

7/7/20

Week 28: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Little Richard: "A Changed Life"

James: I want to welcome you to this program. You do not want to miss this. I'm James Robison, my wife Betty, *LIFE Today*. You're going to see the guy you married, and you know when she saw some of this, like what you're going to see, she said, "Wow! You were good looking!" I said, "Well, thank you a lot. I still think you're beautiful."

Betty: Your hair was a little bit darker then, James.

James: Well, it's a little bit darker. Let me just say this to you. I'm going to take you back, I'm going to show you some black hair. The same hair, and this is it. It hasn't had any extra touch on it. You're going to go back and see a miracle. I'm not kidding you. You're going to see one of the biggest, most famous rockers of all time. Many people say he's the guy that launched rock -- rock music. He's Little Richard.

What you need to understand is that 41 years ago he had a head on collision, and then he came to me. He found me. And he wanted to tell me what happened. I said, "Well, I'm preaching at North Phoenix Baptist Church. It was a big church. I said, "Come to church tonight and tell us." And then after he told us he went up and sang hymns. And then he just traveled with me. We could probably show you how you can listen to him singing and leading the choir. That will have to be another time.

But it was a miracle. I want you to listen to this. This is Little Richard with James Robison 41 years ago. Keep your seatbelt buckled. You need to listen to this testimony. It's totally miraculous. Little Richard.

Begin video clip

James: People are, in an exciting way filling the auditorium of the North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Richard Jackson is the pastor of this church. And I have as my guest tonight, Little Richard, rock and roll singer, star of the '50s and the '60s. He's had a tremendous change in his life. Richard, we're glad to have you with us tonight.

Richard: Thank you, James.

James: When did the change occur in your life?

Richard: About three years ago now.

James: What happened?

Richard: Well, what happened to me, I was a very heavy dope user. I started off using marijuana. Some people say just a little, just try it. So it took a long time before I really tried it. So I finally I tried it. And I started... I went from marijuana to pills, Valiums, red devils, Bennies, truinalls and whatever. I started drinking vodka and orange juice.

James: This is while you were a rock singer?

Richard: While I'm still a rock singer; that's right. And I just started using everything. I went from that to cocaine. I spent \$1,000 an ounce for this drug, and sometimes a little more than that. I would take so much of this drug. I didn't feel comfortable without this drug. I would just take it and I would take what you call, some people call this drug toot, some people call it blow, but it is cocaine. And I would take what you'd call a one and one. And sometimes I would blow my nose and you could see flesh and blood on my handkerchief where it was eating up my membranes up in my head; and I knew it was doing something up in my head, in my brains.

But I didn't stop there, James. I went on down to heroin, some people call it the boy. I started using that. I started mixing heroin and cocaine together, making what you call a speed ball. I just got more and more engrossed into these drugs, heavier and heavier into them.

James: Many people seem to indicate that drugs is the greatest high physically a person has. How does this effect the sexual activity of an individual on drugs? Is it a part of sexual impurity? It is a substitute for sexual impurity? Do they go hand in hand? What happens?

Richard: When I was a little boy, I used to hear the old people say that people used to get drunk to speak their sober minds. I think that drugs are a way for people to, they do what they want to do. They wanted to do it before they had taken the drugs and the drugs give them the boldness where they don't care about anything. Through drugs you can kill, you can deny, you can hurt, you can crush, you can do anything to anybody, and you don't feel no pain. Through these drugs it makes you want to do... I know some people that don't want to have sex with their wives until they have drugs. I know some people that can't do the different type of sexual acts unless they're high on drugs.

James: That's sad. But they go on hand in hand. One's not a substitute?

Richard: They're together. They're definitely together because a person can get high and they have this Quaalude and then have this drug now that they call Sherman, a sherm cigarette, a brown cigarette that they dip in stuff called juice and they smoke it and it takes their mind. And when a person takes those drugs you can make them do anything that you want them to do.

James: My goodness! What brought you to the point in your life when you realized that you were on a road literally, not only to physical destruction but the spiritual destruction? What brought about the change? What preceded this change or led you to this point of

commitment?

Richard: Well, I had got so strung, James, into homosexuality. I had gotten... I was really gone. My mother, God bless her, she really don't know how far her son had went. I'm just so glad that daddy didn't marry a man, or I wouldn't be here to tell you what God has done for me. I got so wrapped up in it 'til really, my body said that I was a man, but my mind said something else. And the only people that I enjoyed being around was people that was perverted. And most entertainers are perverted one way or another -- most of them are. A lot of the managers are, and a lot of the record producers are. So what they do, they tie hand in hand. And so you go into the studio they give you cocaine, you get high and then you do your act.

