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Week 50: Fall Mission Feeding

James Robison

John Bevere #1

James: I'm James Robison. I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Now Betty is not here. I'm going to tell you why. I'm talking to John Bevere and talking about every book that he and Lisa write, I think, is really like a gift from God. But Betty is not here. This is an empty seat right now. Betty had something that you didn't expect. She suddenly couldn't see out of the left side of her right eye and we told our son, Randy.

Our adopted son, Randy had genetic macular degeneration. The retinas in each eye has been separated and they've been repaired, and miraculously. Randy is so grateful he's been able to watch his children grow up because he was told that might be debatable. But he's done wonderful.

But when Betty started describing it, he said, "Mom and dad, you've got to get to the doctor now." He knew what was going on. And sure enough, called the doctor that did surgery on one of Randy's eyes and he said, "Be at my office at 10:00 in the morning" which was Sunday morning. And we were there, and he said, "Yes, surgery--a detached retina."

So Betty had the surgery. Now listen to me. She is doing wonderfully well and we're praying for total healing. But just understand that's why she's not here. Your prayers are appreciated. You don't need to send a lot of notes or emails, she wouldn't be able to read them as easily as she might like to. But just pray for us.

John Bevere is here with me. John, I know how much you love Betty, and you love me and Betty. And you and Lisa...

John: You're family.

James: Well, you're like family to us. And the fact that she says, "I've kind of feel like a father holding her heart." At least that's what she tells me.

John: Yeah, she tells people everywhere, "James Robison is my dad."

James: I'll take her!

John: She means it. Thanks for being her dad because I've got a better wife because you're a good dad.

James: I'll tell you what, we've had some pretty meaningful conversations too about relationships. And the two of you, you might have needed a little inspiration and a little encouragement and instruction, but it took. Don't you wish every truth that was ever shared in love would take with all the people you're trying to share it with? Probably why you wrote this book, you wanted to see some, you're talking about multiplication. Sounds like to me, you're talking about some kind of spiritual fruit or something, and some actual positive, fruitfulness and progress. Tell me about it.

John: You know, I wanted to write this book for years, James and I'm so glad God didn't let me do it. Because I made a covenant with God that I would not write a book unless he spoke to me. And last year, last October he said, "Son, I want you to write it." I'm so glad because it is the first book I've written feeling like a dad. Now I'm not near the dad in the church that you are but I am entering into that dad season, I'm 61 right now.

A few years back, it was about seven years ago. Let me frame it like this, James. If somebody says to you, he has a call of God on his life or she has a call of God on her life where do our minds go? We think he is going to be a missionary. We think he is going to be a worship leader, she's going to be a worship leader. He's going to be a pastor. So all

that to say, every single child of God has a calling on their life. And Ephesians 2:10 is so clear about that.

A few years back I was in L.A., I was going to speak at the Dream Center and one of our partners who have given very generously to us, he saw I was going to be there, and he said, "John, do you want to play Riviera?" I said, "Oh my gosh! Yes! Absolutely." So we played Riviera. It was a great time.

James: This is golf, if you don't know.

John: James and I, it's our language. So we're on our way back to the hotel. He got a little vulnerable. He is a very successful businessman. He said, "John, I've worked so hard to build my businesses up to millions of dollars. I personally am worth \$9 million. My wife is cared for life. My children are cared for. I'm just turning 50. Why should I continue to work so hard over the next decade of my 50s as I have to build my businesses up to \$9 million?"

And James, I looked inside, and I had an answer. I said, "You know I've written 17 books. It takes a lot of time. I've gotten on planes. I've flown to over 60 countries, I've eaten really strange food sometimes, encountered cultures that I was totally not used to, 200 nights a year stayed in tiny, little hotel rooms. You know, my wife is cared for life, my children are cared for life. Why should I get on another plane and fly to another country? Why should I write another book?"

Now he laughs at me. And he said--this is exactly what he said, "I wouldn't want to be in your shoes when you face Jesus."

I said, "Stan, you just said the exact same words to me."

And I remember his little smirk just totally left his face and we're in downtown L.A. and he looks at me, he looks off the road and looks at me and goes, "What do you mean I just

said the same thing?"

I said, "Stan, God has placed a calling on every single one of us and that calling is to build his kingdom. With that calling comes unique gifts. We have a choice at any given time of what to do with those gifts because we're stewards of them. We can do whatever we want with them. We can use them as intended to build the kingdom, we can use them to build ourselves and our families, or we can just sit on them. My gift is speaking and writing. It's very easy for you to see how that builds the kingdom. Your gift is in the marketplace. Your gift is in the giving and marketplace. You haven't connected the dots. There's why you see me as a calling on my life and you don't see it."

