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Week 48: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Anthony Evans

James: Hey, hey! Thank all of you. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you. Anthony Evans is with us. I tell Tony Evans and the whole family, Priscilla Shirer, Jonathan, Anthony, this is y'all's television ministry. We just pay for it. We just love you.

You need to know this, you viewers. We support the *Urban Alternative*. We support virtually everything that God puts on Tony's heart with prayer and support and encouraging. Our church, Gateway does. I encourage everybody, pray for them. Lift them up. And pray that what God's put on his heart will just take hold and it will just become a practice in the urban community everywhere. Because it is only love and truth that can put it in play effectively. And that's what Tony is teaching. And there's just not anyone who does it any better. Tony, I love you. Just love your whole family.

Anthony's CD "Altared," it has a double meaning. We'll tell him tell you in a minute what he's implying. But we're sending this to all of you who will help save some children's lives who just don't have enough to eat. And they're precious and they're beautiful. It is not an exaggeration when Betty and I say we love them. You don't go all over the world and march into the most difficult circumstances because you think you're having a blast. You're going over there to share the life and love of God, but we couldn't share it with effect if it were not for people like you. So we're saying thanks with this incredible, incredible CD.

Okay, let's just talk about... By the way, why don't you welcome him to the show? Glad to see you. I've been talking about the family. Are you part of this family?

Anthony: I'm part of it. I'm part of it.

James: Tell us the name, "Altared" because you've got altar and so it is a double impact here.

Anthony: Over the last 24 months the perspective of, my perspective on faith has changed very drastically with some of the circumstances our family has faced. As a lot of people know because we are in the public eye in the sense that we've gone through a lot of loss in the last couple of years. So I was dealing with loss, listening to worship songs. I'm the one in my family who is highly emotional. So when things tragic happen I question my faith to the core. It is very hard for me to not to go down to the root and then work my way back into how and why I believe what I believe.

So I was wrestling with all this and this is prior to us hearing about the current scenario my mom is in. And I was realizing that God was using circumstances, tragic circumstances to alter my perspective of him and I was seeing him again for the first time through new lenses of tragedy.

But it was making me see, it was making me see the root of my faith. Like how much do you really believe the message you're out singing all the time? I was asking myself that question. And I got to see him again for the first time. So this is basically the worship songs I was listening to that were speaking into my life during this past two-year season. I took them and I altered them, I changed them so you could hear them again for the first time.

This is a record, it's not a gimmick. It is birthed out of an authentic struggle to make it through what's been going on in our family.

James: So there is a worship altar too, there is that expression. But "Altared," something happen that changed. It wasn't like just changing merely the words were altered, but you were altered. Something profound, supernatural happened inside of you; right?

Anthony: Absolutely. I tell people this all the time. I grew up wearing glasses and getting contacts and new prescriptions all the time. And every time I got a new prescription, I felt crazy because it was just a new perspective. And it's almost like I got dizzy and a headache and all this stuff, but I was seeing clearer. Right now, new lenses have been put in my eyes, my spiritual eyes, my actual physical existence, and it is a clearer picture, although right now it is making me feel like everything is off. But I'm seeing things the way they're supposed to be seen, which is viewing life as more than just some concerts and traveling around. It is about do you believe what you're singing? Do you believe that God is telling the truth even when you don't feel like it? And I'm having to ask myself that. And now I feel like I minister from a more authentic and honest place because I have to answer that before I get up on the stage.

Betty: Don't you think that can be a good thing though? All of us being available to be altered by God because life can throw some hard blows at us. But if we respond in the way he would have us respond, we do. I know through the loss of our daughter, I have a different relationship with God that I might not have ever experienced, a deeper relationship with him. And that's been good.

Anthony: Yeah! I believe that with all my heart. The same scenario with what's going on with my mom. It's changed the way... my mom is like the consummate plate spinner because she has been the backbone of my dad's ministry. She was raising us at the same time, balancing all that. And so her existence has been making sure that we're all okay.

And in this scenario, me being able to sit and watch my mom get loved on without having to do a thing and we're with her all day every day. She doesn't even need us with her all day every day but we're just loving on her and seeing her. As tragic as this scenario is, and as much as I could just turn it off, when I stop and take a view at how well my mom

is being loved at this moment, and how the world, our family's world is now revolving around her, that's beauty in the mess. And me believing that God can take trash and messes and make them into miracle moments. That's just one of the many ways I've seen a change in our family.