James: Yet, you never found satisfaction?

Richard: There was no satisfaction. I was sick. I had to stay high all of the time to feel like a natural person. I had to just... It is a sickness because you would feel bad when you are doing it. After a while, you get so where you don't hear that little voice no more.

James: What happened? What led you to commit your life to Christ? Which is what happened. But what preceded that? And tell me about your experience with Christ.

Richard: Well, what happened was. I was appearing one night at Magic Mountain in Los Angeles. I had a friend of mine named Little Gus, he called my brother and made reservations to come to hear me at Magic Mountain. But we waited and we waited. My mother came, my brother came, my sisters came but Little Gus never did arrive. We waited on him and we waited but he never did get there. And we got a call that night from his mother who said that Little Gus had gotten shot. Later on that night we got a call that he had gotten killed; he died. He got shot at the heroin man's house.

Then I have another friend named Curly Knight that he was in Los Angeles. He was a light-complexioned black man. And so these 15-year old boys thought he was white. It

really don't matter what color he was; he was a man that Jesus made and Jesus died for. They took him and they put him in the trunk of the car, drove him over the city. He could hear them talking about how they was going to kill him. They went and got the butcher knife, cut him up, put him between two houses. Called the policemen and told the policemen and told the policemen that they found a dead man. What they policemen didn't know was that they are the ones that killed him.

Then I have another friend that my birthday is December the 5th. I went to his house and I wanted to get a little cocaine for my birthday, and his birthday was in October, the last of October. I got to his house and when I got there, when I got ready to leave, he said, "Take care of yourself, old man."

I went back and I said, "I'm not old!"

And he said, "Still take care of yourself, old man."

I got home that night. My brother called me and told me this man had died. I said, "No, he's not. I just saw him."

He said, "Oh yes, he's dead."

Then I had to go to Miami, Florida. Ike and Tina Turner had an engagement in Miami, Florida and they couldn't go. So I went in Tina Turner's place. I went there and I sung. I came back to Los Angeles. When I got back to Los Angeles my brother had told me he wanted to borrow some money. He was a school teacher. So when I got back there, I went and checked in a hotel because I wanted to let it all hang out. I just wanted to bowl and just get wrapped up in sin. And I did that. They was looking for me the next day because my brother went out. He walked his little boy, and he watered his lawn and he came back in and had a massive heart attack.

Then I realized that Jesus was talking to me. He was letting me know first of all that my

body was the temple of the Holy Ghost. That I was bought with a price. That I didn't belong to myself. That I belonged to God first by creation and by redemption he brought me back. And that he wanted me to live the way that he wanted me to live. That he had set a door before me that no man can shut. He was letting me know that what the Bible says in Mark 8:36 and 37, "For what shall it profit a man if he should gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give God in exchange for his soul?"

He was letting me know that the Bible says in Proverbs the 22nd chapter, verse one, that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches -- more than love and favors, rather than silver or gold. The rich and the poor meets together, God is the maker of them all.

Then he was telling me in Matthew 6:33, "For seek you first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all of these things will be added unto you."

And I'm just glad that I heard the voice of Jesus calling. I realized today that he specialized in the impossible. If God can change me, if he can work a transformation in my life, he can change anybody.

James: Has he delivered you from drugs and from those perverted habits?

Richard: Yes, he has. All the way!

James: He gives you the power to overcome.

Richard: All the way.

James: If a person says that they are a Christian, but they can't cease practicing homosexual acts or drugs or alcohol, something is wrong.

Richard: They're not a Christian.

James: I believe that.

Richard: The Bible says in Second Corinthians 5:17, "If a man is in Christ, he is in Christ. He is a new creature. Old things have passed away, behold all things become new."

See, if a man and the Lord tells you to lay aside every weight that doth so easily beset us and let us run the race with patience that is set before us. If a man is in Jesus, he is not a homosexual, don't know Jesus. Jesus love him but Jesus will want to save him out of his sin, not in his sin. Jesus don't know what he is doing. Jesus wants him to say no to that and to say yes to him.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Betty, my hair was as black as Little Richard's.

Betty: It was.

James: Let me just say this to you. Let me talk to you a moment here. He had a miraculous transformation from darkness to life. Could you believe Little Richard, "Tutti Frutti, oh Rudy," all those songs he sang, that that kind of encounter brought the Word of God out of him like it did. It will do the same for you.

