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Week eight: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Ken Harrison #1

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm James Robison. Betty, my wife, we are thrilled. We are thrilled to be able to spend this time with you and I mean that. You may say, "I'm just glad you're not here in the room with us" -- wherever that might be or whatever time of day. And I understand that. But I wish you could understand how much being able to talk to you about the greatest source of love, compassion in the universe, our Lord and our Father, to be able to share that with you is so meaningful. Listen to this now, God promises to answer prayer.

I believe the man you're about to meet is not only going to answer to the prayers of serious Lord God seeking Christians, but I believe an answer to the prayer of Jesus. I really believe that. I've been encouraging you to pray for spiritual awakening for a long time. I believe we're about to see one.

This book *Rise of the Servant Kings*, the minute I heard about this man Ken Harrison, I never heard of him. He didn't know me. I really do believe that this is a man sent from God by God for the glory of God to bless all of us. And we, together, welcome Ken Harrison who has been the chairman of several boards, who has been a police officer and a pretty effective, pretty tough one, and even been an athlete. You've had quite a journey.

And now then you're chairman of the board of Promise Keepers. And see since I watched Promise Keepers born in a gymnasium with a bunch of men just seeking God, and then I watched it pull way over a million people in the mall, and I was the last speaker there, and became very close to Coach McCartney, I knew God had done a great work. And then all of the

sudden it just kind of got... I've had Coach's wife sat here and told her story of him missing the mark but it kind of faded away. It shouldn't have.

All of the sudden it's been resurrected. Ken, you never dreamed you would have anything to do with that resurrection. Do you agree that something very supernatural has happened even in the fact that you are now leading Promise Keepers?

Ken: It would take me a couple of hours just to talk about all the miraculous connections that the Lord has made, including us.

James: Okay. Let's just take off on your journey because this, if I just sat here and read the chapter titles, you would pause and say, "I want to know what that is. I want to know what that is." I may do that that in a moment. But here's the thing. One of the most miraculous journeys by a man by every standard in every area you'd call him successful. Why is he doing this and he doesn't even take a salary? Why is he doing this? An answer to those of you who are real serious about your prayer life.

Take us on your journey a little bit, would you please, as a police officer or back to how you grew up in religion.

Ken: Well, my father had been a Los Angeles police officer and he'd been shot in the Watts riots in 1965 and retired us up to Oregon when I was young and got saved. And I got saved, at five years old, filled with the spirit. And I used to go knock on doors at five with my little clip-on tie, my little patent leather white shoes and hand out tracts. One day my mother saw Ricky Nelson in the airport in the early '70s and said, "Kenny, that's a famous rock star!" So I chased him down through the airport and I witnessed to him for five minutes. And that guy graciously stood there and listened to me for five minutes telling him about Jesus.

But unfortunately, we got involved in a really legalistic church and I often say, it took the church about ten years to beat the Holy Spirit out of me. But I thank God, it was one of those churches where it was -- you've heard me tell the stories of someone yelling at me because I was reading a

New American Standard Bible instead of a King James, and rock and roll and dancing and movies. If it was fun, it was bad.

Luckily, I got out of that church at 15 years old and went to Stu Weber's church in Portland Oregon and Stu really helped to save my life.

James: His wasn't the one you got out of. His was the one you got into. Stu, we know exactly what you're about, buddy! So you got out of that one and ended up in Stu's.

Ken: But during that course of that time, that legalism at the age of 12, I started reading the Bible every day. I don't know what it was but at 12, I think when we're filled with the spirit there is just -- you know Jesus. And I knew Jesus and the Jesus these people were telling me about and beating me over the head with, the people who were telling that Billy Graham wasn't a Christian because he didn't have the right theology, they didn't know Jesus. So I really got to know God's word really, really well.

But the wounding of the church was so deep that by the time I was 18 years old I walked with the Lord, my wife and I went to church. We'd been involved but I was checked out of Christian culture. So that's why I didn't know who you were when I met you. And it's given me a great perspective because I have no idea who I'm supposed to be impressed by. And as I've gone down this journey lately and gotten to know people, I just get to know people. I don't know who the famous pastors are or who they're not.

I've got to say the preconceived notions I thought I would have had when I met certain people and you know, when I met Paula White I thought, man, what a humble, humble woman.

James: A broken servant. She's a servant. Amazingly!

Ken: So I got in the L.A.P.D. To follow my dad's footsteps. Did that. After the Rodney King stuff and all the gang wars, then got into business and God gave me great success in business. So I had basically retired in 2012 at the age of 45 and was doing what I think the devil tells us is

what a good Christian man should do which was not much. I was a good man and coaching my son's football teams but nothing that was going to change the world -- and then God got a hold of me.

