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Week One: Product Week: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Dr. David Jeremiah #1

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you. We're getting older and one of the things that happens when you get older is you say good-bye to a lot of your friends. I'm saying good-bye and preaching the funerals of people I led to Christ years ago. Some of them very close friends. Some of us have family in heaven that are not just parents, relatives, but we have a child in heaven.

We have someone here with us today that you, I believe, respect like Betty and I do as much as anyone that we know period. And we do know a lot of very fine, very impactful people who really love God and love others. But this man is a gift. I'm holding a book he wrote that's called *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*. And the author is, in my opinion, one of the great statesmen today, not only in the church, in the nation, but I believe in the world. It is an honor for Betty and me to welcome back to *LIFE Today* Dr. David Jeremiah. Would you give him a good hand?

[Cheers & Applause]

I know you're not looking for somewhere to go. Betty and I are grateful and honored that you have joined us with your schedule. All of our viewers support everything we do because we try to share God's love with even people that think no one ever noticed. But they would be curious, why would you come spend this time with us when you have such a busy schedule? I'm curious.

David: James, you are a very persuasive person.

[Laughter]

That's one of the reasons. But we've had some wonderful discussions over the years about different things. When you told me that you wanted talk about heaven and then *why* you wanted to talk about it, that was pretty inviting. I'm glad to do that.

James: Don't you believe that there are a tremendous number of people that, as we do get older, we're saying good-bye to a lot of people we've known a long time? I know you are. And as a pastor, you've done probably more funerals, sometimes, than with people you wouldn't have imagined you were going to be having a funeral at that time. Do you find that the interest and maybe curiosity or very sincere desire to know about it is very, very real in people's lives today which led you to pour a lot of time into this book? Is that what inspired you to do it?

David: James, a lot of people talk about heaven and they believe in heaven, they just don't know anything about it. In fact, I think people spend more time planning for a two-week vacation than they plan for where they are going to spend eternity. They get brochures, they look up the map where they're going to go, and here we're going to spend eternity in heaven...

Listen to this! In the Bible heaven is mentioned 600 times. In the Old Testament it is mentioned in 33 of the 39 books, and in the New Testament it is mentioned in 21 of the 27 books. Heaven is everywhere in the Bible. It's always on the horizon. And yet somehow, we can read the Bible and read right past all the important things about heaven. I've had some of the most unbelievable questions asked to me about heaven.

So I decided... This book is a little different. It is all the questions people ask about heaven that most people wouldn't think about.

James: What came to your mind when you say I hear some of these hard to imagine questions? What pops up as some of them that kind of maybe shocked you that people

were asking about?

David: First of all, where is heaven? People don't know where it is. They think they do. It's up. They don't know for sure what that means. Is there just one heaven or is there more than one? A lot of questions like that.

The one thing that most people believe about heaven is it is a boring place. You know Mark Twain used to make some comments about that. He didn't want to go to heaven because there was nothing to do. And most people think that in heaven you play a harp and float around on clouds and all that sort of stuff. The Bible is so clear about those questions that it's just fun to be able to be able to answer some questions right from the scripture that people you know have and they're asking those questions.

James: Let me read just the chapter titles: What's up with heaven? Where are they now? Won't heaven be boring? (Now these are titles of chapters.) Your future super body.

Boy, some of us are waiting for that. A lot of people have been trying to find that for a long time.

David: They go right to that chapter first.

[Laughter]

James: Heaven's Oscars. The heavenly city. Worship in heaven. The new heaven and the new earth.

That's interesting. I told you, I believe God made some things here on earth pretty good. We kind of joked around about it because I like to fish, and I know that there is the river of life and I've got to figure there is some fish in it. Am I crazy?

David: I'm not sure I'm the right guy to answer that question, James.

[Laughter]

James: Then we're going to have: What on earth is a millennium? What about the children? And tough minded about heaven.

Could Betty and I, Betty, you really wanted to ask him something on your heart.

Betty: You know we lost our daughter at 40 years of age, three beautiful children and now she's got one granddaughter and another granddaughter on the way. After we lost her, my thoughts in my heart went immediately to the thoughts of heaven and what's going on there? And what's my daughter doing? And I think a lot of people wonder that. Well, when you go to be with the Lord, what's happening?

David: Betty, the Bible doesn't tell us everything that's happening in heaven. There's still a lot to look forward to that will be a surprise and a wonderful blessing to us. But there are some things we do know. Let me tell you a couple of things I know for sure. The Bible says, "And his servants will serve him." In heaven there will be a kind of service of God that's unlike anything we know here; unbounded by time, unfettered by fatigue, no jealousy over who is getting the credit for what. But all for Jesus, all to serve him. And assigned by the Lord himself to tasks that are meaningful.

