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Week 28: Summer WFL

James and Betty Robison

"The Future of Freedom" #3

James: What a joy it is to share with you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Or you may be watching this online because we have asked that everyone who really cares about the future of freedom, who cares about the future for your children, your grandchildren; we have now four great grandchildren. I'm sure there will be plenty more on the way as eight of our grandchildren are married. We just see the blessings of God.

But Betty, we're seeing an attack on freedom in this nation. We're seeing such chaos that if certain elements... and what you can watch all the different people who say, "I'm running for the highest office in the land." And look at what they bring to the table and this incredible parade of people. We've got one individual who is running who is a man who says he is married to a man. He is a mayor and he says he is the woman in the relationship even though he is very much a man. And TIME Magazine put him on the front cover saying, "America's New First Family," two men as husband and wife. And the main candidate who is running for president is a man who says he is a woman. And that this other man, his husband, and he's the wife.

We've got all these people running for these different positions that literally change the Word of God into a lie, say there is no reliable standard. Two plus two does not necessarily equal four. And we're just seeing an all-out assault. It is not like an assault on a candidate or even a political party or partisan view. And I always say to the church, we're not called to be the arm of a party. We're not even called -- please listen to this -- we're not called to bow down to a denominational position or a sectarian point of

view but to the one head Christ. And although we may have a heritage and a background, we don't make that an idol that causes us to divide ourselves from others.

God wants us to be a family. He wants the church to have one head and the members love one another and know that iron sharpens iron. You can't sharpen iron when you bring the blades together like this or you never let them touch. You've got to have some necessary friction to get sharper.

So, one of the things we've done is try to bring leaders together for the purpose of being honed with friction, learning even in the political arena you do need friction but not like this. That's a collision -- that's not friction. That's not coming together with purpose for the benefit of all, a keener edge so we can accomplish something. That's just bludgeoning one another and dulling the blade. It is just awful, and you hate to see it.

So, what Betty and I are really praying for is that God will heal this and we're watching it in the church. We've just listed the names on the website of all the great leaders from so many different denominational groups, even Catholic and protestant where they love Jesus, where they know the Father is the father, where they have a relationship with God; bringing them together to grow in the knowledge of Christ in the likeness of Christ, to be built up into the fullness of his stature as a body of believers. And this is the most beautiful thing.

We're watching God miraculously begin what we think is a healing process in a very sick nation. And what you're seeing with this display of what I think is the father of lies, deception, dissension, division, and ultimately destruction, even death, Jesus said the father of lies is a murderer, that's no question that's his nature. And you watch all of these people campaigning.

Now watch what will happen when you finally reach a point that this incredible display of all these people running, they're going to finally... because Satan's crowd, the deceiver's crowd, I call it the progressive-liberal-left-socialist mentality depend upon

something other than God. "Depend on us, we're going to take care of you." And you're actually going to sell out freedom and lose your future when you sell out to these lies.

But here's the deal. All these unique characters are finally going to flow together and they're going to find one person -- now you watch it -- they'll all say, "Okay, we're for that person. And that person is going to fulfill all the promises we made to you. However diverse, however ridiculous they are, go ahead because we sure can't have the other side."

Now what you've got to watch for, who is it, however imperfect they may have been and still may be because we all are, but how many of them are being shaped by the power of prayer? How many are being changed where they're actually looking out for the security and the safety of the entire family, the entire population like the shepherd does for the sheep? Who will get them safely in the fold, will care about one that's not safe and want to get them in, will kill the lion and the bear in defense of the sheep like that beautiful example in Christ's lineage, David, who was so imperfect and yet after his greatest failure shared some of the greatest truths and manifestation of God's love and grace ever shared. Imperfect man sharing the perfection of the one Lord and savior who is the one who redeems that which is not clean. And he cleanses it, refines it, and shapes it into a vessel of honor.

He says he'll do that in answer to the prayers of his family, those who know him, called by his name. Not just religious tradition. The traditions of men taught us the commands of God, but rather the Word of God, the principles of God lifted up high, lifting us up. "When those people pray, I will hear and answer and you turn from your erroneous wicked ways and I'll heal the land beginning with you, changing you, and I'll heal your nation."

