

7/23/19

Week 30: Summer WFL

James and Betty Robison

David Barton

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: And I asked her before she said welcome, "Can you do that?" And the reason...

By the way if you watch us very often, you know Betty was missing. And some of you are very unhappy when she is missing because you only watch because she's here. And you watch wishing, James, shut up and let Betty say something. And you watch us, is she going to say something? And she says, "I don't want to say something. Y'all talk."

But she's been coughing and has been very, let's put it this way, under the weather. Thank you for praying for her because she sure looks beautiful now. I'm glad you're here and I know you are too. Are y'all glad Betty's back, all of you here in the audience? I'm really glad she's here. And I know you'll keep watching because of it.

One of our best friends is here, David Barton, WallBuilders. I'm telling you -- you say okay, did they say something about building a wall? Well, Nehemiah certainly thought so. God certainly thought so -- protection. I think it is pure foolishness not to want to protect people. This man is a gift from God, this David Barton. I think that he is a treasure from God who has helped us recognize the great treasures that God gave us through yielded individuals who were far from perfect but they discovered God's will for the moment to bless all of us.

One of the things he understands very well is freedom has a foundation and that foundation must not be allowed to be cast down, aside or broken because we only build a future of freedom on a sound foundation.

Would you welcome David Barton to *LIFE Today*?

David, you've been here a lot. You're one of the few people that's been on the entire week. We think the world of you.

Now this book, you wrote with one of our friends, Jim Garlow. How did the two of you happen to get together to write this?

David: Jim used to pastor in Texas and then went to pastor in California. When he was here in Texas, he and I became friends at that point in time. I'd be out at his church. He was politically active here in the state as well. And so, when we were trying to get God-fearing people into office, local office as well as state office, he was very, very involved in that and had a very clear sense of morality in right and wrong, a very biblical sense. He was always very good at communicating that to people as well.

James: And to say he is brilliant is almost an understatement, to say well-educated and able to communicate is almost an understatement.

Now you have written a book with Jim Garlow called *This Precarious Moment*. You want to tell me what you mean by the title "precarious"?

David: We're really in a dangerous spot nationally and I say that from a historical standpoint. There's a history of America, four centuries but there is a history of a lot of other nations as well. God is no respecter of persons; he is no respecter of nations except Israel; he has chosen them specially. But any nation that will apply the right principles will get the right results. So, over the course of history we can see that certain things

always produce certain results. In America, I don't know, we sometimes kind of think of ourselves as really unique and really it won't apply to us. Well, it will. If you jump off the Empire State Building I don't care what your personal beliefs are, you will hit the ground 86 floors later -- regardless of who you are.

James: The law of gravity kicks in.

David: So, there are just universal laws that God has. And America has come to a real tipping point on several of those. There were six issues that we said, "This is a precarious moment." We're right on the verge of stepping off the cliff or going back from it. So we looked at that.

But the thing we said, and this is, I think, I real problem we have with national media today, is if you... I don't care what you watch, whether it is FOX or M.S.N.B.C. or C.N.N., whatever it is, what you're going to get is a 24/7, 365 steady dose of national news. And as a result, you feel frustrated because I can call people at the White House but that doesn't mean I can call the President and say, "Hey, fix this!" Doesn't mean I can call the speaker of the house or the leader of the senate and say, "Fix this," or the Supreme Court. So, the average person feels like I can't do anything about what I'm seeing on the news.

We wrote this with six key areas we think were key to give individual action steps that people can take. You don't have to have congress to fix this, you don't have to have the president to fix this. There are things you can do. I think that's one thing cable has really hurt us is we've become so nationally minded we no longer see what we can individually do in our communities.

So, we said racial healing, that's one of the areas that has to be addressed. And that's not a federal solution we need, that's individual. What we can do with immigration. There are specific individual things we can do there. What we do with our relationship with Israel. Yeah, the President has done a lot of great stuff but individually there are things we can

do. What we do with the rising generation, millennials? Millennials right now are the most secular generation...

