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Week 23: Spring Mission Feeding: Last week

James and Betty Robison

Louie Giglio 1/22/18

James: I'm so glad you joined us today. We've got Louie Giglio. Now here's the book, *Goliath Must Fall*. In the midst of the pandemic, Tony Evans, one of the greatest kingdom ministers on the planet, he preached about kingdom men and he talked about David taking on Goliath. He said, "We've got a Goliath that must fall right now, this pandemic, and the adverse effects of it." This is a fabulous book.

Louie Giglio we have helped from the very beginning when he started doing *Passion*, bringing the young people together; just an absolute miraculous event, one after the other. This year you may remember New Year's Eve he had the Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta packed with young people! Ravi Zacharias, our dear friend that we love so much, been in a real battle himself but he spoke. And others that you've seen on *LIFE Today*. And those young people held up a light to say, we're going to be the light of the world. It was a phenomenal time.

Well, Louie Giglio understands what it is to take on the Goliaths. And since we've had to take that on, let's know that *Goliath Must Fall*. This one and every other one that comes against the will of God in our lives. So you listen as Betty and I talk to Louie.

Then you remember this. This is the last week of mission feeding and I'm telling you, you talk about people right now that need a miracle of God's love, we're going to show it to them because you are full of it and I know you'll share it.

Here's Louie Giglio and I pray you're going to be blessed by the reality Goliath must and will fall. Be blessed!

Begin video clip

Louie: Thank you so much.

James: I get the feeling sometimes that we're kind of your television ministry.

[Laughter]

You just come in and just take off. It's all supported by love. Isn't that cool?

Louie: It's amazing! I love being with you guys. I respect you so much. You obviously are trailblazers of faith and still doing that to this day. I think all of us appreciate both of these guys for taking a stand in truth. You're an influencer to people in power and to people who shepherd churches. I just applaud you for it. You're a great example for all of us to look up to; 73 years young and 59 and still going strong.

Betty: I wish!

James: Do you have an idea why anybody would listen to me when I'm sitting down talking to them?

Louie: Absolutely! It's no mystery, really, James. And it is because this generation is looking for longevity. I haven't heard anybody say that, but I watch the way and the patterns of their lives.

I'll tell you a quick, quick story. A friend of mine travels with a pastor and works for a pastor who I won't name but he's probably the best expository preacher in this generation, one of the greatest pastors, television ministry people, was my pastor growing up, so there's a little hint. He wrote a book recently. It is probably his 100th book. He is 80 plus maybe, went to Barnes & Noble book tour, an 80-year-old man going to a seven city, eight city Barnes & Noble: San Francisco, New York, Las Vegas, L.A. And you're

thinking well, who is going to come? People don't do books signings anymore at Barnes & Noble because unless you're one or two or three people in the world it is hard to get a crowd at a bookstore. They had to cut the line off. They figured he could sign for three hours and in that amount of time, how many people would be in a line. So they cut the line off and it was hundreds -- above thousands of people. Every city they cut the line off.

And this is the amazing part. They said, "We've watched over the last five years" and I hope I'm not speaking out of turn here, if I am forgive me. And they said, "It was amazing at this book signing how many 20 something men were in the line."

And you know what that says? It says that men have sort of given up on the fathers and they're looking, where's the grandfathers? And I'm not meaning to say -- you are a grandfather, a great grandfather. But people want to know, if somebody still loved Jesus, somebody still faithful to the word of God, somebody still believe all this even having lived through decade after decade and I believe 20 something's, what they call millennials, I don't really know what that means exactly but I think that generation is looking for it, and everybody in-between and that's why they're still looking to you guys going, you've got a track record and a track record means a lot.

James: Well, we appreciate what you're doing. Let's talk about.

Louie: Can we just thank them for that, by the way? That was where you were supposed to clap right there -- at that point. They wanted to clap. They just didn't know if it was allowed or not.

James: Let's talk about what you want us to hear?