And the shepherd said, "I'll lead you in green pastures, still water, calm any storm, be with you in any valley including the shadow of death, prepare a table before you in the presence of all your enemies and accusers, anoint your head with oil. My goodness and my mercy will follow you all the days of your life."

Betty and I are committed to see that happen. We do not want freedom to die on our watch. Jesus said, "The gates of hell do not prevail against my church." We don't have to let the gates of deception and death and destruction, dissension, and division prevail against the influence and witness of the church. By the grace of God, Betty and I are going to stand with everything in us against those forces.

I get up many days, come in the family room, you've always gotten up a little ahead of me and I come in many times and see you reading your Bible, sometimes weeping and praying.

What is it that concerns you that our people who watch and support the outreaches of *LIFE* need to know about? Why are you moved?

Here we are 75 years old, God has blessed our life, our witness, our family, all of our children and grandchildren love God, and their spouses love God. Eight grandchildren with their spouses who are married, and they all love God; four beautiful great grandchildren. What is it that moves you and what is it you're praying for that will happen within the family of believers that is so important for this nation and the future? And why don't you just sit back, and we just kick back and enjoy the fact that we've spent our life laboring in love? Why do we both seem to be so concerned? And why is your concern so let's say forceful in its effect, so much compassion and concern, what is it that's going on in you?

Betty: It is tempting at our age, we feel like we're in our final season of life. That doesn't mean we're going anywhere quickly but we feel like we're in the most important season of life on our journey that God has brought us to. But it would be very easy and tempting to say, okay, we're 70-something years old. Why not just sit back? Why not just let the world go its way? Our family is blessed. We've been blessed with a beautiful family that loves God with their whole hearts.

I can't do that. That's not in me. As James spoke about the D.N.A., that's not God's D.N.A. in me. Because I have experienced, because we have experienced what true freedom in life is through Jesus Christ, we have to share it. We're compelled to share it. We're compelled to demonstrate it. And that's getting hard to see now in the way our world is today.

Do you know there's a battle going on between woman and man now? I've never had a problem that God made me a woman. I love being a woman. I love having a man that respects me and loves me and takes care of me. Opens the door for me and cares that I'm safe at night and respects me. That doesn't make me any less than he is. No! We're equal in God's eyes but we have different roles that God put us in and I'm so grateful that God can in some way, hopefully, I would be a godly woman that would demonstrate what the love of God can do through anyone that serves him and loves him. We want to be examples of that.

I feel like it is time for the church, those of you that truly say you know God and you love him to stand up and say, "It's time to take back what the enemy has robbed from the church; the foundations and the truth of God's word that the enemy has turned and politicized for his gain."

Please stand with us and let's do that as God would have us to do -- to join hearts and join hands. That's not to mean we're the same. We're all different. God was so creative, he made us different. James and I have different personalities but it is God that makes them mesh together and to work together for his honor and his glory.

So please understand this is the time God wants us to come together as his body to work, to put out there the love of God. Yes, some pain comes with it, but in the end of it God will receive all the glory -- and the honor -- and the praise.

James: I've been invited, as a matter of fact, a businessman that I love very dearly named Foster Friess. He's just a changed man.

Foster, I love you, my friend. You have no idea how much your text to me and your love and prayers has encouraged me and Betty. You are one of the most -- you and Lynn are one of the most awesome couples I've ever seen. Your love for your family and grandchildren. I wrote about you in the last pages of *Living Amazed*, which I want everyone to get. But I talked to you about how you can see God in everything, and you just got tears rolling down your cheeks, landed on your shirt. And I'm just talking to you about how what God created speaks to us and it just tore you up. You told me that when you left me that week that you had to go back and be a better granddad to all your grandchildren and be a better husband and man.

Anyway, you had invited all of these leaders together, and many of them speak to the nation all the time, and you wanted me to speak to all of them. And while we were there together, it's really in the presence of the Lord. And Foster, you showed such love for every one of these men. They are all so important.

I know we had Sgt. Dan who was from Forest Gump that has done a whole lot for our warriors and he listened to some of the testimonies and he suddenly said, "Look, I'm from Hollywood. I've heard all of the stories Hollywood develops and Hollywood has never developed stories like I've heard right here and from one individual in particular. That's the greatest story I've ever heard."