Well, that really, really shook him up in a good way. Six months later he said, "I'm working diligently to build my businesses up to 35 million plus." Because he realized he had a purpose. James, that got me to thinking why did Mother Teresa live with such passion? Why did Billy Graham live with such passion?

Every single one of us, if you look at Paul says we're like a body, a human body. If you look at my body, my fingers can do things my eyes can't do, my nose can do things my toes can't do. My toes can do things that my liver can't do. Well, my Bible says the parts of the body that aren't seen are actually more valuable than the parts that are seen.

So you and I have a seen part. If you look at legs, legs get a lot of attention. Correct? What a set of legs she's got! What a set of legs he's got! You can live without a leg. I have a friend who was in an automobile accident. He still plays golf without a leg. But you can't live without a liver. And I've never seen anybody walk up to somebody and go, "James! What a liver you've got. Man, that's amazing!" Why? It is an unseen part, but it is very, very valuable.

What I was communicating to Stan that day in the car is, "Stan, you have devalued what you do. You have valued what I do but devalued when in reality, chances are really good what you do is actually more valuable."

So I don't care if we're talking to single moms right now, I don't care if we're talking to stay-at home moms, if we're talking to grandmothers, grandfathers, God has put a unique gift or gifts in every single one of us and we will *never* truly be satisfied, and this took me a while to learn, we'll never be truly satisfied until we take what is uniquely in us, given by God and multiply it for the benefit of others.

God's first command to man when he put him on the earth was "Be fruitful and multiply." He wasn't just saying have kids and populate the earth. He was saying anything I give to you I want you to return it back to me multiplied. And so if you look at the Greek word *charis*, it is the Greek word for grace in the New Testament. So many Christians understand that it is forgiveness of sins, it is salvation, it is a free gift.

But very few Christians really understand that *charis* in the New Testament actually is empowerment. If you look at what God said to the Apostle Paul in Second Corinthians 12:9 he says, "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in your weakness." Which your weakness is your human inability.

If you look at what Peter writes, he said, "Grace be multiplied to you as his divine power has given us everything we need to live in life and godliness." So Peter refers to grace as divine power yet very few Christians statistically, it is under two percent of the Christians in America understand that grace is God's empowerment.

So another definition of grace in the New Testament would be God's empowerment that gives us the ability to go beyond our natural ability. Well, if you look at the Greek word *charis* and you put an -M and an -A on it you get *charisma*. What is charisma? It is the specific gift of grace that God places on individuals in order for them to build the kingdom in the way he intended them to build the kingdom. Now building the kingdom, we've got to just make this simple. It's building lives.

So okay, we always have said these gifts have to stay within the four walls of the church.

I contend and say no. Just recently, I heard something that I hope I don't start crying because I did yesterday on a podcast. A very good friend of mine has a church of over 30,000 people. Every year he does a leadership conference and at that leadership conference pastors and leaders come from all over the United States and around the world. He has a very well-known medical doctor in his church and the medical doctor was putting out pamphlets. And my friend was walking through the sanctuary and he saw the medical doctor and he said, "Doc, doc, doc! No, we've got volunteers. We've got interns that are going to do this. You don't need to be doing this."

He said the doctor rebuked him. Politely and honorably, but he rebuked his pastor. He said, "Pastor, I take one week off my practice a year so I can serve in building the kingdom of God. Please don't take this away from me."

That's what made my heart break because that means 51 weeks of the year, there is only 52 weeks in a year, he goes into that office seeing himself doing something secular, and his sacred work for God is being done in that one week a year. When in reality, God is supernaturally gifted this man to remove tumors, be able to fix an eye and do all these other things, whatever a doctor has, in order to build the kingdom but he hasn't connected those dots. I mean if a plumber goes in and fixes up something in a house and that stay-at-home mom would have had to spend two hours cleaning up that toilet that overflowed but now she is interceding, and now 3,000 people get saved in Cambodia because she was interceding, he is not connecting the dots. It is not a seeing function.

And so I see people constantly, here they are called by God into the marketplace, into government, into the athletics but yet they see themselves in the secular when in reality it is all sacred. And if they treated it like the sacred, they would have the same passion as you do, as Billy Graham did, as Mother Theresa did, because they would realize, even though I can't physically connect these dots, I can't mentally do it, I know that there is a reason for me having this gift and I'm called to multiply this gift for the sake and the benefit of others. I believe we would have a church with a lot more purpose if we really understood this.

James: If we could only understand that we are building, you keep saying "building the kingdom." He says the kingdom is at hand. He is only building one kingdom and that's his kingdom. We get distracted, like you kept talking about this gentleman being caught up in the secular world, we think that's not part of it. If you're doing what God divinely enabled you to do, gifted you to do, what you've been trained to do and you're serving others, greatest in the kingdom is servant. That doctor needs to understand that businessman, he is serving others. I don't care what you're doing, if you're building a house or you're selling a house or you're taking care of the landscaping or you're sowing seeds, you're doing that to be fruitful and the fruitfulness blesses the people in God's kingdom who are a part of his kingdom. I said to my grandson, Luke, which you know Luke very well.