Louie: Well, I think the title, "A," James, if I were just picking this book up I would go, "Wait a minute, if this is about David and Goliath, Goliath did fall. That already happened. That's history. We've already read about it in the scriptures so why should he 'must fall' if he already did fall?"

I think the answer is pretty obvious and that is -- and the answer seems to be well, because we've all still got giants. But that's not the only reason why this book is important. It is not just that we all have giants that still have their foot on our neck it is that whenever we have a giant, let's say it is anxiety, and so many people have that giant.

James: Define it. Define anxiety.

Louie: Anxiety is fear in the enemy; that's the way my friend Levi Lusko says it. A different way of saying it is anxiety is the by-product of me wanting to control the entire world. That's what anxiety is. And people who are A types and perfectionists get it really bad because they want to control the outcome of their kids, of their family, of their business, of everything happening in the world.

Anxiety is when I think it all rests on me; that's at the heart of anxiety. That's a giant for a lot of people. So you would think, well, *Goliath Must Fall* because anxiety has got to go away. That's not the only reason why anxiety must fall. Anxiety must fall because if I'm living under the weight of anxiety I'm stealing God's glory from him because I'm saying with my mouth he is the Alpha and the Omega, I'm saying with my words he can do anything and he's got all power but yet I'm staring at the ceiling for the 100th night in a row at 4:00 living under the weight of trying to manage the affairs of my own life when I have shepherd, the scripture says, who leads me through the valley of the shadow of death.

So God gets glory when the giants in our lives come down and we get freedom and that's why *Goliath Must Fall*.

James: Well, you talked about several of them. One of them I'm wondering because you are talking to a lot of young people and they do seem to sometimes be trapped by habits that do actually seem to be a form of undeniable bondage or addiction. You mentioned addiction. What jumps out in your mind? What stands out in the book when you're

looking at situations that you face and dealing with millennials since you have a lot of millennials that come to your conferences, obviously.

By the way, if people want to know when are the conferences, where they're going to be, where do they go? What website?

Louie: PassionConferences.com tells you all about Passion conferences, the events that we do. And PassionCityChurch.com tells you about everything else that we do.

I think addiction is a tricky thing. When you just said "addiction" here's what people thought. They thought about alcoholism, they thought about pornography, they thought about cocaine, meth, weed, drugs, whatever it is. Those are the addictions in life. But we are all addicted people.

Scientists have told us that the same thing that happens when you gamble happens to you when you check the likes on your Instagram post; a hit of dopamine hits your brain. This is according to Simon Sinek who is a great writer on leadership. And he says it is the very same chemical reaction when you get a text on your phone; that's why we love to get a text. Even if it is bad news, we're like at least I got a text. Look everyone! Somebody is trying to reach me!

[Laughter]

Someone commented on my Facebook post. We check again, and we look again, and we look again to see did somebody else comment on that? That's because every time we do, James we get a hit of dopamine in our brain; and that's the same thing when you're sitting at a blackjack table.

So that phone sitting by our bed at night, we are addicted, literally addicted to that phone. Same as addicted to crack and the effects are going to be the same; it's going to steal our joy, and it's going to ultimately destroy our ability to have intimate relationships with the

people around us.

Why are we addicted? It's because we are afraid to be vulnerable with people or we need to cope with the stress or the pressure in our life. I come back to Psalm 23. The book ends with a really beautiful unfolding of Psalm 23 because if we have a shepherd who is standing watch over us at night. You know we talk about how you get to sleep. Well, you get to sleep by counting sheep. Our grandmother taught us that. So let's count sheep tonight again. One, two, and --

James: I've never done it.

Louie: You've never counted sheep? You lay down and go to sleep. That's because you work 20 hours a day and when you get done at the end of the day you're worn out.

But we would see this little sheep going over the thing. Here's the thing. Counting sheep may or may not work. I don't know but it is better theology if you know that you have a shepherd who is counting you.