I was trying to say to all of these men that you're a beautiful story God wants to write. He wants to bring his message with your life in the fleshly tables of people's hearts. Well, that night when I was to speak to all of them Betty had just said, "I read this this morning." And when Betty gave me this, I'm telling you it moved me in such a way that as I listened to her, I said I need to read it to you. I don't think there is any question that I probably shared this on one of the *LIFE Today* programs in previous times. I want you to listen to it in light of what Betty was saying. And then I want to show you something that is in the last part of this letter.

This is the Philippian church. Now remember this is where Paul was having a revival and a woman controlled by demons, and those demons are using her to make people money. And she gets delivered and she is no longer going to be delivering money to the devil's family and the devil's kids and those were the devil's appetites.

So, they took Paul and Silas and put them in prison, and put them in stocks, and put them in the inner most prison. And they began to praise God in the midst of all that pressure. And the power of God moved on them in stocks and chains; shook the foundation of the prison, threw the doors open. The guard was so terrified, Betty, that he wanted to kill himself with a broad sword. He was going to kill himself because he knew he'd be really in trouble if these prisoners could get out and he'd be blamed. So, he is going to kill himself.

Paul and Silas said, "Don't hurt yourself! We're not going anywhere. We're free. We were free when we were in stocks. Because we know the King of kings and the Lord of lords and the one who sets us free and we're free! We're free right here. That's why we were singing praises to God."

And he ran in and fell down in front of them. This Philippian jailer said, "Sirs, what must I do to be like you?"

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The savior, the only way to the Father and you'll be saved." And he was!

And he took those two prisoners, think about this! Listen to me! He took those prisoners and walked right down Main Street with those prisoners he was afraid he was going to get in trouble for releasing, now he walks right down Main Street. And he takes them right to his home and his whole household gets saved.

This is the kind of conversion -- someone heard me tell that story and said, "James, that's

the kind of conversions we need today to shake our nation and our world." You better believe it! Where we have courage. We're so changed we want the whole world to know that he can set our families free, all prisoners free. He can set our nation free. He can bless the people in this world through the people yielded to his will, totally transformed by the power of his love and the gospel.

Listen to what I read to those leaders. Philippians two: If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ -- and there is -- if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the spirit, any affection and compassion... And I believe those of you who have watched *LIFE Today*, supported the mission outreaches of *LIFE*, I think you're full of the compassion of God. And we want to thank you for not looking away from the suffering but looking in and saying, "We can be the miracle they need. We can be the answer to their prayer."

Listen to the next verse from Paul to the Philippian believers, this is a Philippian group of people who came out of that miraculous moment. He said, "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Supernaturally united. The answer to Jesus' prayer in John 17: Supernatural unity. "The world will know you're my followers, you're my disciples and you will be intent on one purpose." What is that -- fulfilling his kingdom purpose. The king is here, he's in us. We make a kingdom impact.

We do not have to let our nation die. We do not have to let freedom die on our watch. We do not have to let the gates of hell and the intent and deception and destruction of the devil prevail in our day. We don't have to give Satan his way in the garden of God, our life, and everything we're overseeing. We can win. Truth can win. Love can win. Life can win. We stand for it. We release it like a mighty river. "Do nothing from selfish or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself." I think you do that.

If you watch this program consistently and we point to the overlooked and the least of

these, you never turn away. You amaze me! You know after we have had a wonderful guest, a wonderful testimony, a wonderful share time, Sheila Walsh has shared, our son Randy, together we've had guests that honor the Lord and bless you.

And then we point you to someone in need, and you don't change channels. You don't walk out of the room. You don't say, "I don't want to see that." You look knowing that we're going to show you a broken heart. Knowing that we're going to show you a legitimate need. And we're going to give you an opportunity to be the miracle of love in that person's life. And you step up. You say to Jesus, "Count on me." That's exactly what Paul was asking for and what he was praising the Philippian Christians for doing. They did not merely look out for their own interests, their own personal interests but the interests of others.

Now listen to what he said to them. This is in the latter part, chapter four of Philippians. He's told us to think on everything that is true. Focus your mind on those things that are true, that are virtuous. Don't be distracted by all the junk that the media is throwing at you, all the lies, all the deception. He said, "I want to thank you that you revived your concern."

