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Week 9: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Ken Harrison #2

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

James: And I told you that much of what happens in my life is the answer to her prayers. As a matter of fact, she prayed so hard for me to have something really supernatural happen in my life. And when it happened it was like God, you overdid it! I didn't mean quite that! You remember those little discussions?

Betty: I do!

James: But she moves me. Sometimes I walk in the family room in the morning and tears are rolling down her cheeks. She'll have the Bible open in her hands and she's weeping over what she sees where marriages and homes and families, there is so much pain and heartache. And at our age, in our 70s, we've said good-bye to a lot of our friends. It's broken our heart. It's something that we say God, let us comfort the brokenhearted.

Father, I want to pause right now and for everyone who is thinking no one would even understand, would you take them in your arms, I mean so clearly, so directly that they sense your presence, your comfort? And then not only this couple sitting here does care but they know how much you care. And I want you to heal that broken heart. Comfort them in ways they never imagined; in Jesus' name.

Can I say something to you? When we lost our daughter who was just so awesome, mother of

three beautiful teenagers, we said, "God, what can we do?"

Lord said, "You know you've got many people praying for you." There are many people right now with a broken heart who don't even have a friend, don't know anybody who cares. Get your arms around them because as much as I did put my arms around you and Betty, I want to get my arms around everybody.

Our guest today was very successful in business, very successful in law enforcement because he is very effective. We need that kind of law enforcement. But God did something in his life that moved him from being a very successful, now retired wealthy businessman ready to just enjoy the spoils of great success and maybe he even says a life well lived. And all of the sudden he's led by God to move over at an invitation that was miraculous, to resurrect a movement of men called Promise Keepers. He's written a book, the *Rise of the Servant Kings*. Jesus says greatest among you is servant. That doesn't mean slave, it means we choose to bless and help and assist others for the glory of God our king.

Well, Ken Harrison is here. And Ken, you walked in our building here and you know I don't have a lot of people say this to me. "I don't have a clue who you are," you said. "I don't have a clue who you are. I don't even know why I'm here."

I said, "I don't have a clue who you are. And I don't know why you're here."

And all of the sudden you just seemed to say to me, "Tell me what you're hearing."

I didn't hesitate, did I? I talked about God building one kingdom -- only one and you're either Jesus said "gathering" or "scattering." I said, "I want to lose my kingdom and my life in that one because he is interested in my life and it is high time we get interested in his." All of the sudden it seemed like we found ourselves on the same wavelength. Am I safe to say that you and I have become very, very good friends?

Ken: I think we're knitted by the Holy Spirit, our spirits together. But when I met you, I want to

know who is for real. I wanted to know your heart right away. Boy, you showed me who you are.

As we relaunch Promise Keepers, there are so many people watching this show right now who are hurting. There are women who have been putting up with husbands who have been abusive. There are abusive husbands who are broken and wondering where to find answers. As we relaunch Promise Keepers, I think it's really important that we remember that Promise Keepers is simply a part of the church.

I'm so sick and tired of hearing churches talk about parachurch ministries. Man, you're the church, I'm the church, we're the body of Christ. God doesn't need Promise Keepers, God doesn't need you or me. But God in His grace allows us to serve him.

I want to reiterate what you said. I told you the story that Jay Vernon McGee told when I was a teenager. I heard him say about how a famous pastor had died and went to heaven and Jesus was driving him out to his mansion. And they came to this huge mansion and the pastor thought well, that's about what I should get for my greatness and my big church.

And Jesus said, "Oh no. This isn't for you. This is for the widow Mahoney. She was always on her knees praying and she has that mansion."

The pastor said, "Well, if that woman I never heard of from my church has that mansion I can't wait to see mine."

And Jesus drove him out to a little tiny cottage and said, "There's your mansion."

And this pastor said, "What are you talking about? I had this big church and I was famous, and everybody thought I was great."

Jesus said, "Yeah, but the reason all those things happened was because the widow Mahoney was praying for you."