James: And I really think that's the way you rest.

Louie: So whenever we feel like how do I cope with life and death? How do I cope with the stress of a world that seems fragmented? Well, that's why people turn to porn, that's why people turn to the bottle, that's why people turn to whatever pill is in that thing or to their phone or to whatever the other addictions are in their lives. We've got the shepherd standing there saying, "I'm right here. I'm on the scene, I'm plugged into your life and I will help you navigate whatever it is that we're walking through."

I love that about the Psalm. It's like hey, we're going through the valley of the shadow of death. It's not you've got a great shepherd while you're on a beach in Bali. It's like you're going to go through hard times in life but I'm going to walk through that valley with you. So it gives us the permission to be vulnerable and to feel whatever we feel but then to

cling to this confidence of the presence of God with us in the midst of it.

James: What do you feel when you listen to him?

Betty: Well, listening to him I know I felt that same way in the loss of our daughter. I just hung on to God. He is my source. He is my strength. He is my joy. He is my peace. He is my comfort. And yes, not that you don't have the friends and family around you, but there is nothing like the presence and the comfort of God.

Louie: God understands our valleys. I think that's one of the things that sometimes a lot of people looking from the outside in a church think that he is up in some stained glass cathedral, isn't really relating to where we are. But Jesus actually said, "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?" So he understands what it means to feel lost, to feel like the fog has come in and clouded everything that we saw so clearly just a day ago or a week ago or a month ago.

And the fact that he is with us in that valley, we get that sense that oh, you know what this feels like. God knows what it feels like to lose a child. So he can relate to us on a level that is so powerful and so personal.

Betty: And he wants us to know that he is there with us in every circumstance of life. I realized how -- I mean he kept getting and still keeps getting bigger and bigger to me because of the walk that I have with him and the relationship.

Louie: One of the things that we talk about in the book is anxiety. I went through a big struggle with anxiety a few years ago; was out of commission for a few months. By the grace of God I'm here tonight. It's a big story. That's another book. But anxiety was a big part of that for me. But I've learned on the backside now that anxiety isn't a thing, it is a symptom of a thing. So when someone says, "I'm struggling with my anxiety again." I'm like, "No, you're not struggling with your anxiety. You're struggling with something that's making you anxious." The scripture understands that. There is so many places in

scripture that say, "Be anxious for nothing. Cast all of your anxiety on him," is the way the translation reads. So anxiety is not a new thing. But it is also not a thing, it is a symptom.

So I've learned at night because I still get anxious about things: Circumstances, politics, world affairs, the economy, people in my church. We all get anxious about things. I've learned to go below the anxiety down to the question, what is making me anxious tonight? You know what's at the bottom of it 99 times out of 99? -- A person. It's usually not a situation. It is a situation but it's that person in the situation. It is my son, it is my wife, it is my co-worker, it is my business partner; that's what's making me anxious. Then I just literally say to Jesus, "I would like to hand you this person, hand you this circumstance, hand you this situation. Thank you that you are going to do a way better job with it than I am. I need to go to sleep now. Thank you that when I wake up in the morning, you will have actually done something amazing with what was making me anxious in the first place."

James: And you help people do that. You know when we were talking earlier, you actually said something that I would take as an encouraging compliment. You said you watched me in the last year, obviously out of a comfort zone because I was counseling what people would have considered in a very dangerous situation, a volatile situation. This is a good way to end your whole life and ministry, sir and yet you realize I was doing it under divine guidance; right? But it wasn't necessarily going to be comfortable.

You indicate in here that too many Christians seek a comfort zone to their own demise in some ways and to our demise in our Christian witness. Is that true?

Louie: No one is going to love reading the chapter in the book called: "The giant of comfort." But we all really need to read that chapter. These guys were 40 days in.

James: Let me just ask you this. Do you agree it's important like what you -- why did you say something encouraging and compliment me? You felt that getting out of the

comfort zone was important? Is that what you believe? Because I'm telling you, it is not necessarily easy.