James: By the way that's one of the longer sections you deal with and I'm amazed at how it appears to me it was like wisdom looked into the situation and looked like a best friend, says, "Let's talk." One that honors you, even your questions or your beliefs, or confusion you have or anger you have or frustration. It's amazing. It looks to me like you and Garlow had some help because even as that jumps out this is a very important group that could actually in the most profound and positive way maybe actually lead us into the most positive things we ever imagined.

David: They are the entirety of our future; 100% of our future is right there. Because they are the church leaders, they are the media leaders, they are the doctors, they are the political leaders, they are the everything. There is not anything that America is going to be 30 years from now that it won't be them doing it.

James: That doesn't mean that they think right in every area or know right in every area or would even claim they do. But they certainly have some questions, they certainly have some frustrations, they certainly have some beliefs and there needs to be some interaction and communication.

David: That's why we're at a precarious moment with particularly our young people because the beliefs they currently hold right now on morality and on government and on economics, those three areas, the beliefs they currently hold, no nation has ever survived the implementation of what they currently believe. So as they are the future...

James: And that's not like somebody's cheap argument. This is historically irrefutable evidence.

David: No nation in history has ever survived the beliefs that they currently hold right now.

James: Wouldn't you like to know what those are? And wouldn't you like to have a conversation about it? Let's get into the mix. That's what you're trying to inspire.

David: That's exactly it. And we took what we knew about that, and I spent a lot of effort and a lot of time, even a lot of resources in doing polling and research because I believe First Corinthians 11:31 that if you judge yourself you will not be judged. So if you would look and say, "You know what? If I'll clean this up I'm not going to have to answer to God for it later. If I wouldn't say this..." So when you look internal, if you have a mirror, not like James when you look in a mirror and turn away and don't remember what you look like. I think statistics really help us know where we are. I don't look at them as an objective, I look at them as an indication of things to do.

So, for example, when I look at millennials only four percent of millennials have a biblical worldview. Every other generation is higher.

James: Which is a low percentage.

David: Only four percent of the current generation has any kind of a thought process that aligns with where the Bible is.

James: And they don't even know that they might be absolutely captivated by it if they ever saw it but it's never been presented to them in their entire journey.

David: Well actually, the fifth area that we get into is part of our own understanding of our own history, and then the sixth area is the role of the church. The role of the church is the worst it's ever been in America history, statistically speaking. And that's part of the reason millennials are where they are.

James: Isn't it like we've just checked out, David? Pulled back or just gone undercover?

David: It's worse than that. We have bought -- we're told in First Thessalonians that you can believe a lie and be damned. In other words, if you believe bad information, you'll get the result of it. Empire State Building -- I can believe a lie that if I jump off I will go up rather than down, I will die when I hit the ground. So, if you believe the wrong stuff and you implement it you're going to get wrong results.

What's happened is the church has redefined itself generally over the last 40-50 years. Let me see if I can put it this way. Let's start with the church then we'll go to millennials. If you take right now in America, there are 384,000 churches and senior pastors in America.

James: 384,000.

David: So, if you take that church list, working with a national pollster, calling 500-600 churches every day for months, ask them six simple questions. Question one: Is the Bible accurate in its teachings? Question two: Did Jesus live a sinless life? Question three: Does God get involved in the world today? If you pray will he answer prayer? Question four: Can you earn your way to heaven or is it a gift of grace?

Six simple questions, really simple; 72 percent of pastors said they did not agree with those six simple questions. So you have 72% of pastors that say, "I don't agree with the basic teachings of the Bible. I don't think it is right." Well, we can look at the 72 percent or we can say well, that does leave us 28%. And that's 100,000 churches in America, we can do something with that! 100,000 churches!

Then we take those 100,000, we call them "theologically conservative," they believe the Bible. We then get into that group and say, "Do you believe the Bible?" And again, polling 500-600 every day, "Do you believe the Bible addresses every issue of life?" "Yes!" So give them 14 categories. Does the Bible address education? Does it address sexuality in marriage? Does it address immigration? Does it address life? Etcetera. Between 91 -- depending on the 14 categories between 91 and 97% of those pastors said yes, the Bible does deal with economics and debt and whatever. Great!