James: Wow! I believe that.

Ken: I would say God is bringing back Promise Keepers in an unbelievable way with a great vision. And I think it is because of the answers of the prayers of the people. So many women and so many men have been on their knees praying, "God do something!" God calls the unlikeliest of people. There's good news and bad news if God calls you. The good news is he called you. The bad news he only calls losers.

[Laughter]

Just read the Bible and everybody he calls you're like, really? That guy? I'm so excited about what we're going to do.

James: But you know, he can take any lump of clay, yielded to his shaping hand and he can shape it into a vessel of honor. I'm telling you, he can take Simon Peter with all of his boasting and bragging and then prove what he really was when he denied Jesus when Jesus needed him most. And then look what happened! In a short time he is the keynote speaker at Pentecost. Everybody no matter where they've been, if they realize he will lift you up, he will take any clay and shape it into a vessel of honor.

I'm telling you, Ken, what he's done with you is one of the most amazing things I've seen. So when you talk about having a meeting this summer in AT&T Stadium, which you've got to admit, even in Texas that is a nice place to meet in the summer because you wouldn't want to meet in one that wasn't air-conditioned in Texas in the end of July and first of August. So when you call these men together, which you call the *Rise of the Servant Kings*, what do you want to see? And when you walk out of that stadium after two days of men coming to not only seek the will of God but to yield their life, the clay of their life into the hand of the master potter, what do you long to see happen when they walk out?

One thing I want to mention is don't you think we have a tendency to organize things even that God wants or that we know are good into an organization when if you look at the vision of Jesus

and you look clearly at the Word of God, and especially the New Testament, it looks like when he's talking about a body, and he talks about uniquely designed members connected to one another, submitted with gratitude, appreciation for one another, each member supplying the other as it has need, and vice versa, submitted to one head, it seems like we're talking about far greater than an organization. It's like we're talking about a living organism. In fact, he called it "a body." Do you have a longing to see that kind of miracle happen where the family comes together like that?

Ken: You mean like a body, like the bride of Christ? That will be adorned in pure white linen which are the good works of the saints?

To answer your question, to go back to what happened to Promise Keepers because I know a lot of people are wondering. And like with anything there is a million things, but I sort of boil it down to two. The first one is Promise Keepers at its height in the '90s lost the idea that Jesus is the Promise Keeper, not us. We're the promise reapers. And it got to a bunch of guys standing around in a stadium promising each other we're going to try harder; that just leads to guilt and all kinds of nonsense.

We need repentance and understanding that the Holy Spirit will change us from the inside out. He'll change our desires. If you have a problem with lust how do you get rid of your problem with lust? Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Deny yourself daily. His presence will overcome you and you will see women in a different light. You'll see them as your equals, as human beings instead of sexual objects. So that's the first thing is that we remember Jesus is the Promise Keeper.

The second thing is Promise Keepers went down because there wasn't discipleship. Discipleship is the church's job, the greater church but we're going to have a way for men when they leave that stadium because they're going to go and the thing you hear from guys everywhere is the feeling of hearing 80,000 men singing "Amazing Grace." I've had men in tears tell me they've never been able to recreate that feeling of the Lord and that feeling of I'm not alone. Because when there are just men together and there is no women around, they take off their little macho

mask and they're vulnerable. And so many younger men have told me that their dads that they went with their dad to Promise Keepers and that's when he first told him that he loved them. That's when they saw their dad truly real and authentic for the first time. And it transformed them as who they are.

So the first part is we want to remember who the Promise Keeper is. The second part is we want to have discipleship. So we've developed a plan. It's too much to go into now but a way for churches to take what we've done and put men together into teams, have relationships and be disciplined. So those who things are really what we're after: Men who are being disciplined in the Lord's work and men who understand it's not us, it's him.

