. What a miracle! Thank God! I mean to tell you, what a blessing. But you're a blessing. And all of us are uniquely made to fulfill his purpose.

In this book I read something. This is where Dr. Brand was trying to show us the uniqueness of D N.A. He said, "God put in every cell in your body the D.N.A. to do exactly what that part is supposed to do. You've been uniquely designed to fulfill a kingdom purpose. You may think it is not very noticeable, it is really important. I read this. I shared with my secretary and I began to weep. I shared it with a friend and he began to tear up and cry on the phone. I could hear him crying.

Now listen! Dr. Brand said God has put D.N.A. in every cell in your body. He said, "Did you know that your human heart beats from 50 to 70 times a minute?" He said, "Did you

know a chicken's heart" -- think about this. It doesn't sound very significant, but it is. He said a chicken's heart beats approximately 300 times a minute. He said, "Did you know you can extract one cell from that little chicken, one cell, and lay that cell aside. The D.N.A. that is built into that cell after it's been removed from the chicken, that little cell uniquely designed by God will beat consistently, faithfully, for hours, and even days after it's been removed, and it will beat 350 times a minute because it was uniquely designed by God -- that D.N.A.

And Philip Yancey and Paul Brand said, "God's D.N.A. is in you. You have been designed, your heart designed to beat in harmony with his. The more in harmony my heart gets with his, the more compassion and love I feel for all the people he gave his son to redeem and how much he loves you, and wants you to know that and love through you.

Betty and I are 75 years old. If we live to be 100, three-fourths of our life is behind us -- the majority of our life is behind us. Many of you who are over 50 and you're older, you may wonder, what can we do? Let me say this to you. I believe God has shown us that people that reach this age, and I don't think there is any age that everybody can't get involved, but I believe those of us who have reached this age can say, "What can we do to really make a difference?"

Here's what I want you to know. Betty and I are committed totally to revealing the heart of God, the will of God, his D.N.A. through the body of Christ to the whole world. I believe we're going to see the greatest miracle witnessed in human history where we're going to behold the glory of the lamb, the glory of God coming on his body before he comes in glory for his body. I believe the world is waiting to see Jesus high and lifted up through his church.

We're going to spend every moment of the rest of our life, not only helping the least of these and the overlooked, giving water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, rescuing those who are trafficked, providing shoes or needs to the least of these to bless them. But we're going to focus very deliberately right now on restoring the foundation of freedom. And

the future freedom for you -- listen to me -- this is for you. This is the love God put in our heart to flow toward you and everyone you love in your family, your children and grandchildren, for us, great-grandchildren, perhaps for you, that they can have the blessings that only freedom offers. Galatians 5:1 says: It is for freedom Christ set us free. It is for freedom God led his people out of Egyptian bondage. God wants us to live in the fullness of that freedom and express freely the blessings only freedom makes possible.

I want to ask you to help us do, for the rest of your life, what God has called us to do as his body; that is taking the transforming truth of his gospel, yes, to the ends of the earth but to see an awakening right here, the stage is set for it, the healing of this nation with all the turmoil, we're going to see spiritual surgery where we remove those cancerous acts and agencies that have been there forever but don't serve God or the people. They change God's truth into a lie; ignore it, move the standard. We're going to see that restored.

I'm asking you to make the largest gift perhaps you've ever made and I'm asking you to commit to help us on this journey God's called us on with *LIFE Outreach* and *LIFE Today* to see his will done here in us, his body, the believers right here in this nation and then to the ends of the earth.

I'm going to send you, I've offered it before but I want you to get it and read it. If you've read it, I want you to pass it on to a friend, *Living Amazed*. This is the journey of a boy that's the product of a rape, but a mother prayed and gave birth to me. Never had a father, met this father. I want you to read what God did with a shy young man when he took me on this journey. Maybe you got it, maybe you didn't read it. I want to send it to you.

Also, I want to send a book, that for ten years I wrote from the Bible; short messages addressing every issue we face nationally. Where you have a small God you have a big government. Where you have a big government, a big Caesar, a big Pharaoh you have small citizens. I want to show you what God wants us to understand about national direction and leadership.

I'm going to send these to you; just whatever gifts you can make, just say, "I want them." Say, "James, I've already read them." Well, let me send them to you again so you can give them to someone else.

Here's what I'm asking you to do. I want you to make the gift God puts on your heart. I want you to ask God, "How can I help fulfill the vision that you put on James and Betty's heart for freedom, for our future, and for the people too often overlooked. And James, I'm going to stand with you in prayer and prayer is not small. It could be the greatest thing done. But I'm going to pray, God, your will be done." And then you do what God leads you to do. I'm asking you to support us in the journey God's called us on to touch the least of these or to see this nation restored to an unshakeable foundation of truth and sound biblical principles. Respond. Would you do it?

Go on online or call the number. Say, "James, we're praying for you and with you. Here's our support and you can count on us." Please let us know.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Now more than ever, James and Betty need your help to fulfill the vision God has placed on their hearts to help restore the foundation and future of freedom for you, your family, and to a world in desperation.

Please prayerfully consider how you can stand with them now to help support the outreaches of *LIFE* providing food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, rescuing those who are enslaved and providing shoes and necessities for the least of these.

With your gift of any amount we will send you two incredible books by James Robison, *Living Amazed*: How divine encounters can change your life is filled with captivating stories to inspire you to live amazed in the power of God 24 hours a day. We'll also send you *The Stream*, a powerful book that provides a biblical look at the national challenges we face and the great need for a spiritual awakening.

Please call, write, or go on online and make your best gift to stand with James and Betty today!

End of video

In the studio:

James: Now let me just mention we are in our Water for LIFE emphasis at this particular time so we sure could use a tremendous outpouring of help and love. Thank you so much for giving more than a cup of water. You're actually helping give many wells of water. Thank you for doing it.

Betty: Please help us do what God's put on our heart to do. You can be a part of what God wants to do. Ask God what he would have you to do to help fulfill his purposes for what he's called us to do and you'll be a big part of that. Thank you so much.

James: We really do love you. You've watched us reach out to help so many others but Betty and I are going on to spend the next months and years reaching out to the least of these, but also to you, and to help you and those you love because we love you deeply.