Next question. Have you talked about any of those issues or will you talk about any of those issues? 90% said no, we will never talk about those issues.

James: They're political!

David: They're political issues. No, no. You just said they're in the Bible. Yeah, but if they're in the news, that makes them political. So what we're doing is saying anything that's in the news that has relevancy we're not going to talk about. Why would a millennial want to go to a church where you won't talk about anything that's relevant? Because they live in a very relevant world.

So at this point here's the mind-blowing stat. At this point only 2.8% of churches address issues that are in the news that the Bible also addresses. 2.8% of churches. Now that's a real problem for a healthy America.

Now let's go back to that 28%, those 100,000 pastors. We asked them how do you know if your church is successful? The top five answers -- none of them came out of the Bible, and these are the theological conservatives. Number one answer is: How many people I have on Sunday. Number two answer is: How big the offering is on Sunday. Number three answer is: How many staff I have, how many programs I have, and how much square footage I have.

I don't think Jesus used any of those. As a matter of fact, he kept offending everybody and he keep leaving -- John six, he asked his disciples, "Are you guys going to leave me too? Everybody else..."

"Man, what you said is hard stuff. They can't follow you when you talk like that."

Jesus never was into numbers; he was into the quality. So what's happened is we have gotten to a place now where that even as the church our measurement for what is success

is not a biblical measurement. We look at that and say, okay, that's the generation raising the parents, who are raising the kids. And I will say those millennial kids did not get those beliefs by themselves. They got it from the generation that raised them which is their educators, their churches, their media, everything else. They didn't come up with goofy ideas.

So the question becomes okay, how can you reach a millennial to get them back on the right view on so many things? I don't mean just biblical view, I mean even statistically. We know that right now...

James: Let me ask you right here, can we?

David: We can. We can.

James: See I'm filled with hope. I see all this mess. I see it. But I'm telling you look, we're sitting here with... we have three children; one's in heaven. She left behind three children that are on fire for God, married to people who are on fire to God. They have one little grandbaby she is looking at from heaven.

Our children, our 11 grandchildren are in love with Jesus. They married eight who have married, spouses in love in Jesus. The other three will be marrying those who are in love with Jesus. You have a family that is in love with Jesus. You have grandchildren. We have a life that works.

We found out that if God is the one who leads us and he is our source, he will lead us into a land flowing with milk and honey, opportunity, possibilities that are unlimited, can only be limited by our disbelief of what he says. He says that the opportunity, freedom which he offers, it's for freedom Christ set us free. Freedom's big to God. He led his people out of bondage into freedom.

And then he said, "So that it may be well with you in the land, so you can live this way.

Where I'm leading you is so full of possibilities and blessings! You need to stick close to my word and my truth or you are going to be back in bondage. So all these opportunities present you that many more things to let your heart go after, don't let your heart go after that."

See this is preaching. But it's common sense talk. You just can't go that way. And like you said, people today in education, in the media, in all of our academia, in the entertainment and arts, they don't hear this anymore.

David: Even in the church we don't hear it anymore.

James: You and I are sitting here smiling like we think something good is going to happen and I think that's one reason why you guys wrote this book.

David: That's why we did that so that individuals can make a difference. Here's what the church -- the church in the 20th century got into massive crusades.

James: I only did 600 of them.

David: See!

James: Exactly!

David: But that's our 20th century mentality was massive crusades. Man, if I don't get 10,000 people coming it's not worth the effort to put into it. So we do that. We do that in media. We do that. And Jesus had the 10,000 come but he spent all of his time with the 12.

James: He sent them out to do something. Here's the deal. I had 600 citywide crusades that were attended by 20 million people. Rick Warren wrote a book called *Purpose Driven Life*. I liked purpose-led living better than purpose driven living. But he wrote a

book to 30 million people. You know what I say to Rick Warren? Do you know what I say to me with all the crusades? If we had really gotten those people to live the life he told us to live and we really had kingdom purpose, Rick, 30 million people could have changed America to live a kingdom purpose. If all those people I preached to would have lived with kingdom purpose not just come to the king but let him be the king and then live with kingdom impact we wouldn't be in the mess we're in.