John: Yep! Good golfer!

James: But anyway, Luke sent a picture on Facebook, and I get a lot of pictures, he is my oldest grandson, and he has two beautiful kids and a beautiful wife, and they have two beautiful dogs. And they were in the park the other day and he's laying back, his little baby boy is here, his little girl is over here playing, there's his wife laid back. I said, "Luke! Do you realize that when you posted that picture you were showing the whole world the kingdom of heaven that's at hand? That was God's will being done in you, the way you love your wife, you love those kids, you love those dogs; and you know you're reclining on God's planet in God's garden. That's kingdom living."

Now I got to believe somehow and by the way, if I read this and this doesn't come out in here, I'm going to come back and have a talk with you because if we're not talking about getting people to understand we were left here to show the whole world the kingdom of heaven revealed here on earth, it can be done, his will, on earth as it is in heaven. I think most people do the very same things that people did throughout the Old Testament, it's even what the disciples who had been with Jesus three years and he's about to ascend, "Now are you going to set up this kingdom?"

And he said, "Stop discussing that! That kingdom is settled." You and I are going to be in heaven forever. We're going to have no disease, no death, no dissension, no division, no destruction--that's already settled. And we inherited eternal life.

Most people don't realize he also said, "I give you abundant life, not necessarily abundance in life, I'm going to let you overflow with life." Let's get excited about sharing the life of God that is in us. Now if that's not what you're saying, then you and I are going to have a problem in the next program.

John: We're going to have a dad/son talk.

James: Do you agree that's what we've been left here...

John: Exactly.

James: You have gotten these books given away by the millions, the ones you've written. Well, guess who paid for them? People just like that who said we're going to give a great book to somebody because of the great love in our heart. The king is in us. He loves you. One of his servants wrote this message and we get it out. And you and Lisa are pretty good at doing stuff. You could not give these books away were it not for people watching right now or people who support what you're doing. Am I right about that?

John: That's absolutely right. Well, actually, that businessman that I'm talking about is a good friend. And we have given now over 41 million resources to pastors and leaders in 226 nations.

James: When you say we, you're encompassing that whole part of the body.

John: I'm talking about him. Lisa and I spoke to 3500 pastors and leaders from all over the Middle East in Yerevan, Armenia a few years ago. And I'll never forget this. The

auditorium was packed. But they had a separate auditorium that sat 1,000. We had a lot of pastors from Iran, from Syria and from Afghanistan.

So we brought them into that auditorium, no cameras were allowed, nothing. I looked at them and I said, "You see Lisa and I as the heroes. We're not the heroes." Because we've put over a million and a half resources in the hands of Iranians. I said, "The heroes are the businessmen and businesswomen that have given millions of dollars to resource you."

And that whole auditorium, including Lisa and I started bawling. And this pastor of Iran came up to me and said, "Why would businessmen, why would businesswomen give money to us they've never met?"

I said, "Because they have the love of God in their hearts for you."

But what if he decided, oh I want to go teach the Bible in my church and I'm going to be a janitor in my church and I'm not going to work my business anymore. Where would all the money that he has given to give to feed those pastors and leaders overseas, to feed the kids empty stomachs in places that you and I have gone to like Angola, where would that come from? So I believe with all of my heart that everyone needs to realize the value of what they do, whether it is a single mom, a school teacher, a nurse in healthcare, they need to understand there is a gifting in them.

James: And even their prayers--don't sell that short. You're moving mountains with prayers. John, this isn't Oprah, so I don't have an hour. We've got to take another step here and that is we're going to say to everybody watching that what you and I have seen, you just represented Angola, we saw where thousands of little children in small graves were buried. They didn't get to be five years old. But we watched literally thousands of lives changed.

Right now the pandemic has hurt--because not necessarily that they got the disease but the pandemic kept anything from coming to them or the workers and the delivery systems

and bringing things in that they have to have to live. And now then it becomes even more critical because there are more of them now coming to try to just find enough food now to live. Everything has been disrupted.

These viewers, and you know because we were there, they're the ones that make it possible for us to feed the starving, drill fresh water wells for those who have never had clean water, and in a sense of the word, those people are really building the kingdom and multiplying the love and blessing of God.

Let me just say this. This is online, it is in the bookstores. I want to tell you something because what John, I believe is trying to show you is how valuable every member of the body of Christ is. And you're going to see that because God has gifted John and Lisa both to not only communicate but to write with great gifting from God, anointing.