If you don't know Jesus, just say, Jesus, I want you to be my Lord, my savior. I believe you died for me. Forgive me. Give me life. It's a simple prayer that Jesus says you come as a child or you don't come. You don't have all the explanations, but you can experience his forgiveness. You know one of the greatest evangelists was Sam Jones, a Memphis evangelist. He was an alcoholic. Do you know what Sam said all the way to his death? He said, "I always believed I'd still die in the gutter an alcoholic." He said he walked by a bar one night and looked in and he looked up at God and said, "God, I don't think I could

ever take looking there again ever. I don't think I'm going to make it."

You don't realize there are a lot of people that battle with eating, with their weight, with their self-image, with how they feel about themselves, and they just live covered with shame. And so often the church heaps more shame on people who struggle. I want you to know that God wants to lift the load of that shame and that guilt. When that prodigal was in that pig pen, shaming the family name, wasting all that he had been given, that father didn't see a dirty boy in a pig pen. He saw a boy loved by the father, desired back into the family, back home.

That's the way God looks at all of us. Little Richard drifted away from the Lord for a period. I've watched many people do that. I've drifted. I've failed. I've fallen flat. Like Beth Moore says you can either be thrown in a pit, fall in a pit, (circumstances) or end up in a pit that you dug with our own misdeeds. I've been in pits all those ways and God never stopped loving me. I've told some of the greatest Christians, if you fail, I'm going to be on the edge of the pit you dug, leaning down with Jesus trying to lift you up. I'll probably jump in the pit, grab you around the waist and try to lift you up a little closer to Jesus inviting you to come back to his arms.

Well, Little Richard got away and Little Richard came back. He died just a short time ago. Many of you knew that. But I want you to listen to the last message. I want you to listen to Little Richard a couple of years ago and you just see where Richard lived and where he ended up. Watch with gratitude. This is the grace of God.

Begin video clip

Richard: Don't you know, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, that the whole world -- you talk about winning the lottery? Everybody is trying to win the lottery, let's make a deal? God wants to make a deal with you. His deal is everlasting life. Everlasting life! He's going to give you a mansion that he built for you. He built it for you, you, you, and you. It don't matter, there ain't no racism in heaven. None!

I just think about how the boys used to make fun of my mother because my mother's real fair. She's Indian. She is Mohican Indian and she is real light like -- like you!

[Laughter]

That's the way my mama looked. The guys used to talk about my mama, but I loved her. That was my mama.

But I found out something, that if you live for Jesus, you love everybody. If you live for Jesus, you may have been hateful and hate with hatred. But if you live for Jesus... I remember I used to have all that in me. I'm from Macon, Georgia. I would be treated real nasty and I would try to get revenge but I remember Jesus said, "Vengeance is mine and I shall repay." I learned that love covers everything. It covers it all brothers and sisters. I don't care where you've been or what you've done, I don't care if you're a drunk, I don't care if you're a thief, I don't care what you are, give your life to Jesus and he will change your life.

End of video

In the studio:

James: And when, as Little Richard and all of us who follow Jesus know, when we fail, we fall, we miss the mark, which we do, he's so anxious to restore us and hold us.

I don't know where you are right now in your journey. Right now if you don't know the Lord, invite him to be your Lord. Just say, God, I know you gave your son to die for me. You raised him to live in me and I want him to. You want somebody to pray with you? Well, there is the prayer line. Do you see the number? Just share your heart and they will pray with you, help you bear the load in prayer, to lift it up to God who will lighten the load. Just remember no matter where you are in your journey, God loves you. His love is boundless, unconditional, and never ending.

Do you know what we get to do that, Betty, is as great a joy, and you know when you've been in ministry nearly 60 years, we've experienced a lot of incredible joyful moments, beautiful family. We have a daughter in heaven. You know that losing her nearly eight years ago, that was as great a blow as you can have, a perfect girl; said good-bye to the mother of three teenagers. And they're all beautiful teenagers; now grown families, just amazing. Betty, so we have seen the highs and the lows but the greatest joy you and I have found is reaching out to the least of these, the people that thought nobody ever noticed and extending hands of love and giving them a drink of water, a well of water, or giving them food and telling them about the reason, the love that's in our heart and watching everything change.

I want you to just glance back with us at those moments when we saw a need that love could meet and we shared it and you met it. You were the channel through which God flowed his love and his life freely. And you gave life now and for all eternity to the least of these, the overlooked, the too often forgotten. And you are the most amazing people. You listen right now, I'm telling you, God knows I'd like to, I know we're not even supposed to shake hands, get a mask on, whatever, I'd love to pull you close and tell you thanks for all the people you've pulled up into the arms of God's love. Thank you. Watch this closely and let's continue doing that.