So what you and I are trying to do, and Garlow is trying to do, and a lot of people we know and love... and you know, I told Jim Jordan, the Ohio congressman -- Don't you love Jim? I called him the other day and said, "Jim, do you know what I'm praying for?" Join me in this prayer. I said, "Jim, let me tell you what I'm praying for every day. I love you, man. Loved you since we prayed together, met together years ago." I said, "I'm praying we'll have 400 of you in the House of Representatives and 80 of you in the Senate." Does that sound like a good prayer?

David: That sounds like a good prayer.

James: A real good prayer. But the only way it's going to happen is you've got to understand people need a biblical worldview. They need to understand why it matters. You're not pushing anything on anybody, you're giving people the invitation of Almighty God, the creator, to come and enjoy all that he did and be my overseers and take care of it.

David: And there is a simple plan that gets you there. See I'm really encouraged about the next generation because as goofed up as they are in their thinking, they're a wonderful generation. They're the most relational generation we've had in polling history, and that's about 100 years of history. And in the summers we do leadership training where we take 18 to 25-year-olds for two weeks and I watch them go on in with the wrong thinking and come out with the most zealous worldview on the other side.

We literally, 75% of college students right now support socialism over every form of

government. No one will live... But here's the deal. Jesus in all of his ministry, if you pay attention to the gospels, he asked over 300 questions. Jesus very rarely answered questions, he asked questions. Questions make you think. Socialism, you like socialism? Oh yeah. It's really good. Hey, you know there's been thousands of nations over the course of 5500 years. Can you name one nation that has had socialism where it's increased freedom and preserved prosperity? They can't. But nobody's ever asked them that. Everybody said...

So what's happening? We see these kids come in that way and go out... So now we're seeing these kids change their professors by asking questions. We teach them how to ask questions. So this generation is the most reachable we've had but you can only reach them in relationships. It is discipleship. You can't reach a crusade of millennials. You have to be willing to go get a coke with them four or five or six times and listen to them and ask them questions.

James: That's what we've got to do.

Betty: We have a responsibility as the older generation. It's not time to sit down.

David: We let them get there. We are the ones who created the culture that raised those kids and we've got to turn that around -- and we can!

James: Now you're going to come back with another program, you and Dr. Robert Jeffress. He seems to be afraid to express himself, Dr. Jeffress.

David: Yeah. He's got not much of an opinion. He is kind of squishy on the issues like Jesus was squishy. Like Jesus was squishy. Yeah.

James: Do you like this guy, David Barton? Would you like to just say thank you, David? The book, *This Precarious Moment*, two of our really good friends, Jim Garlow -- Dr. Garlow and Dr. Barton right here wrote this.

David, we're doing something I know you love. You love people that have been overlooked too often. You love the least of these. Jesus showed us if we'll notice them and touch them it is like we're giving him a drink of water.

David: "Angels unaware."

James: I'm telling you, it is incredible. And our viewers, I think we've got the most amazing viewers because when we show them a need they don't run. They want to meet it. That's why they like listening to us right now. Here's what I want to show you right now all over the world. Here's a miracle where there is one needed and you become the miracle. Here's a hope you offer. Here's a prayer you answer. Watch.

On the mission field:

Announcer: The far corners of the world frame a beautiful picture of God's creation and the unique people created in his own image. And as you visit different countries you're sure to see many different cultures and customs.

But even in the midst of this diversity there is one commonality shared by all: The need for water. We need water to grow our food. We need water to care for our animals. And we ourselves need to drink water to survive. But unfortunately, many people around the world don't have access to clean water. The only water they have available is contaminated and it's the children that have suffered the most from waterborne diseases.

Open captions:

>> My daughter died from an infection and diarrhea. Our water is contaminated but it's the only source around here.

Open captions:

>> Everyone who lives in this village has gotten sick from the water. We have never had

an option for clean drinking water.

Announcer: Just as the problem of contaminated water is the same around the world so is the solution. You can help drill new water wells in many different countries and provide clean water to hundreds of thousands of people.