I was praying. I've always been a man of deep prayer and scripture but I was praying and the Lord came to me in a very vivid way and he said, "I did not teach you what I did and put you through all that I did so that you can ski and hike for the rest of your life."

I said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

He said, "Are you willing to be as ambitious for my kingdom as you were for your kingdom?"

And it came with a deep warning of be careful of your answer. It is going to cost you everything. I have to tell you, I wrestled with the Lord.

My answer was, "I don't know."

I didn't want to give up my comfort and I didn't want to give up my life. After I wrestled with him for a few hours I said, "Yeah Lord, I will."

He said, "I'll tell you what I have for you when you're ready."

When Promise Keepers came along it was literally pushed into my lap and I tried to push it back with everything in me until I finally went home to my wife and said, "Boy, I think I'd better take over Promise Keepers or I'm going to get swallowed by a big fish!" Here we are.

[Laughter]

James: And there happens to be a very clear biblical illustration of that. And so you did really yield to the Lord. I'm simply going to tell you. You will get to know him very well in the coming months. Yes, you will. You will know what he means by the *Rise of the Servant Kings*.

One of the most profound statements I have ever heard come so clearly from the Lord that just hit me so hard is: Greatest among you is servant. And suddenly he showed me. Because everybody says you're this effective, gifted, dynamic, powerful speaker, and the Lord showed me what I'd be more effective sitting in a chair, sitting at his feet listening to his words and becoming a servant to all the others than I ever would standing in the biggest stadiums in the world.

I have been able to be a servant to people no one ever heard of. We went from winning hundreds of thousands of people to Christ a year to winning three, four, five million people to Christ every year until we basically lost count because we became a servant. And we began to light and put oil in those little lanterns all over the world -- and the glory of God came down.

I believe that God is going to use you to help light the lantern that illuminates and reveals the Lord so clearly, and I believe servant kings, and you're pointing at men becoming what God really designed them to be, and that's not Lord over anything but him a lord over us.

I believe with all my heart, you tell me if you bear witness with this, that no woman wants to be -- they all want to be treated like a queen but not by a pawn. They want to be treated like a queen by a king who honors them and both of them submit to the Lord. Do you agree with that?

Ken: Absolutely!

James: All right. What do you want us to hear with the *Rise of the Servant Kings*? When you look at Promise Keepers and you've already planned for a meeting in AT&T Stadium. We used to call it Cowboy Stadium. We don't boast about Cowboy stuff a whole lot right now -- maybe that will change. But the point is the stadium is quite spectacular. And you believe that God is going to do something as you simulcast the message from the heart of God out to people all over the world, and asking men to stand up and become servant kings: What God designed and destined us to be.

Tell us what's on your heart now when you moved into this. What do you long to see happen? When you refer to "servant kings" what are you believing God wants to do?

Ken: We've got to remind men of who they are in Jesus Christ. And you have such a great story about what happens when you're not affirmed as a man by your father. That is a growing epidemic in this country. There are so many men today who have not been affirmed of what does it mean to be a man? And you cannot learn how to be a man unless you learn how to be a disciple.

So what does Jesus Christ say that we are? We're servant kings. We're responsible for our sphere. If you're a single man, you're still a king. You're still someone who needs to look out for the poor and the oppressed, for the bullied, to care for women's rights. If you're married, you're responsible for your kids, for your wife -- their spiritual walk. It doesn't mean you're at fault because even Jesus lost Judas. He struggled with Peter -- so the greatest teacher in the world.

So it doesn't mean that you're at fault if your wife or your kids go south but it does mean you're responsible to do everything you can to present them as spotless and blameless before our Father in heaven. And we need to remind men of that. And we need to get them into AT&T Stadium where 80,000 men could sit together and sing "Amazing Grace" and look around, take off the mask and put it down and be vulnerable and say, "I'm not alone. I'm not alone."

You may be responsible for having caused abortions to happen. You may have thrown \$300 at some gal and said, "Go take care of that problem." You may be addicted to pornography, you may have been an abuser; Jesus loves every one of us if we just lay down our pride, fall on our face and give our lives to him. He can change all of that from the inside out and that's what I want to let people know.

James: When you listen to him, Betty and you had the privilege of being with him and his wife and one of his children for hours and just listening to him. What do you see when you look at Ken and you listen to what you hear coming from him?

Betty: Well, I agree with you wholeheartedly about the man's place as leader in the home, as one that leads his family, his wife. I take great comfort for that. I have a husband that does that, and a father that led his children. I didn't feel any less important. I felt that I could take my place as the wife and the caretaker of the home in peace and rest because I knew he had my back, so to speak. And that brings great comfort to me. I think there is a lot of women that desire that. They might not admit it so much as we're so -- you can be independent and still have that covering. My husband builds me up all the time; he encourages me to be who I am in Christ. So I think that is such a hunger today that is not necessarily recognized but is needed.