James: I've known your family a long time. I've known Priscilla from the time she kind of stunned us all and comes out. But I also watched her grow in glory and grace. And I've known you from the time you kind of began to be known for the singing and beginning to travel. I want to tell you this. From the time I saw you tonight and we had dinner, before we came out. You may be watching us in the early morning or sometime in the day, but we tape in the evening and we have dinner with our guests. And from the moment that I saw you, and knowing all that's going on, I know, you've got more glory on you and you've got a countenance that's easy for me to discern something very special is going on inside of Anthony.

From the moment I saw you tonight I saw a countenance of supernatural peace when I know there is a storm. I saw a rest when there is reason to have no rest. I saw a confidence when you could be full of questions and doubt. I saw you the way the Lord is shaping himself into you. I want you to know that. But what I'm saying to you is just the truth. I see God shaping you. I want you to know it is very, very noticeable.

So "Altared" is taking effect. Now can I... Are these the actual songs that are on here?

Anthony: Those are the actual songs, yeah.

James: I want to say the names of them: "Raise a Hallelujah," "Hope is Alive," "So will I," "Fighting for Us," "What a Beautiful Name," "King of My Heart" -- it's like a medley, you run one into the other. "Do It Again," "The Lion and the Lamb," "Wynter's Song," "Great are You Lord," "Who You Say I Am." Is that another medley?

Anthony: Yes, it is my cousin's favorite song.

James: Great! So “Reckless Love,” “Brave Forever,” and “Ocean.” I love -- I used to get all my soloists, John McKay, Jeanne Rogers, they'd go one into the other. Here we go. It is just awesome, it is great!

Okay now, did you actually adjust these a little bit with what you're going through so that there is like something, a message coming out that wasn't said in the original?

Anthony: Yeah, I didn't change the lyrics at all. I changed the sonics. Because for some reason God has seen fit to put our family -- we are not trying but put our family in scenarios where every denomination, every color of the rainbow, everybody is in the audience.

James: God loves that!

Anthony: Yes!

James: He likes the whole bouquet!

Anthony: That's what heaven is going to look like. That's what my family has been blessed to have the ministry, so I made sure that sonically it fit the audience. And there's a couple of original songs on there. I heard the song, like you mentioned, Fighting for Us. This is again, before I knew. I sang this song live for the very first time the night my dad told us my mom's diagnosis. I sang it for my parents at N.R.B. And I sang it for them and then we got told this. So it's become a theme song for our family.

So I just wanted to make sure that every lyric sung was not out of a place of me just trying to do great Christian songs that people enjoy. This is my heart's cry and I want to sing this message to hurting people in the audience. I hate the thought of getting on stage and presenting something that's all put together for people who are hurting; and I got it and y'all don't.

I, in this moment, my heart is broken but I have a confidence -- I have a confidence that the Lord is going to move in the life of my family but also the life of the audience. My prayer is not just for my family, it is for every ear that God has put under the sound of my voice that he's seen fit to. I'm grateful for it. But I want that same confidence to be their confidence and that's why we recorded these songs.

James: Do you hear the Lord in what he is saying? Do you bear witness with what this man is saying? I'm going to tell you something. Now listen, Lois, and listen up, and Tony, listen up, and Priscilla, all of you, and Jonathan, glory!

Betty: Crystal!

James: Listen to me, all of you, something is going on over here. Tony, listen. I've heard you a lot. I think he just one upped you right here. God is all over him. It is incredibly beautiful. You mention a song. You're going to sing a song for us here. Is it one of them you mentioned already?

Anthony: It is "Fighting for Us." The song that I mentioned.

James: Would y'all want to hear him sing this song?

[Cheers & Applause]

[Anthony Evans sings]

You are not flesh and bone
You are not weak or slow
You're everything brave and bold
You're fighting for us
You are not distant and cold
Your heart's not angry and closed
And even in ways we don't know

You're fighting for us

You won't hold back
When it comes to Your children
You fiercely defend us
Till we stand delivered
You're fighting for us
Always fighting for us

You've never closed Your eyes
You've never been surprised
Whatever war may rise
You're fighting for us
You move with holy rage
In all your miraculous ways
We simply stand here amazed
'Cause You're fighting for us