The Bible also says that in heaven we're going to worship him. There are more songs in the book of Revelation than in any other book in the Bible except for Psalms. The book of Revelation is full of songs. In fact, one place in the book of Revelation it starts with a blessing and honor. And then it is blessing, and honor, and glory. And then it is blessing, and honor, and glory, and it goes all the way through -- there is a sevenfold praise as the... it is the ultimate climax of praise in heaven. And of course, the scripture tells us in Revelation that we'll be gathered around the throne with the throngs of people who know the Lord and praising him.

I honestly don't think... There is one thing I know isn't going to happen in heaven and it's got me kind of worried, no preaching in heaven.

[Laughter]

I tell our guys in the music department, you're going to have a job. I'm not going to have a job. I'm not sure what I'm going to... I might have to turn into a musician or something. I'm not sure.

James: What do you give comfort though that you find is effective? Because you know to say that our journey has been up and down is not an exaggeration. There are those times that I didn't want to share what I was feeling about the loss of our daughter because I could tell it was so heavy on her. Many times I found myself asking God for the grace to hide where I was, or I would have been right with her. And I felt that I needed to somehow comfort her with just some kind of stability and steadfastness that perhaps exuded a confidence that she wasn't feeling.

And then I'm sure it flipped. I feel like there was a real desire on our part not so to speak to get down at the same time but be there to comfort. I've said to our viewers and I say to everybody here, the thing that I saw about the Christian world was that even people who watched us all over the world would look in and see a mom and a dad that had what they considered to be the most perfect daughter anybody could ever hope. She was a miracle baby! We weren't supposed to ever have another child after we had our first daughter and we adopted a son. And then we had this little miracle baby. And she was a miracle to everybody who knew her, her children and her church knew what a miracle she was and now she's gone.

Jack Hayford saw the literal vision, he's only seen two, and he said it was like full Technicolor. But he watched Robin going to heaven and he wrote it all for us. It is a phenomenal thing. He said the closer she got to the house of God he could tell she was glad. They said let us go into the house of the Lord and we can see it. He talked about the

joy of the people there. That it was just unbelievable what she saw when she experienced it.

So obviously, there was comfort there but the people watching us on television and I'm sure a lot of them in this studio, they really put prayer arms around us and they really lifted us up. And it meant the world to us. So when you're talking to someone that like asked a question, you've heard this question I'm sure a lot, what do you think the best thing that people can hold on to to get through those highs and lows and knowing that yes, she is in the presence of the Lord but how do we deal with it right here? Any suggestions or counsel there?

David: James, one of the things that Christians are good at is becoming very pious and spiritual when something like this happens. The Bible doesn't say that we don't sorrow. The Bible says we don't sorrow as others who have no hope -- but we sorrow. And for us to get through this process, sorrowing is a part of it.

I was just yesterday thinking about how blessed we are to be in life and how blessed we are to have life. Anybody who has had any kind of a life crisis will say, as soon as that's over, life becomes more important than it ever was before. Every day becomes kind of like a gift. We have that in our D.N.A. That life is something to hang onto, something to treasure, something to thank God for, and yet, sometimes that life is taken away from somebody we love in terms of its physical being. When that happens it's a huge shock to us. And especially, we know kids are not supposed to die before their parents do. That's not the way it's supposed to work but it happens.

Let me tell you what. There's a lot of sublime answers to all of this. A lot of sophisticated answers. But I want to tell you the best one I've ever heard. We had a lady who worked for us at Shadow Mountain in our office, and our campus is kind of spread out. So when these people move about from place to place, they get in a golf cart. And you've never seen anything as scary as a woman driving a golf cart around the campus.

[Laughter]

But anyway, it's very common. And this woman worked in our financial department. One day I was at another office at Turning Point and I got a call saying, "You need to come to campus right away." This gal who worked in our finance office had gotten in her car to go somewhere and a guy came in the front gate in a pickup truck and lost control of his truck and he hit her and he killed her, just right on the spot. Never had anything like that happen before. This woman died in the arms of a good friend of mine.

Her husband was an interesting man. He was very quiet. I knew him only by name and his sons played basketball with my sons, so I knew him that way. But at the funeral he got up and asked if he could speak.

I'll never forget this, James. He said, "People ask me all the time how I got through the loss of my wife in such a tragic way." He said, "This is what I tell them." And he paused for a moment and he said, "I trust God."

