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Week 26: Summer Water for Life

James and Betty Robison

“Supernatural Unity”

James: Betty and I welcome you to Life Today. I’m James Robison. Betty and I have been on a wonderful journey together. And even in the face of this pandemic, which – You know, we’re together all the time anyway.

Betty: We are.

James: I find myself as I look at our relationship and our children. I just thank God for them. You think about this a minute. I’m a kid that didn’t have a home. Ten years just dumped around. I never took a friend home from school. I didn’t want them to see where I lived, because I lived out back, on an alley, or back behind somebody’s house and got our mail at somebody else’s house because we didn’t have an address. Somebody else’s house got the mail for us, and we picked it up.

I didn’t have a dad to listen to and just a sad deal. And yet God is looking down on this little ol’ boy, and he’s loving me.

Betty, you didn’t know but you and I crossed paths when we were little kids because I was in the nursery with Brother Hale at Memorial Baptist, where Betty and her family were. We didn’t know each other until I went back there when I was 15. I saw her the first time, and never forgot you. I never dreamed I’d be in love with her for 60 years and married 56.

But when I was that little boy that left, and I was literally dragged out from under the

pastor's and his wife's home, under the bed where I hid from my mother, who came to take me away from the adoptive family. I'm ten years away from everything that seemed to make sense. But that little Baptist church, they never quit praying for me. Memorial Baptist, most of you prayed for me, you're in heaven. Excuse me, but I've got to thank you. But I think the thing that Betty and I see that I just feel like I've got to bring to you, this fatherless kid, because of the prayers of people that knew the father, my life was changed. And I've got the perfect father.

And, Betty, we were able to point our children to the perfect father. And now we've got eleven grandchildren. Ten of them with their spouses. And they're just beautiful. And now we've got seven little great grandbabies. You and I spend all our time, you know we spent thirty some odd years on the mission fields and undergirding mission work all over the world. But Betty and I spend all our time talking to leaders, church leaders, business leaders, national leaders, because we care about you, and your children and grandchildren. And we don't want to lose the freedom that only God can give us.

And Betty, I think that the stage is set for the greatest spiritual awakening. But if we don't make the right decisions after this pandemic, the crowd that doesn't believe the Bible really matters, and don't want you to really necessarily believe in God, and the foolishness of a creator, and Genesis, and how God made us and shaped us. And they don't want us to believe in absolutes. They want to take over and they're going to tell us now that it's the government that saved us, if we get it turned around. And we need to depend on the government, which is the very thing the whole Old Testament is written about, to tell us not to depend upon a source other than God. And warning us all the way through the whole Bible that he talked to them about shepherds, and farmers.

I told people for 30 or 40 years now, this is not a book that teaches predator control. The Old Testament is not trying to teach you how to control wolves and lions and bears, and the beast and the birds of the air. And it's not about pest control or weed control. It's about everything that attacks the fruitfulness in the fields of the farmers, the overseers and the flocks of the shepherd. He sent us where there are wolves and bears but under his

watch care.

And Betty, I'm looking at what we've been through and the only thing that works is love. But when the national leaders come together and say, "We're going to help you work through this." And they do, because of love and wisdom. And then I can already see the stage being set that we want you to depend upon us. We've been hearing that socialism, taking care of you, is the way. And it's not, it's a lie! It's a return to Pharaoh. It's a return to Egypt. It's a return to bondage. And when I hear this, and I think is the church just going to keep going to church and singing while the world marches headlong over the cliff into hell? Hell on earth!

Betty, this little boy without a home experienced the greatness of a father and a family, and the beauty of love and care and relationships. And I've seen how much God changed so many lives all over the world. And I don't want us to lose the opportunity by buying the lie. So, Betty, you and I spend a tremendous amount of time. And I just watch you, you keep up with the news. Not that you like news. You care and you're praying about these things.

Why do you care? Why do I care? Is something wrong with us that we just can't say listen to the lies of a manipulated media? Listen to the lies of somebody telling us there's a source you depend upon other than God? And we just sit back and have nice little church? And we all get together at our little church monastery, our little church setting, and we don't pierce the darkness? And we don't set captives free? And we don't tell them to be a light? Just get comfortable and cover?

No! Be a light! Don't be salt that lost its effect to preserve the precious, which salt did in the New Testament day, it was a preservative of the precious. But Jesus said when you lose your effect – What did he say when you lose it? That it's trampled under the feet of men. Everything is sacred. Everything precious is trampled under Godless feet. Our academic system has been taken over by the Godless. Our entertainment and arts have been taken over by the Godless. So much of our national political realm has been taken

over by the Godless. Too much of the market community has been taken over by greed and the Godless. It doesn't have to be.

Betty, I can't sit back and say let's just head over the cliff. And we'll just keep singing Kumbaya! Or just say let's get out of here! I can't say that. I want to get God in here.

Betty, is something wrong with me?

Betty: No! And I know you and I both, as we have observed what is going on through all this tragedy of death and people being ill and people losing their jobs and just tragedy after tragedy going on around us. I have seen just a little taste of what God's doing and it is beautiful to behold.