You won't hold back
When it comes to Your children
You fiercely defend us
Till we stand delivered
You're fighting for us
Always fighting for us
You won't back down
Facing armies of thousands
You speak one word
And they scatter around us
You're fighting for us
Always fighting for us

How great the love
The furious love
Of the one true Father
How great the love
The conquering love
Of the one true Father

You won't hold back
When it comes to Your children
You fiercely defend us
Till we stand delivered
You're fighting for us

Always fighting for us
You don't back down
Facing armies of thousands
You speak one word
And they scatter around us
You're fighting for us
Always fighting for us
Always fighting for us
You're always fighting for us

James: Wow! I felt like it's a great song, great words. I just felt like you sense "Greater is he that is in us than he who is in the world" and he is fighting not only with us but for us. You really brought this thing home because like I said, you've seen a lot of heartache. And you realize that he is there fighting for you even if that fight manifests itself in an indescribable peace or comfort that there's no way you could describe it apart from him.

Anthony: Absolutely. I believe that. Exactly what you're saying because I've sat in meeting after meeting with doctors with my mom who have no idea what's going on. And I'm like we're sitting in a skyscraper with all these medicines and all these machines and you don't know what you're talking... Like to a certain degree, they're like, "We don't really know. This is rare."

And in those moments, I am like, I'm so glad that I can stand on the confidence -- I can't stand on you in this moment. I can't stand on this skyscraper, I can't stand on the name plastered on this building, but I can stand on the fact that I have a Father who is greater than all of this stuff. And in this moment when you're clueless, he is fighting for me. And that's the confidence.

I've never had scenarios in my life this trying, but I've also never felt my faith this deep

and that is the beauty that comes in the messes that we all face. That is the beauty that comes in.

James: I just want to say to all of you who are watching, I don't know where you are, but I want you to know you are more on God's heart than you could ever imagine. God has let me get really close to his heart and I've told you if you watch me often it's because I want to know what's on his heart. And he's made it very clear he likes to share his heart with somebody who cares what's on his heart, and who would like to fulfill what's on his heart. And I do with all my heart.

But what I do know when I'm listening to him tell me what's on his heart, he wants all of you who are watching to know that you're on his heart. And you may not think so because you hadn't been thinking about him a lot. But if he notices a sparrow fall to the ground, he notices everything going on in your life no matter how unattractive or painful, or difficult or sinful or desperate, he just loves you. And he wants you to receive that love because he is fighting for you and he wants to fight through you to help others win their battle. He wants to pour his love out on you so it can flow through you like a river. Don't you believe that with all your heart?

Anthony: With all my heart.

James: And you and your family are inspiring us. So I want to say to all the Evans family, Tony, you know how much I love you. I've not only marched into hell with you for a heavenly cause, I've marched to the highest places in the land with you to stand before the greatest leaders in the world and point them to the one ultimate answer and it's Jesus, King of kings, Lord of lords. I love you and all the family. You know that. All of you who have been here, and you know how much we love you and the church there in Oak Cliff, Oak Cliff Bible, we just love you.

So you just really be praying for the Evans family. Would all of you like to say thanks for the whole Evans family? But thank you Anthony for blessing us.

And I want all of you watching, I want everybody watching all over the world to get one of these from us because we're sending it to everybody who would just give a child something to eat. Would you do that please? Would you go get your bankcard and say, you know what? If \$30, \$50 or \$100 will feed three children or five children or ten children, \$30, \$50, \$100 for the next months and we've got hundreds of thousands of them located by loving missionaries, love-filled, Jesus-filled, fighting-for-them missionaries. Would you say, we are going to help you help them? Not a single one of you watching wouldn't say we're going to do it.

Tony, Anthony, we're going to get this. And buddy, we're going to pray and shout with you, and love your family. We're going to love the whole family of God and everybody outside the family. And we're going to feed the hungry together. We're going to send this to you to say thanks. I pray to God every one of you watching will get it because you reached out and touched someone with the love of God.

You watch closely now, and you let God speak to you very clearly and you respond according to his love leadership.

On the mission field:

Isak: I've had many people just like you ask me many times what does malnutrition look like? What does it do? Well, what you're seeing on your screen right now is probably the worst way for you to understand, but the easiest in many ways, is this comparison between two little children. These are two children that are both two months old. One that is just about the weight it should be for its age and another that is two months old, fighting the struggle and losing it of life and death. He weighs just on three pounds. We're doing whatever we can to save this child's life.