That's what gets us through it. That's how we get through it. With all the other things we don't understand, we don't understand why, we don't understand why did it happen to us? Did I do something that I shouldn't have? But when you get right down to the basic of it, you wouldn't be here today doing what you're doing, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing. Here's the issue: I trust God. You don't trust God just when you understand him, you trust God. And that man spoke out of faith that day in a way that just, this has been several years ago, and I've never forgotten that. I've read all the answers about it, that's the best one I ever heard, when you don't understand God you trust God.

James: I have to say we've done that. Betty, is there anything you want to add?

Betty: I have to agree with that wholeheartedly because I have come to trust him even more through the heartache. And now I felt like God held me all the way through the instant grief that came. It still comes at times, the heartache, the sorrow comes but I know

in whom I believe, and I trust him. And I look forward to seeing our daughter again.

After she passed away, I had a real interest in reading about heaven. I think when I was younger you didn't really want to think about it because it meant that you were leaving all that you knew, all your loved ones and everything. I'm not anxious because I want to be here as long as God wants me here to serve him, but at the same time I look forward to it. I'm not fearful of it. I'm excited about it because we know we'll live eternally with Jesus Christ. So it's given me a new awareness of what heaven is really about.

David: Well, when you have somebody invested in heaven, heaven becomes very special to you. And we all, my parents are in heaven. I have a sister and a brother-in-law in heaven. We had a child that miscarried when we were first married that's in heaven. So when you have people in heaven, heaven becomes more than just a theological subject, it becomes a place that's very dear to your heart.

James: Do you think it is a mistake, we read in Hebrews that we're surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses. And it's obvious there's witnesses. Do you think it is a mistake because Robin would listen to her daddy preach, and I preached not too long before she left as I preached the graduation at Church on the Move where Willie George was their pastor and I preached the graduating class of her oldest son, Chris, who now pastors a branch church of Church on the Move in the very area where the kids grew up.

But Robin said after I preached, "Boy, Dad, you sure get to deliver." Talking about how I communicated to the kids.

She said, "I've never watched them listen like that."

And sometimes I feel like I hear Robin saying, "Boy, Dad, that's really good!"

Is that, do you think, just crazy imagination or do you think our family could be part of those witnesses?

David: Let me see if I can put that back in perspective, James. That's something that would be -- people ask me all the time, "Can people in heaven see what we're doing down here on this earth?"

Now let me ask you this. If people in heaven can see what we're doing down here on this earth, is heaven still heaven? Let's hope they can't see what we're doing down here. Let's pray that they don't see what we're doing down here.

James: But I see her cheering the good things.

David: Well, if you hear that in your heart, I'm okay with it but can you imagine them...

James: You're just not ready to go to the pulpit with a series on that?

David: No, sir, I'm not. I just think that heaven has got to be a lot better than that.

James: Well, you keep cheering dad anyway.

[Laughter]

I just want you to know that we're going to go over some of the questions that people ask in the next program and you're with us. We're actually going to be sharing you for a couple of weeks on television. But we're going to go through and you're going to talk to Sheila Walsh. You're going to love this. And we're going to answer some of these questions.

How about getting in the Lamb's Book of Life since that's who is going to be there? And could you be blotted out of the Lamb's Book? Will there be work in heaven? Are we going to have fellowship with one another? How well will we know one another? Don't you think those are all pretty good questions? We're going to touch on those in another

program.

David: Those are the questions that everybody asks that they don't think the Bible has anything to say about, so they don't think there's any answers but there's some answers to those questions.

James: Well, we're going to talk to you for... You're going to be with us for a couple of weeks. But here's the thing I want you to know. When a pastor preaches, he puts a whole lot more in a book like this than you could ever get out in a sermon. And you're actually able to take all of the questions and give careful attention to them, biblical attention. We could never cover all of it. If we just sit here and read in the Bible, they're going to say, "Well, we can do that at home. Why don't you do something else?" So what we're going to do is have a discussion.

But you literally pour answers into a book biblically and you make comments on them and you explain and expound the word. Don't you appreciate the way Dr. Jeremiah does this? We're going to send you, Dr. Jeremiah and the publishers are giving everyone in this audience a book. Thank you very, very much! And we're going to send you one.

Here's what we are asking. We're asking you to prayerfully consider sharing with someone the joy of a relationship with God and a demonstration of the love that brings. Jesus is the water of life. And we can share Water for LIFE because of the water of life.

I want you to watch this very, very closely. You're going to hear Sheila Walsh in the midst of real heartache -- and we hold the perfect cure. It's God's love shared. Watch!

On the mission field:

Sheila: I've just visited the graveside of a nine-month old baby boy. I'm standing right beside his killer. It was water from this exact well that this darling boy is now getting his water from. It is a hand-dug well. It's not very deep and the water is filthy. Mosquitoes

lay their eggs in there. Children get malaria; they get diarrhea.