We're going to send this to you if you'll just help us. We have some other gifts to bless you with. If you will help us right now deal with the biggest killer perhaps on the planet it would run a close to contaminated water and that is malnutrition. You are the miracle answer. Yes, you are! You are the one that multiplies the blessings of God and brings forth the fruit that transforms life and gives life now, and because of the missionaries and the message of Jesus forever. I want you to watch closely and then know you really are not just an answer, you're God's answer to the challenge you see.

On the mission field

Announcer: I am a mother's worst nightmare. I thrive on the pain of children. I do not discriminate, and I show no mercy.

Sheila: You look into the eyes of a child who is seriously malnourished and there is just nothing. It is like somebody just turned the light off.

Announcer: You won't see me coming but you will soon hear me in your children's cries.

[Children crying]

My touch brings bloated stomachs, thinning hair that changes color, painful skin disorders and tiny bodies so thin and frail they appear as living skeletons.

Sheila: To see this little helpless one with the skin literally peeling off his arms and his legs was such a horrifying sight.

Announcer: I am slow but sure. My name is malnutrition, and my legacy is death.

Sheila: I heard someone on the news one day make a comment about the devastating deaths of children in some countries in Africa. And yet the reporter suggested that perhaps the mothers there were "more accustomed to that because it is very much a part of their life." [Sighing] I've seen with my own eyes what I knew in my gut -- no mother will ever become accustomed to burying a child.

The thing that really has blown me away the most, all of this is reversible.

[Children Laughing]

End of clip

In the studio

James: Yeah, I want to say a real straight thank you for not looking away. I was watching on the monitor what you were seeing. It is so easy to turn away from those terribly malnourished children. But when you turn away there is no hope. Jesus wouldn't turn away. He would say, "Suffer the little children to come unto me. Bid them not."

Listen to me, what you saw is tragic. But the miracle cure is perfect. We don't have to

search for the cure, we know exactly what it is. It is not a new type of surgery. It is actually taking what's in your hands and offering it in love. It is to give them the food, the nourishment they need.

John, you have been right there in Angola. You've seen it, when the children were trying to get into the barrels because we ran out of food, to scrape food. You've seen it, the danger that's there, you've seen the death and destruction, it is more painful than even those pictures made clear. I'm not exaggerating, am I? But what about the effectiveness of the love our viewers share? Because the missionaries said, "The viewers who support what we do are the greatest expressions of God, we believe on earth." What's your comment concerning that?

John: Before the program I thought about all the little, tiny graves we saw. It was the first thing you showed me when we landed. I couldn't believe it. It was like 30, 40, 50 of them in one location. And then I remember when we went out to that remote place and the kids started sensing that the food was running out. It was a riot. It was absolute chaos because those kids thought I'm not going to get a meal today. So it is so important, James.

James: What Betty prayed, and I remember when God gave her the prayer, "God please let the line to feed them always be longer than the line to be fed." That's really what you're talking about when you talk about multiplication.

I'm asking you right now, and I don't know the challenges you face. I told you the challenge Betty is going through right now, and I know you will pray for her and I know you care deeply but here's the thing. When she did that surgery, we're just hoping for that miracle gifted individual's gift to come through so Betty doesn't lose her sight.

But what we have now is not wishful thinking. If you give right now, as an example \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five or ten children. I'm going to plead with you because of the horrible effect of the pandemic worldwide, the crisis is greater than ever. I'm praying you will think in terms of 100 because three, five, ten, \$30, \$50, \$100, could you

give the \$100? Could you give several hundred? Could you give \$1,000 and feed 100?

Father, I'm asking you to work a miracle of love through everyone watching. And let them express your heart.

Will you become that much needed miracle? Will you become that certain miracle? Please get up and get your bankcard. Dial the number on screen or go online and you use that card like a check, if you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but you make the best gift you can knowing you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving the miracle of life, and it is because of the miracle of God's love flowing through you. Please do it.

We have some gifts to send you. We'll send you John's book also just to say thank you if you'll just help save some of these lives. Thank you so much. Thank you!

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

In the studio:

James: Well, I'm trusting God that you are making the gift. We want to send you this beautiful, these beautiful cloths. These are little towels you can hang or display, and "The Greatest is Love." *40 Days of Healing Promises*; we just felt like sharing the miracles with the pandemic and the crisis that we face would be a real blessing. We've got the beautiful bronze if you can give \$1,000 or more. It will really save just a lot of kids' lives; we will send you "A Mother's Strength."

And if you help us today and you'd like to have John's book, just ask for it. John, I think you'll be really happy to know your book blesses people who are blessing people and building the kingdom. We're going to talk tomorrow, and I want you to just expand a little bit on this. I'm excited about what you're doing.

Thank all of you for watching. Don't miss tomorrow. Tell your friends John Bevere is going to be back on *LIFE Today*.