James: And you're not going back to a religious lodge, club, or tribe, or a sect or sectarian position. You're not going to an organization, religious organization. You're going back as a member of this body, this living organization to help not only share that and say that but to reveal that you've yielded your life to that, and to encourage and inspire others to come.

I believe if these men become servant kings many of the pastors and shepherds feel more like trampled ground than anybody. Sometimes the church leader can become a church boss. Many times the church leader is run by church bosses. It becomes like a very discombobulated, very unhealthy organization rather than the living organism that the gifted ones are to build up into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Just start in Ephesians four, strive diligently to preserve the unity of the spirit. Which one? The one you were born into when you were born from above. Seek diligently. Why? Because the deceiver, the divider, is doing everything he can to pull you apart, pit you against one another, get you to wrangle over words to the ruin of the hearers. Even wrangle over the Word; beat each other up with it, spear each other, divorce one another and the church just seems to do that. Until we become this club.

You want to see something go back that takes such life that the whole church that's been touched by this group, all begin to become healthy members of the body of Christ. That's what spiritual

awakening is. They won't be defending their denominational position, their opinion that they've studied hard to defend. They're going to back as yielded clay. They're going to go back submitted to the Lord of lords and King of kings. And he said he sent another one of the same kind. You don't have to look for Jesus to come back, he's here. He's sitting here with us. The same Jesus is in this studio, he's in your home. Let that Jesus impact. Am I preaching okay here?

[Laughter]

Ken: I think you've done this before.

James: I'm telling you, I'm full of it. It's overflowing because it is in his heart and he shared his heart with me. And he wants us to live to fulfill the desires of his heart because they're best for all of us. Does that make sense? Will this fit with what you're praying for?

Ken: Oh absolutely.

James: By the way, I'll be doing a lot of repenting through this because everything God shows me, where I miss him or don't see him or don't walk right, I want to repent so fast that you can't even imagine. I mean that with all my heart -- with all my heart. That's what I think we're going to see.

Ken: James, what I've seen in you, you've been at the very top of Christendom, from a worldly standpoint. You've advised presidents, several. You've filled stadiums and yet you have a heart that's full of humility. That's what I want people to see is that the outward expression of a person who is in love with Jesus Christ has a spirit of humility. I don't care how big someone's church is, how well they know the Bible, how much stuff they've done, if they're not humble, they don't love Jesus. I remember what you told me and also, a good friend of mine, Os Guinness told me, you guys were both close with Billy Graham, and you guys both told me that Billy Graham was the most humble man you ever met.

James: No question.

Ken: I love that spirit in you. We want to preach that to men. I think that the outward expression of humility in a man, a masculine way, is generosity and courage. Because we can sometimes put our face on, and we can fake humility. We can go to church and we put on our little act; right? But what you can't fake is generosity and courage because you can't fake how much you just tipped the waitress. We were together at a restaurant. The waitress comes up, I mean you guys have got to hear this story. The waitress comes up to give James a check for the clean water that you're raising money for. Then she tells me that James led her to Christ. She then led a bunch of the other servers at that restaurant to Christ. And then when we left I saw James tip her an extremely high tip. That's a man of God right there. That's how it comes out in who we are.

James: Well, I just love you. Betty, gosh you've lived with me a long time. We've been married nearly 57 years or right at it, and we dated four years. I told her she needed to stay strong because I wouldn't always be telling her I want you to always be really pure. And she's strong. She's got more defensive moves than Chuck Norris, even now. I put a move on her she says, "I'm still strong!"

[Laughter]

But listen. We've been together a long time. Boy, you've seen me fall as flat as someone can fall. You've been on your knees at the edge of the pit that I dug with Jesus to lift me up. And then you've watched God working in my life until you even said one time, "Lord, you overdid it. I prayed and you over did it." When you see Ken and you see the excitement that I had when I saw Jesus in him and came and told you, did I exaggerate about what God's doing and what you see now that you hear? Do you believe it's going to be...?