We're bringing whatever we have, including asking God to perform a miracle. But I need you to understand that you can be that miracle. The miracle that stops this from happening, that breaks the cycle of malnutrition, poverty, of death. We can reach a

mother like this and a child like this out there in their village. We can bring them mission feeding where we give them life, life in the form of a bowl of food each and every day.

As believers God has called us to this world for such a time as this, for a life like this to bring what God instructs us to bring -- and that is life.

End of video

In the studio:

James: For 20 years Betty and I went all over the third world looking at beautiful heartbroken moms like the one you saw there, praying over their children for a miracle. We held so many of them. We watched some of them die while we prayed over them and tried to comfort the mothers.

I want you to know that I couldn't have kept going if I didn't know what love would do. And Betty, we couldn't have kept going year after year after year because it was very dangerous. You were hurt so bad riding on jump seats in the back of little trucks where the roads had nothing but holes in them, and could have been paralyzed because you did such damage to your back. We wouldn't have kept going if we hadn't known for certain not only that love works, it never fails, but that you would share it. Our viewers put God's arms around a lot of mothers and raised up a lot of little children like that because they cared enough to share.

Betty: They have! And thank you so much for that. There are many times when James and I, when we first started going to the mission field, we would see the lines of the children because some of them hadn't eaten for days and days. But they would line up so patiently. I'd always peek around at the end of the line and hope, James that we wouldn't run out of food. Because we did, sometimes. That last little one would get up there and we didn't have anything to give them. It would break my heart.

I'm so thankful that you have, many times, joined with us and said we don't want you to

run out anymore. Please continue to do that for us. Join with us and let's have plenty of food for these precious little ones that deserve a chance in life.

James: One of the greatest prayers you ever prayed and she shared it with you, she said, "While I was there I said, God, please let the line to help the children always be longer than the line of children needing help." You became the answer to that prayer and I'm asking you to do it again today. We need a miracle. We really do. People are finding so many reasons not to even like anybody or somebody that does something they don't understand, like praying for somebody they don't understand. It's so sad. That's the enemy trying to tear us apart.

Betty, you prayed for that. And our viewers became the answer to that prayer.

Would you right now go online or would you dial that phone number there that's always a prayer line? And would you go and get your bankcard and use it like a check? Could you make a gift to help us feed three, five or ten children for the next months? Did you know you can feed ten children for the next several months for \$100? Where could you use \$100 to feed ten children for months? You can right here. Five for \$50, three for \$30 -- that's not an exaggeration. It's not total child care, its lifesaving nourishment. And those missionaries not only show them the love of God, they point them to the source, Jesus.

Would you right now, please, go online or dial the number? Use that bankcard like a check. We have some gifts to send you that will bless you. Anthony Evans, his CD "Altared" is going to bless you. I promise you it will. And all the gifts that we offer exalt the Lord and give you a chance to testify.

Well, you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life. Thank you for making that gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Mission feeding began with a promise to be there in times of crisis for thousands of hurting and hungry children in their time of need.

Now more than ever we need your help to save lives by feeding and caring for children across the continent of Africa. With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish our supplies to reach the 400,000 children who are counting on us. Your gift of love can be the miracle answer to a desperate mother's prayer.

Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50 or \$100 that will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift, we'll send you the authored worship CD by Anthony Evans. This powerful full-length album includes unique versions of some of today's most cherished worship songs that are sure to uplift and inspire you.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Filled with Faith" and "...Joy" travel mug set. These 12-ounce mugs are crafted with large handles, double-layered insulation and vacuum sealed lids to prevent spills. Each mug includes a message to remind you of God's blessings and faithfulness.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our commemorative bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video**In the studio:**

James: I told Anthony I could just see the glory and grace of God in him and how much I love him. I want to be able to know that when I hear how many of you called that I

realize suddenly that Jesus is fighting for you is now fighting in you for others. I really do. I pray I'll be so amazed.

By the way, if you get a busy when you call, you be so determined and say, "I'm going to get through." If you have to make a note, I'm coming back a little later, I'm getting through because I'm going to help put God's arms of love around those precious little children and their families. I'm going to save their lives. And I'm going to get this incredible CD. There are other gifts that we send just to say thanks.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Anthony Evans and the whole Evans family? We love you! Love you big time, buddy. You know that.

Love all of you! Thank you. Thanks for watching. Thanks for helping us share the love of God with others. Thank you.