Betty and I are actually asking you to allow your concern and your interest in the outreaches of *LIFE* and what Betty and I are called to do to try to touch the leaders in this nation, church leaders, national leaders, business leaders, people in every area of life to see their lives transformed. That's how we're going to spend our life, the rest of our life doing that as we continue to take care of those on the mission field.

But we're asking you to step up and revive your concern and your interest in all that God's called us to do. Because we're going to spend our life not only touching the overlooked but reaching out on your behalf for your family, your children, grandchildren, and your future and the future of freedom. We do not have to lose freedom on our watch. And by the grace of God, we will not allow it to happen. We will not give the enemy the ability to run over the people of God and make us a trampled ground and trample

everything sacred because the salt has lost its effect. We're not going to lose our effect. We're going to impact. We're not going to cover the light; we're going to let the light shine. We're going to come out from under cover, become the city set on a hill because we stand together like a mighty army that cannot be hidden, cannot be pressed down.

Paul said, "I'm glad you revived your concern. Indeed, you were concerned but you lacked an opportunity." But now you hear, and you know what needs to happen. "Not that I speak from want. I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to have humble means, I know how to live in prosperity and I know how to live in hunger, having abundance and suffering need. I know both ways. He's sufficient. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

But listen to what he said. Hear this because I think it is to you, "Nevertheless, you've done well to share with me and my need the opportunity." He said in my affliction, the challenge I've got. "And you yourselves also know, Philippians that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed for Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone."

New Testament! You're the only church that really stood with me; where the miracle of God occurred there, you stood with me when others didn't. "Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. I have received everything in full. I have abundance. I am amply supplied and will be by God, having received..." from these individuals who brought the gift from you and I know this, this is what I want -- "My God shall supply all of your needs according to his riches in glory."

Betty, I believe when we set our mind, our hand and our heart to do the will of God, to beat in harmony with his heart and accomplish his will, I believe God meets needs miraculously. And I believe that's what God wants to do in this nation through this nation for the glory of God so America is not only blessed by God but blesses God and blesses the people God loves and gave his son to redeem.

You and I are praying for that, believing for that. When I see you reading the Bible and praying many times with tears rolling down your cheeks, and it happened this week, I'm looking at a sweetheart in harmony with God's heart that says we're praying for you. We're going to stand for you and with you to see freedom preserved, protected, extended and shared so the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ can go to the ends of the world, the end of the earth, and we see the church adorned in his glory; his glory on the church before he comes in glory for the church -- that's our prayer.

We're asking you today, dial the number, go online, and share any prayer request you have because we and our prayer partners care deeply for you. But I want to ask you to help us and say to us, James, we're going to maintain the outreaches of *LIFE*, whatever emphasis you have, if it's water, drilling wells.

I pray some of you will step up and say, "I'm going to give you the ability to drill ten more wells. I'm going to drill a well. James, we're going to stand with you so you can feed the hungry so you can set those who are trafficked sexually free all over the world and train them so you can do whatever needs to be done -- whatever the need is, we're going to stand with you. We're not too old to do it, we're not too young to do it. We're not too limited to do it. We're going to do what God wants to do." You make the gift God puts on your heart. Let us know you're going to be standing with us day by day, moment by moment for his kingdom purpose.

I want to send you the book, *Living Amazed* to help you understand the amazing life we can live. I had to be the least likely person for God to ever use the way he has. It will inspire you to be available in any moment anywhere.

The Stream, I spent ten years writing brief messages dealing with all the national, cultural challenges we face. It's just very simple, biblical truth applied. Spiritual awakening, our only hope. We don't look for a king. We have a king. He holds the kings in his hand and he answers the prayers of his people and he can move kings.

He can correct a course. Let's stand together and ask him to do it. Just ask for these two books. Make the gift, any gift God puts on your heart. Let us know you're going to stand with us prayerfully and faithfully from now on. Thank you for that encouragement.

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.

Boy, I wish I could give you a hug. Wish I could look right in your eyes. Thank you. I want you to have *The Stream*. By the way, I hope you check out the website, *The Stream*. It's a stream of wisdom where we try to address the issues of the day. And I've got what I think are the wisest, biblically-centered, biblical worldview people, wise people who love God with all their heart and love you and they're sharing every day on The Stream. I think you'll find wisdom there. Check it out. We're going to send you these books to just say thanks and hope they're an inspiration to you.

We sure do love you. Thanks for helping us share the love of God with others.