If you've even watched some of the news you've seen them bring the stories of people out handing food to a neighbor, of people out holding a sign up, happy birthday! And driving down the road of the neighborhoods honking their horns celebrating someone's birthday, someone's marriage, someone's graduation. I've seen the heart of people be expressed.

Yes, we have our government to kind of guide and to keep things maybe in order. But I think they have been amazed at what has been happening among the hearts of people. We mustn't let that die. We mustn't go back to our separation and our individual lives, to where we don't care, we don't reach out. What an opportunity for the church to rise up and say let's make a difference for God's sake. He's showing us, he's opening the doors.

Let's don't let it die on the vine. Let's don't go back to our old ways. There's something new that God wants to reveal, and he wants to show to each one of us. So first we must pray. Prayer is so important, to start there, and say, God, first, cleanse my heart. Know me, and then prepare my heart for what you want done through me and let's see the light so shine the people's hearts will be changed forever!

James: Oh, Betty, I just – even while you were talking I'm trying to keep from weeping

and I guess I maybe take some comfort in – Jeremiah said, oh, that my head were waters and my eyes a fountain of tears that I could weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people. And if you really understand the slain of the daughter of my people, it means the people who have been destroyed by lies, by the deception of the devil. In the very fruitfulness and fullness of God and his love and his compassion, like Betty said, that we see that's so beautiful that he wants to multiply beyond anything we've ever seen.

The stage is set for the greatest outpouring of love and truth and wisdom in history. I just – I want it so bad. Betty and I do. That's why I spend all of my time talking to leaders and these leaders are listening. I'm watching church leaders come together. They never would even talk to each other.

Listen to what Jesus said. He said in his prayer, I come to you, Lord. These things I speak in the world that they may have my joy made full in themselves, the joy of the Lord is our strength. I've given them your word, and the world hated them, because of your word. The world didn't want this word. And Jesus said the world hates them because they're not of the world even as I'm not of the world but I don't ask – now get this – but he said I'm not asking you to take them out of the world. The god that can take them out, that will someday take us all out. And Jesus said I'm not asking you to take them out. I want you to keep them from the evil one, the deceiver, that will make them depend upon a source other than you, father. Another form of pharaoh. I don't want them going back to Egypt. I want them out of the influence and the grip of the world.

Sanctify them with truth. Purify them with your word, transform them. Not where you wrangle over words and you argue about one little point that we've been arguing over for hundreds, and even thousands of years. Stop it! You can see the solid unshakable truth. It's unshakable, it's clear in all that he created.

He confirmed the word in all that he created. So we're without excuse. But if you change his word into a lie, you twist it, you're going to be given over to depraved thinking, and

to addictive bondage. He doesn't want that for us. You sent me into the world, and I sent them into the world. For their sakes, I sanctify myself, that they themselves may be sanctified in truth. And it's truth that makes us free and keeps us free. Truth is the source of freedom. And the truth is Jesus. He's a demonstration, the illustration of it, the example of it. And that truth lives in us. And the truth in us makes us free. I don't ask in my behalf. I don't ask him in behalf of these alone, but for those who believe in me through their word. That's us. Not just those disciples but us. That they may be one, even as you, father, are in me and I in thee, they also may be in us that the world may believe that you sent me. You sent me. And the world can see me in them.

In the early chapters of Acts they took notice, they were unlearned men, but they had been with Jesus! And they were so full of God, even when the government and the religious leaders threatened them and said shut up. They said we can't help but speak the things we've seen and heard. Because they were witnesses of his majesty. And nothing would silence them.

Why is the church silent today? We sing in church, but we've got to let our lives be a song and a testimony before the world, a light that cannot be hidden. And when we stand together, we become that city set on a hill that is impossible to hide. That's what the stage is set for today. Not a political revolution but a spiritual revolution, and an awakening.

That's what Betty and I pray for every day. It's what Jesus was praying for, that they may be one as you in me and I in them, they also may be in us that the world would believe that you sent me and the glory that you've given me, I give them. That they may be one as we are one. I in them. Thou in me. That they may be perfected in unity. This is supernatural unity! Where the world knows we love God, we love the neighbor, but we love one another. We love the other members of the body.

Father, this is the heart cry of our lord. This is what your son prayed for. This is what we long for. Now listen to me, the hope of the world is Christ in us, the hope of his glory. The church he comes back for is adorned in glory. He wants his glory manifest on the

earth. He wants the gospel, the kingdom reality of the king is here in us, living his resurrective life. In us and through us. And when they behold that glory, and he's lifted up, he draws men not to religion, not to a denomination, not to a sectarian position, but to a relationship with God as father, and to become the family. One with the father. One with Jesus. One with one another, perfected in supernatural unity. Father, that's what you want. In Jesus' name.