Ken: So you'd say you are treated like a queen by a king.

Betty: I am.

Ken: I love that!

James: One of the stories you tell in the book and when you're sharing at the time you talk about something happened to one of your partners that really had an incredible impact on your life. Tell us about it.

Ken: I had a partner who was a tall Argentine; a handsome guy who had a million girls all over him. He was everything a man would say he wants to be. Tall handsome L.A. cop, girls everywhere; so many girls actually that back in those days adultery was still a fireable offense L.A.P.D. He had so many flowers being sent to the front desk the Sargent told him, "You've got to tell your girlfriends to stop sending all these flowers or we're going to have to take action." He was that kind of guy.

He kept trying to talk to me one night and I just didn't have time. We were in a real violent area, so violent crime kept coming up. He said, "Ken, I need to talk to you about Jesus." I had talked to Juan about Jesus a million times and never seemed to go anywhere. Finally, I said, "Juan, I'll talk to you after we come back from our days off in three days. I'll come to work early, and we can talk then."

James: So you'd mentioned Jesus to him before. He seemed to be indifferent but now all of the sudden there seems to be a curiosity or did he come to argue?

Ken: He came from a deeply religious Catholic roots; that if I just feel bad enough about my sin, then somehow, it's okay. So he lived in constant guilt and self-loathing but wouldn't stop his sin. I could never get through to him the grace of Jesus Christ. Does that make sense?

So after three days I came back. I got to work two hours early at Rampart station and no Juan. We went to roll call. The captain showed up at 10:00 at night. And captains don't come to roll call. And the captain let me know that Juan had gone down to Mexico and he had murdered his girlfriend and killed himself. His girlfriend was a single mother. Now I thought, now here is a two-year old boy orphaned by an L.A. cop.

I think Juan epitomized the macho guy that we all aspired to be back in the day, handsome, tall, L.A.P.D. That was his end. And now I think we have swung so far the other way where culture has rebelled against that and said well now, let's have deeply effeminate men. How about if we just started being the men that Jesus said we are? How about if we just acted like humble, courageous, generous, servant kings to all those people around us?

James: I love what you're saying, Ken. I really do hear the heart of the Lord in it. We want everyone to begin praying for an event that's going to take place this summer that I really believe is not only an answer to prayer of everyone who said God, you're the only one who can heal our land. And I will tell you that the healing process has begun because the anger, the fury, the hatred, the deception, dissension, division, the destruction, the death, the animosity is absolute revelation of the nature and intentions of the Father of lies whom Jesus said is a murderer.

Ken: And I say all the time the devil and the Holy Spirit, if you're saved, are always talking to us. How do you tell the difference between the voices? Because the voice of the Holy Spirit always says, "wait." It brings patience and peace and it always glorifies Jesus. The voice of the devil always brings anxiousness and stress, and it glorifies self, which really glorifies the devil. It

is easy to tell the difference.

So when we get to AT&T Stadium, we don't want a bunch of guys sitting around telling themselves, "I'm going to try harder not to look at pornography." "I'm going to try harder to be a better dad." We want guys to fall on their face before the Lord and say, "I'm giving up my pride because only the grace of Jesus Christ can change my heart."

James: And I'm praying, Ken it will be simulcast into areas where people have come together not just to watch something but come together to be a part of praying, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Preceded by "Thy kingdom come." He wouldn't have told us to pray it if it couldn't happen. He wouldn't have told us to pray it if it is not important. I believe we're going to see it.

Father, do it! Do it, Lord beyond anything we've ever witnessed. Clear to the answer to your prayer, Jesus in John 17 in our day.

Ken, I want everybody who wants to understand your journey and where God's taken you and how it's going to impact men and individuals all over the world, I want them to get the book.

We love sharing the life of God not just in word but in deed. We don't love just in word only, we love in deed. Our viewers have been putting oil in little lanterns all over the world. Well, we found a yielded missionary, oftentimes moved their children right in the middle of what looks like hell to bring a glimpse of heaven. And they want to give these people clean water or food. And we told our viewers, "We met people gifted of God and submitted to God's will who moved right into that darkness, but they need us to help."

And boy, have you helped! Right now with your help we're going to drill hundreds of water wells. They still cost \$4800 a piece. I want you to look in right now in a situation that you, God in you are the answer to this challenge. You're the miracle. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: Is there anything more miraculous, more precious than God's gift of children? -- Remarkable and sometimes confusing little versions of ourselves. Yet so incredibly unique. We plan, sacrifice, stress, and pray over our decisions -- over their decisions, all that we want for them and the legacy we hope to leave. There is a breath of immortality in those generations that follow us. But that all assumes those generations don't end with us.