On the mission field

James: I am by a water source that is so typical of water sources all over the world. We know for a fact in this area disease is killing entire families -- and many children. Why? From drinking contaminated water.

You know it is one thing to say "I'm sorry" and to weep over it but you know when we can be the answer to the need and the prayer, doesn't it seem sometimes just a little bit hypocritical if we could do something and we don't? Well, we can but we need your help.

Announcer: For near 20 years, the viewers of *LIFE Today* have partnered with missionaries all around the world to help save children's lives by providing clean drinking water. *Mission: Water for LIFE* has drilled over 5,000 clean water wells with an assortment of rigs in different shapes and sizes to meet the needs of a particular area. Each new water well is capped with a simple pump that even a child can use. And in areas where a drilling rig can't get into, the *LIFE* mission team is utilizing a new technology and providing thousands of water filter kits that families can use to decontaminate their water source.

With this attitude of doing whatever it takes to save lives, *LIFE Outreach* and its partners have already provided clean water for over five million people. But we still have a big job to do. Around the world, hundreds of millions of people still don't have access to safe drinking water and 800 children die every day from a preventable disease caused by contaminated water.

James: Jesus said, "Give a cup of water in my name, you won't lose your reward." I don't know what that reward will be for us, that's in God's hand but I know what reward is in it for the people we give water to. The reward is a chance, it's hope, it's a future -- the reward is life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, hasn't it been as great a joy to know that when we give, just like that water you just saw at the end, that we give those children and their families water we have just witnessed a miracle. Isn't that a tremendous joy?

Betty: It really is. James, I have to say, all those trips we've made over there to see these precious little ones and to see these mothers filled with joy when they see that their

babies are going to live a little bit longer because we've drilled water wells. And to see that fresh water come up out of the ground that God made for these precious little ones. And to see the children jump around and play. They're so excited. It is like Christmas day to them. And to see those mothers so happy because their children are getting fresh clean water. And to not have to go down to that old dirty hole again and bring up that dirty water they know eventually will kill their little ones and it breaks their hearts. But to have the joy.

But we couldn't do it without you. You see, you've been right there with us as we've drilled these water wells. You've seen the life come forth with that water of life. And God's word to be expressed through giving and sharing. You've been a big part of that. Well, we're asking again because there needs to be some more water wells drilled. We need you to join with us again and let's please bring the water of life to these people.

James: Betty, as I listen to you, I just watch you, I just thank God that you have such a heart for the Lord and love for your family, but also a love for people that I remember you were really afraid to go to the mission field and it was scary. I mean we had AK47 fights in the street outside our old run-down rooms. I was held hostage three times and we never talked about it.

But Betty was hurt real bad because she got to ride the jump seat in all the four-wheel drive trucks where there was no roads and it herniated two disks to where had you not bought a LIFE Angel, a transport plane for goods, where she could lay down instead of sitting in a seat, the neurosurgeon told us she would likely have been paralyzed but she went back after the surgery -- she went back. But you see, you saved her life and her health. You saved her from being paralyzed. But she went to the mission field because of the love of God.

And you're the ones right now that enable us to keep giving that water. Would you help us finish the threat on 50 wells right now? We need a miracle. They are \$4800 each. Would you go get your bankcard or your check? Would you drill a well? Would you

give part of a well? Could you give like a \$1200 gift and pray somebody joins you? Three people and you've got a well or \$2400 and pray one joins? Most of the gifts that come are \$48. That gives ten people water the rest of their life. There's a level at which you can help.

Would you go get your bankcard right now and dial that number or go online and make the gift God puts on your heart? Would you please? Betty and I were able to join those missionaries seeking to get God's arms of love around the overlooked. But it is the love of God through you that gives all the positive effect. We couldn't drill the water wells without you.

Please make the gift God put on our heart now. Do it now. Thank you.

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: Well, we just say in behalf of all the mothers and the families and lives saved, thank you. The incredible journal with Proverbs, and the wisdom in Proverbs, you're going to love it. The devotionals, I really hope many of you will ask for this. This is a very -- a very powerful bronze. This is "A Mother's Strength," carrying water. Hopefully, this is clean water that you provided, with a child on her back. We're giving that to those of you who will make at least a \$1200 gift. I hope many of you will do that. Thank you so much.

Betty, thank you for being such an incredible missionary inspiration yourself. And thank all of you for making it possible. Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*. Thanks for sharing it!