Betty: I believe in his vision for what God wants to do through men today because we're in a situation in our world right now that's very... everybody is equal, women are so independent and all this. But I still, as a woman, I feel like in my heart this would be a blessing for women to see men come with all humility and saying, "I messed up. I did it wrong. But God help me, I

want to get it all right now. And I want that balance to come in my life that will be a blessing to my family, to my wife, to the whole world. And that we can stand as a family strong under God's care and direction." I can see that day coming and I think it would be so wonderful for it to begin right here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Ken: I was in a TV interview and I wasn't prepared for the question, which is always, you have an answer and I just learned something about myself. And the interviewer said, "Why are you so passionate about men's ministry that you want to bring this back?"

I said, "I'm not particularly passionate about that. I'm passionate about the concerns of women and children because when men are screwed up, women and children suffer. And I just want to let the people out there to know that hope is coming."

Hope is coming by the church through Jesus in the arm of Promise Keepers, not coming from Promise Keepers. Like I said before, God doesn't need Promise Keepers. But there is a gathering of men coming and I would just say to women out there get your husbands, get your sons there, and there is hope for your daughters too because your daughter has to marry someone. And we're going to bring Christ to the masses, to the young men and say this is what a man is. He's a person of courage, generosity and humility. That's what a man of God looks like. There is hope coming. It's coming July 31st and August 1st in AT&T Stadium.

James: Let me just say this to all the women. When men fail, you do your best to pick up the load that should be borne by them and you do an unbelievable job. But it is not what you hoped for because you want men to get right. But next to the Holy Spirit, ladies, you're the greatest source of inspiration on the planet. You really are. I actually think, apart from the Holy Spirit, you're the greatest power source. I believe that.

So all of you who know that only God can shape any of us the way we need to be shaped, not just to our heart's desire, but his heart's desire is for those men to give their life, the clay of their life into the potter's hands, totally yielded. Pray for that because it really is what you long for. I know you'll try to take up the slack. But don't you really want somebody that would love you the

way everyone really wants to be loved? We're trying to lead and honor you the way you deserve to be honored. A man, not a pawn treating you like a queen but a king treating you like the queen you are.

Father, do this. This isn't just our prayer. So truly it is your prayer that we would be shaped in your image, according to your will for your glory and kingdom purpose; in Jesus' name.

You pray for that meeting in AT&T Stadium. I'm praying it will not only be filled with men and young men, I'm praying it will be filled with the spirit and the glory of God. And it will spill not only all over America, North America but all over the world. The dates of the meeting in AT&T Stadium, when we're asking God to fall in mighty power on the lives of yielded men, what's the date again?

Ken: July 31st and August 1st, 2020. We'll see y'all there!

James: Well, we have wonderful guests. Our viewers appreciate the fact that we love and invest in the life and ministry of every guest who comes through here. They know we want to serve them, and they recognize that. Our viewers, they want to reach out to the unknown and the unnoticed and the least of these. And boy, they do it.

We'll send you this book if you'll help us along with Sheila Walsh's book, *Praying Women*. And we're asking you to help us give fresh water to people whose future depends upon it. And you can be the miracle they need, the answer to their heart cry and their prayer. I think you're going to want to be. Watch closely. Watch prayerfully and then respond as the spirit of God directs. Thank you.

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

In the studio:

James: *Praying Women*, you help us give some water and Sheila Walsh wants you to have this book and really start praying. And answers to those prayers, I think you're going to see it. If you'd like to have this book by Ken Harrison, the *Rise of the Servant Kings* -- the servant kings! I tell you what, I believe we're going to see it.

We just thank you so much for praying for us. Thank you for watching. Thank you for letting us share Ken. You not only provide the water and the food for the hungry, you make it possible for us to share the vision that God puts on men and women. Ken, did you enjoy being here?

Ken: Oh I loved it! Thank you, guys.

James: We're going to behold his glory on his family. Thank you so much for watching. Thanks for sharing *LIFE Today*!