Louie: I'll get right to the heart of it. The climate in our country requires a commitment to principles, and sometimes people get in the way of principles. It makes it very difficult for us to step into the principles sometimes because of the people that are involved.

James: Or what people are going to say.

Louie: You said, "I'm going to go with the principle and I'm going to stay with the principle and I know that there is going to be some price to be paid for that." But you also have influence as a result of that with God but with people. I think that sometimes we count the cost way too long and then we realize our opportunity, our moment is gone. That's not a political statement that I'm making. It just means that there is something called, "For such a time as this."

And coming back to the book, David said, "The time for that giant to go down is today." -- not tomorrow, not three days from now, the time for your giant to go down is today. Not next week, next month, when things look better, there is a moment called, "For such a time as this," and we're living in that moment right now.

And every one of us, James Robison, Betty Robison, you have an anointing and a place and a platform to speak into our nation as a father, a grandfather, in this nation. But every one of us has something to speak into today. You talk to the president. A lot of us won't talk to the president but we talk to somebody. And we've got to get the foot of our giant off of our neck. How do we do that? By realizing Jesus has already slayed all the giants. He's already taken them all down. We walk in what Jesus has done.

So this book isn't encouraging you, me, to get our slingshot and go take down our giant. It is encouraging us to walk in the fact that he is already dead.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Wow! We have a conqueror, the Lord has overcome. He conquers Goliath and we need to understand that this overcomer lives in us and he says we can be more than conquerors. That's what we're going to see as we come out of this incredible battle with a giant. But he does fall. We want to send you the book.

We would like to send it to every one of you along with other gifts that we're offering to those of you during this last week of mission feeding will help us. I think when you just look through the eyes of compassion that I believe you have because I think the viewers of *LIFE Today* are the most caring compassionate people I have ever been in any way in touch with. You can't believe how much you've not only blessed us but you have saved and changed the lives of millions of people, that is not an exaggeration, that would have been hopeless without the love that flowed through you.

You watch, you listen, and you respond to the voice of the one who conquers every Goliath. Be blessed and inspired as you watch because you are the miracle answer to the need you're about to see.

On the mission field:

Announcer: The birth of a child is one of the most transcendent moments in time. The miracle of life! Tiny hands and feet. We instinctively see they're created in the image of God. And over time they grow into the young men and women they were designed to be. At least that's every parent's hope and prayer.

Sheila: I don't know if you can see... Darling, I don't want to touch it. I don't want to hurt you. But can you see her skin? Her skin has begun to literally peel off her body.

Announcer: Throughout Africa terrible events like famine and drought have decimated entire communities and left many with little or no food. The devastating effects of severe food shortages are most visible in the children.

Sheila: With severe malnutrition the first organ to shut down is the skin. It is as if all the reserves go to try and protect what's left inside.

James and Betty, you have sat here over and over and over through the years faithfully serving and feeding millions, but I know you see this. This mom who is desperate, like any mom would be, to save the life of her precious child had to travel 30 kilometers to get here. But it is why mission feeding matters so much. We talk about life where it is needed most. Where it is needed most is in the villages where these darling children live. Because this mom shouldn't have to travel 30 kilometers with a desperately sick little lamb. They need our help and they need it now.

End of video

In the studio:

James: When I look at those children, I just can't even express the love and the compassion and care that flows in my heart for them. You may not know this but Sheila talked about us being 30 years active in helping them. You may or may not know but several times I was taken hostage. And one time even Peter Pretorius said, "I don't think we're getting away this time." Only God saw us through.

You may not know but Betty injured her back so severely. Had viewers like you not provided what was called the *LIFE* Angel, transport plane, where she could lay down, the neurosurgeons told us she would likely have been paralyzed for life because she had done that kind of damage to her lower back. But she was able to lay down, we got her back here to the states where she could have surgery and she was all right.