Now listen to me: if the church will stand up in that supernatural unity, in a year of decision, everyone has said for me and my house we will serve the lord. We will not bow to any other idol. We're not going to trust parties, personalities, but we're going to trust you to plant principles in the hearts of our leaders, national, business, church. And you'll be first. And your love and your wisdom will prevail. That's what we ask for. We will settle for no less. You make that commitment, and we're going to see the tide turn. You think we were making positive progress, and we were. We were making such positive progress in the blessings of God, and the freedom, and the restoration of sound thinking, that the enemy, the deceiver, went ballistic. He said, "I've got to stop this." He's not going to stop it. If we the people of God in the church will become the light exposing the evil and the error and illuminating the way to the best of the blessings of God. We're going to see the gates of Hell shaken, torn down, and captives set free to live in the fullness and glory of the freedom and power and presence of God. Father, we join Jesus in this prayer. Thy will be done, we pray, on earth right here, right now, as it is in heaven.

And it can be done! This is the year of decision and we've got to decide that father knows best. He's given us his word and revealed his will. We're going to walk in it without wavering I love you.

Betty, you know we can talk about the love God has put in our heart for all our viewers, and they know it. They know you know it's true. We're going to live out our life for God, doing everything we can to bless you and your family. But let me tell you this: we found great joy loving the least of these. Right now we're asking you to help us drill another 150 water wells. I'm praying that the love of God will be so great poured out through you

that even in difficult times you'll say, you know what, we're going to drill more than you ever thought. You watch what love does. I want you to look in on a scene and you answer the question. Can I help give them water? Can I touch the least of these and know I'm touching Jesus, and I'm blessing Jesus because I want to? Watch closely!

On the mission field:

Announcement: We would like to inform that in order to save and use properly the little water that we have, we would like to ask you to not come with more than three buckets.
Signed: The Chief responsible of this water.

Announcer: It's a list of rules. Rules meant to preserve this, the only source of water for the many families living here.

[Open captions]

>> It's so little water. It's not enough for all of us, so we have to ration it.

Announcer: As desperate a challenge as this scarcity is, it's only where their struggles begin.

[Open captions]

>> The water is very dangerous. There are many parasites which make us very sick.

Announcer: It's absolutely mind-boggling that anyone could survive long after drinking this disease and parasite infested water. The sad truth is many here don't. Most of them, young children, little bodies unable to defend themselves against such a contaminated source.

[Open Captions]

>> My children died from drinking the water.

>> My child got very sick and passed away.

>> I'm scared my remaining children will also die.

Announcer: With your help we could drill a well right here. Abundant, clean, life giving water. No more thirst and dehydration. No more sickness.

End of video

In the studio:

James: I don't want that little fellow to feel like he's having to hide. I see all those children I – See, I don't want to spend my life just weeping over needs. I don't have to because of you, because you are so often the answer.

Betty, I just pray our viewers will help us help those kids and their families.

Betty: I believe you will. You've been so faithful! Thank you for that. Now please join with us and let's drill these water wells. These precious people, these mothers that their heart aches every time they have to give those children that dirty, contaminated water. But what else can they do? They're actually looking to someone else to reach out a hand and help them. Let's do that. Please help us. Join with us and let's drill all the wells that are needed, that these children might have an opportunity to grow up and love Jesus with their whole hearts.

James: Yeah, I want them to feel the arms of God reaching out to them right now. We've already selected 150 more sights. God, I wish it could be more than that. But we've at least told those sights it's coming. But you're the only one that can put it there. Would you go and get your bankcard and dial the number and use it like a check?

Or go online. A lot of people like to give online. It's so simple, but just do it. If you could give a well, please do it. Give a well of water. Give them a lifetime. We'll tell them about

eternity, about Jesus. We'll show them Jesus, you will through the missionaries and their love. Or you can dial the number and use that card like a check. Just tell us what you want to give. If you can give a well, do it. If you can give part of a well, \$1,200 or \$2,400 and pray others join you to get a well. But \$48 will give 10 people water the rest of their life. \$144 will give 30 people water.

Whatever you can do, please, right now, please go do it. We have some gifts to send you that will bless you. But you're giving the greatest gift. Thank you so much.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Dirty, diseased filled water! How desperate would a mother need to be to consider giving this contaminated substance to her child? For many mothers and their families living in extreme poverties, this is their only choice.

With your help, they won't have to make this choice ever again. Mission Water for Life provides clean disease-free water for thousands of children and their families, giving them a life free from the fear of death.

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish the final 150 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 \$4,800 will help sponsor a complete well, serving up to 1,000 people.

With your gift we'll send you Today is a Good Day, seasonal devotional sets, broken out into the four seasons of the year. This beautiful set features a daily scripture, inspirational thoughts, and a place for you to journal your own thoughts, prayers and insights from God's word.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the leather-bound life-giving Proverbs Journal, filled with wisdom and daily encouragement from Proverbs, including lined pages for

your personal notes.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request “A Mother’s Strength” bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of video

In the studio:

James: Boy, you know I look at all these beautiful gifts we’re sending you, and you’re giving this gift. Gosh, thank you! And really pray for me and Betty, please, because I’m not going to stop trying to get God’s arms around all of you and your families. I join Jesus in wanting God’s best for all of you. I think I kind of know how we can get there together, but not going the way of the deceiver, the manipulators. God deliver us from it, deliver us from evil. Pour out your love on us and through us. You’re a big part of it. I sure love you.

Thanks for loving me and Betty and praying for us. Thanks for helping us love others all over the world. God bless you!