Clean water changes everything. Clean water saves lives.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Betty, you've had a terrible bronchial virus as you've coughed. And you've seen the need, and not knowing whether you could even talk you said, "Honey, you tell them." What do you want our viewers to see? When you see all the tremendous need but you and I have not only seen the need, we've seen the joy that love brings.

Betty: That's my favorite part! Is to see the little ones go to the fountain of life, truly, and get fresh clean water. And to see them, as the water is coming up, to see them dancing around. That is great joy! Because without it, they're going to die. And their mothers' hearts have to be broken because they have to give them water. They don't have a choice of clean or dirty water. They watch their children slowly die because they can't have fresh water.

Please join with us and let's see the joy on the faces of those children again.

James: I want to thank you for your sweet heart and the way you have loved me, which people probably say has got to be a challenge from time to time for sure. But the way you've loved our family. And everybody is saying then when you went to the mission fields of the world; when we say we marched into hell for a heavenly cause you don't know the half of it. As a matter of fact, we never even told you the half of it because we didn't want to put the missionaries in jeopardy or you think, well, it's probably too

dangerous to even keep them there. But you went. And then when you see the need and you know what love does, I know what your heart says. I know how much you love our country, I know how much you love others, and I know how much you love freedom.

Listen to me. We can only share openly like we do because somebody showed us they care. It's like the missionaries said, "James, we're here with a broken heart. We'll have empty hands and nothing happens unless people who watch programs like yours will decide to meet the need that we see."

You've been that miracle. Now then for more than 25, nearly 30 years you've been the miracle in mission outreaches. Right now we need a miracle support. We need every single one of you who can to help us complete 400 wells this year; 200 wells we need to complete right now.

Father, I pray everyone who can help will. Please!

If you could give a well -- a lot people say, "It is the greatest joy of our year. We asked God to let us do it."

Some say, "Now we do it every year." Thank God for that!

Could you drill a well, \$4800? Could you give half a well, \$2400 and say, "Lord, raise up someone to join me." We've got another well. \$1200 and three people join you. Whatever you can do, do it.

But remember this. Most of the support comes from people who give \$48; 10 people basically water the rest of their life. Where can you put \$48 and do anymore? \$144, 30 people. What a miracle. You become the miracle. By the way, don't think ten is not important. That \$48 is important. Whatever you can do do it.

Would you go get your bankcard right now? Please? Dial that number that's a prayer

line always for you if you need a prayer and it's paid for by love. Would you go get your card, dial that number or go online and just make the best gift you can? If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. We've got to know it's coming. Please do it right now. We have some gifts to send you but you're giving the gift of life. Thank you for doing it.

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 else can she 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 400 water wells this year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provided for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift, we'll send you the "New Mercies Each Day" desk calendar. This 17-month calendar will not only help you keep track of important dates but also remind you of the Father's love and goodness with scripture quotes and encouragement from all the hosts on *LIFE Today*.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the "Fruit of the Spirit" bowl. This beautiful and decorative ceramic bowl features scripture revealing the "Fruit of the Spirit," a lovely addition to your table or home.

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

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

James: You've seen the beautiful gifts we're sending you to say thank you. I really think that "Fruit of the Spirit" bowl, I remember when my son-in-law and some others who pray with us about what do we do to bless people? I said, "Good gracious! This great big fruit bowl?"

"It's the 'Fruit of the Spirit' bowl." He began to show me.

Listen. And Betty, boy, her eyes, she loved it. I hope you love it. I hope every lady watching will help us drill water wells. I'm telling you, what we send you will bless you. And if you'd like to have, along with the beautiful "New Mercies" daily calendar. Here is David's book with Jim Garlow, and I'm telling you, it will bless you. So if you'd like to have it, say, "James, we want to help with the water. Would you send us Jim and David's book?" You better believe it.

Would you like to say thanks to David Barton? David, love you, buddy. Are you going to be back with Dr. Jeffress so we can talk some more? Is there any hope for America?

David: Absolutely!

James: Thank you so much for watching. Thank you for being here. God bless y'all!