But you say, "Why do you take risks like that? Why do you go through that?" Because

the love of God for those little children, that those mothers see, the little child that Sheila was talking about, those skins just falling off. You just see that they are just desperate for life and the mother loves them so much. Well, we love them too because the love of God is in our heart and the love of God is in your heart.

So in this last week of mission feeding, we've got to have a miracle because boy, we've been through a lot. It's hurt income in everybody's family. But boy, these people's lives depend upon it. It's like sometimes if you don't do something, well, you don't get to do something here. But with what we do, if we don't do it there, they die. Because their future depends upon the love of God through you.

So I'm asking you to go online or dial that number and take your bankcard. Please use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* and then call us and tell us how much you're sending. We need to know. But I'm asking you to make the greatest gift you can possibly make. I mean really reach down. You may say, "James, it's going to be a sacrifice." But you're going to be the miracle that mother prays for and the miracle those children need, and the miracle that we have watched for more than 30 years save 15 million lives, according to the reports from the African governments and those overseers. It is a miracle! It's a miracle of love. But it is one child at a time. \$30, think about this, we can feed three children for the next months. \$50 we can feed five. And I always say if you can help us feed ten give \$100. I'm going to say to many of you right now, if there is any way you can give \$1,000 and help us take care of 100 then you be that miracle.

Father, I pray every person watching will do whatever they can -- maybe bigger than they ever thought because they're going to be the miracle someone longs for and needs; in Jesus' name.

This is not wishful thinking. Your gift provides the miracle cure. It is food, it is nutrition. It is a love of God expressed through missionaries that risk their lives to share life and to save lives.

Please go online, dial the number, use that bankcard like a check. Make the best gift you can knowing that you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life. Thank you so much for doing it. Remember this is the last week. We need to hear from you right now.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Today on top of the daily fight for life and food, families and children across Africa are now forced to deal with the challenges of a global health crisis. Because of COVID-19 food scarcity has increased drastically and the fear of dying from lack of food is far greater than the virus itself.

Even in these unprecedented times, mission feeding won't stop. With your help, mission feeding will continue to be a daily source of food, encouragement, and health for the 350,000 children counting on us.

Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 that will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift we'll send you *40 Days of Healing Promises*. This beautiful hardcover devotional will encourage you in your faith as you dive deep into the healing promises that are yours in Jesus' name.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Blessings for your Home" bowls and tea towel set. This set of bowls and two beautifully designed tea towels will make a wonderful addition to your home and serve as a reminder of your help in blessing others as a friend of *LIFE*.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children be sure to request our commemorative bronze sculpture, "A Mother's Strength." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video

On the mission field:

Isak: I so clearly remember when I first came to South Sudan many, many years ago. I remember walking through some of the villages here, a lot like this village I'm in today, just being shocked -- shocked by the fact that there could be a place on earth where mothers bury their children every month, every week, some places like this village, every day.

I come to you today as I talk about what we saw then and what we see now. The fact that over these years we've been able to save so many millions of lives. We've had such a huge impact here in South Sudan. And yet, today we come into a village that we've just started working in and we talk to mothers, mother after mother who tell us their devastating stories.

We have to continue what we're doing in this village and we have to reach the villages next door to here that we're not getting to yet, where children are literally starving to death. This is a crisis and it is a crisis that only we can solve because we are here. And with the gifts of the friends of LIFE we can bring life to these villages.

End of video

In the studio:

James: During that time I just asked God, please move on everyone to do something. I want to remind you that *Goliath Must Fall*, Louie Giglio's book, his big giant Goliath was anxiety. Worry could have destroyed his life! And boy, I know a lot of people who say, "I've got a lot to be worried about right now." Well, that *Goliath Must Fall*. Louie says it saves lives. Could have even saved his because it was a very draining Goliath in his life. So we'll send it to you for any gift you make. We have other gifts that we know will be a blessing to you.

I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart that during this very last week you'll be the miracle someone longs for and desperately needs. Thank you so much.