This little one, this nine-month old boy died with diarrhea. The mom took him to the clinic to see if he could get some medicine. They gave him medicine but by that point he was so sick he couldn't even take the medicine. He vomited it up again and died in her arms.

It's unthinkable! I would never ever let a child of mine drink this, but they have no choice! James, Betty, this is your heart. It's been your heart for years. The need is urgent. I've never felt such a sense of despair. I've visited four children's graves and I've been here three days.

And I've asked mothers, "What do you do when you lose a child?"

And every single one of them said, "We are just simply praying. We pray to God that he will send help."

Well, here we are. We are the help. You and I are the help. So please help us change the world. This is their normal -- they need a *new normal* where for the first time in their lives they drink clean, fresh, life-giving water.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Boy, Betty, when you go from a scene of just seeing the horror of filthy water and that clean well there, and we know our viewers drilled that well and became a miracle not only for a few children but an entire village, and we've saved millions of lives. What do you hope and pray that our viewers will sense in their spirit and do? Because they really are the only ones that can make it possible.

You and I commit, every time we talk about drilling wells, we asked God to let us drill a

well. We answered that prayer and we do it. It's been a tremendous blessing. What do you want our viewers to hear and consider?

Betty: Just as Sheila said, I would never offer here my child or my loved one water like that. But would you if that's all you had? If that's the only choice you had? Of course, you would! Just to help them live another day maybe. But when you see all the disease that can come from that, it's heartbreaking for a mother to watch her child slowly pass away knowing that she can do nothing, not offer any hope at all to them.

Well, we can be that hope that that mother's looking for. Won't you join with us? You've done it many times. We don't apologize for asking because there is so many needs out there. These precious little ones that have no choice but to drink that diseased water. Please let's give them hope. Let's drill the water wells for them. Thank you for helping.

James: We talked about with Dr. Jeremiah about losing our precious daughter, and you knew we were in a battle because she was battling for her life. You were praying for us. And Betty, I don't believe there is a person watching us right now or in this audience that if they knew exactly what would have saved our daughter's life, whatever it took they would have gotten to us. I know you would! I know that. You know you would.

Well, here is the perfect cure. And it's not wishful thinking. It's clean water. You paid for the drilling rigs. Very expensive -- hundreds of thousands of dollars for those rigs. Love, through you, paid for it -- people like you.

We can drill the well. It costs \$4800 to drill a well. That could be the one of the greatest joys of your life to give a whole village a well. You could give part of a well. We find many people will give \$1200 and pray for three others to join them or \$2400 and pray for one to join. But most of the money comes from people who understand that... now this is not an exaggeration. If you break it down, \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. You multiply that out. This is a miracle, but it does work. It is not wishful thinking.

Would you go right now online or dial that number, and would you go get your bankcard and use it like a check?

By the way, that's the way you should always use a bankcard, like a check. But would you give the gift God puts on your heart knowing that you're giving someone a miracle? A miracle of life! Really to many -- changes everything. And they see the love of God in the missionaries, through you, and in the message they share about the water of life.

We're going to send you Dr. Jeremiah's book on heaven, revealing the mysteries of it. You're going to be blessed mightily by it. Thank you for going to the phone. Thank you for going online. God bless you for your gift.

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 \$48 will help provide water for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15. \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime. And a gift of \$4800 will help sponsor a complete well serving up to 1,000 people.

With your gift of any amount today we'll send you Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven. In one comprehensive book, Dr. David Jeremiah presents scriptures, references, and insights that will give you a better understanding about heaven and the glorious future God has planned for you. You'll get real answers to questions like: What will heaven really be like? And will our friends and loved ones know us?

Sheila: I have to tell you that Dr. Jeremiah is one of my spiritual heroes of the faith. I love the fact that he works so hard, digs so deep into the Word of God. If you've ever had a question about heaven, this book will answer every single one.

Announcer: Please call, write, or make your gift online to provide life-giving water to people in need.

End of video

In the studio:

James: I'm praying with all my heart there wouldn't be a single person watching who can do something. Don't you dare think that boy, I couldn't give a well. \$48 is so little. Huh! Well, it can save the lives of ten precious children.

We're sending Dr. Jeremiah's book, *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*. There is so much here. I mean there is not only comfort and counsel but I'm telling you there is hope and the answers to sincere serious questions. I feel like answered by someone who is anointed, gifted by God to do it. We will send it to say thank you for any gift you make.

Would you join Betty and me in thanking Dr. Jeremiah for sharing? Doctor, I really do love you. Look forward to talking to you some more. Thank you for watching. Thank you so much for your help. God bless you!