In Cambodia, what we encountered floored us. Mother after mother, who because of something as basic as water, had lost child after child. Contaminated water filled with disease, their only source.

Open captions:

>> I lost two children.

Announcer: In the villages we visited, it became harder to find mothers who had not lost a child to contaminated water than it was to find one who had.

Open captions:

>> I lost four children.

>> I lost five children.

Announcer: Our children are supposed to outlive us. These mothers have lost more children than the average American has even brought into this world.

Open captions:

>> I lost one child.

>> I lost three children.

>> I lost one child.

>> I lost five children.

>> I lost five children.

Announcer: Of all the things we, as parents, might struggle to provide for our children, it's unlikely that clean water is ever one of them. Why should it be any different for these mothers?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! We love all you children! And Sheila, we love you! And here is Sheila's book, *Praying Women*. Now I'm telling you something, we're seeing answers to prayer already but what's about to happen this year I think will be one of the greatest miracles the world's ever seen. We're sending Sheila's book, *Praying Women* to everyone who makes any gift to help us share water. And Joseph Prince's book, and then some other items that we're sending to bless you as you help us drill hundreds of wells.

So Betty, do you know what I'm praying for? Our missionaries have shown us hundreds of areas where there is fresh water available if we can just drill a well. And you, the viewers paid for the well drilling equipment. But we have to send it there. And then listen to what I'm saying, the average cost is still \$4800. I don't know how long that's going to remain true but there have been some very positive things happen to keep it at that.

Would you help us? Would you help us drill those hundreds of wells? Maybe even exceed what our advisors and staff council have said, you need to limit this year. That makes me want to cry. Well, we're going to do all you enable us to do because you're the ones that give us the ability to drill those wells.

Would you right now go and get your bankcard and call the number on the screen? And say, "I'm going to give a well" or "a portion of a well." \$48 -- and that's how most of the money

comes. We have some people who give \$4800. We have people who say, "We make that a goal every year to drill a well." We have some who say, "I'm praying God will let us help drill several." Thank God for that. But most come with people giving \$48 which gives ten people water the rest of their life. \$144 gives 30. Could you give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray others join you? We'd have a well.

Would you go online, use that bankcard like a check or call the number and make the gift God puts on your heart? Thank you so much for being an answer to the prayers of so many who want their children to have a future. You saw our grandson and his wife. They have two little children, two and under. What if they had to have water? I guarantee you, they understand what it is to want the best for their babies, their children.

Would you help provide that miracle of love, help us drill these wells? One well at a time, one gift at a time. Thank you for making that call. Thank you for going on online and making the gift God put on your heart.

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's a mother to do?

With your help clean water is on the way. Mission Water for LIFE is the answer to a mother's prayer to save the lives of her children, to offer them a bright future free from the fear of death. With your gift today you can help drill and establish 350 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 people. \$72 will provide for 15. \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift we'll send you *Praying Women*: "How to pray when you don't know what to say." In her new book, Sheila Walsh shows you how to reignite your conversation with God to become a strong praying woman.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "*Power of Prayer*" bundle. This bundle includes a cozy throw blanket adorned with words of The Lord's Prayer, a decorative pillow cover, as well as Sheila's book. All three are encouraging reminders of how there's power in your faith-filled prayers!

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our brand-new commemorative bronze sculpture, "A Mother's Strength."

Please call, write or make your gift online!

End of video

On the mission field

James: To be able to give a cup of water in Jesus' name because people like you gave this well where the children are coming to get water, but these children have got clean water because someone like you provided a well and we need to drill them all over the world. We've targeted some areas now.

If you'll go to the telephone and simply dial the number it's a lifeline, make the very best gift you can today please? If you can give a well, give a well. But whatever you can do, it will go together with other gifts and enable us to drill another well like this.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I pray with all my heart you'll not only take seriously giving water but that you pray for this event at AT&T Stadium. You help us give water, we're going to send you Ken Harrison's book. I promise you. Boy, will it bless you. Sheila Walsh, we'll send you her book, *Praying Women*. What a miracle move of God.

Ken, Betty and I just say to you, we've had to tape with you during the middle of the day, normally, we have a studio full of people that would be shouting. I'll tell you what, they'd be standing right now and cheering "praise God" for sending you here. We're going to talk about that meeting too in the stadium a little bit more clearly. I really appreciate you. God bless you.

Thank you so much for watching. Thank you so much for giving someone Water for LIFE and know they're pointed to the water of life. We love you. Thank you so much!