

3/8/21

Week 11: WFL: Last week

James and Betty Robison

"Abundance in Life"

JAMES: We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison and I'm seated here by my beautiful bride. I think probably some of you heard that last week we celebrated 58 years.

BETTY: Wow!

JAMES: Huh?

BETTY: Wow!

JAMES: Yeah, it is wow! I was telling somebody that really and truly, I said, "We've been married 58 years." And I was thinking of our age and I said, "We've been together for a long time. We've been together 81 years."

And she says, "What? We're only 77 years old? How have we been knowing each other?"

I said, "Oh I meant to add that to our anniversary, not our birth date," from 77 years old to 81.

What I was trying to say was for my anniversary. I actually went with you four years before we got married so we have been married 58 years, actually been going together in love for 62 years. So it's been quite a journey.

Let me just welcome you to *LIFE Today* with all my heart. Can I just zero in here? I wish that we could actually be sitting there with you. Some of you say, "James, I'm in a bar or

a club somewhere. I'm watching you at night." Or "I'm in a hospital." I don't know where you are. If you're in the hospital, God in heaven, put your arms around them and just flow healing through them and their family, in Jesus' name.

I would just like to be so close to you that you know I'm looking right into your eyes. I can tell you with no exaggeration, I can't express it as fully as it needs to be, God loves you so much. He really does think you're cool. The enemy may tell you there is no reason for God to love you. You may have let the accuser of the brethren put you down a lot. You may feel defeated. I missed the mark so often! But I tell you what, God loves you. He may be disappointed for you but he is not disappointed in you. He loves you so much.

Betty, don't we just have a wonderful viewing audience of friends? Aren't they the most special people to actually, not just receive us into their home but to actually try to put God's arms around people who suffer or people who are overlooked. Aren't they awesome?

BETTY: Absolutely! Thank you so much. You are so faithful and you're so supportive of *LIFE Outreach* and the things that we do to help others. You are a big part of that. We couldn't do it without you. So thank you.

JAMES: Well, you're the bottom line in all the outreaches. You just are. You're the bottom line. Now I know this pandemic situation, I talked to you last week out of Joel where the locusts came and just devoured everything. The pandemic is so much like the locusts; it just destroys so much. It not only destroys life, but it destroys living. It destroys making livings. It takes away so much opportunity and yet God says when this enemy comes, and oftentimes God says the enemy has gotten access because of the poor choices you've made, because of your sins, like it or not; because you oftentimes not only deny the truth, you will actually change my truth into a lie. And you're given over to depraved thinking, you don't think straight. You can profess yourself to be wise and highly intelligent and well educated and yet prove yourself to be fools--so foolish in what you do. And you'll be given over to be controlled by appetites that will absolutely destroy

life itself. So this is what we've been seeing.

Well, Betty, I was showing all of you last week how when the pandemic comes what God says. He said, now listen to me. And you've got to get this. If you can look back through history and you see significant great moments when it was like, God says the rain pours out on the righteous and the unrighteous. When blessings come, they touch everybody; and you look back and you see these times of blessings.

And it's really sad that oftentimes when we prosper, and we're really blessed we allow those blessings and those good things to come between us and God. That's when we begin to drift. It's a very subtle attempt of the enemy to distract us from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus--not religion, not our heritage, not our nation or our race or even our family. Nothing out of God. Once you put something between you and God, you're vulnerable to the effect of the enemy that can get access. Because when the hedge of God's word is down nobody knows better than Job what happens when you take lightly the hedge and protection God's word affords.

Now what God said, and I went over this just briefly last week that if you'll return with me with your heart and with fasting and weeping and mourning, and you rend your heart not your garments, you don't just go through the motions, you actually want things corrected. Well, God says, "I'll hear you." He's talking about consecrating a fast.

Betty, I'm telling before the pandemic, years ago people really started praying for God to heal our land because people who have clear vision of God's will and they know God's word, they can tell when we're moving away from the principles that he says are vitally important. We're no longer living in the shelter and shadow of the Almighty. We're not living in the fear of God. Fear of God is not afraid of God like he's going to get you but if I'm out of his presence and his protection, the shelter that he freely offers, I'm vulnerable to all manner of catastrophic events and evil. So we've got to live there.

Well, people began to pray, Betty, and miraculously, a lot of times it will be with

individuals or situations you wouldn't expect, but God really started blessing us. We had the highest employment ever from all ethnic groups. And we had just an unbelievable surge of blessings and we saw so many things brought under control. And we began to bless people like Israel in ways that, it was the way you should bless people that are your allies and your love and who are best for the whole region in which they live. Well, we were doing so many things, we did so much for justice reform, and thank God for that. It was answered prayer.

And then all of the sudden the pandemic. Okay. I'm saying to you the blessings that came, and you may just want to give somebody credit for it, and although our president did a lot to contribute let's don't get into that discussion. I don't want to get into a discussion of giving parties or personalities or individuals credit for answered prayer-- God-answered prayer. He'll answer the prayer now. But what he said is when you consecrate yourselves, when you really want my will to be done, he said I will answer the prayers of my people and I will heal their land; and that's precisely what he did.

And he begins as he shows you right here in Joel: How quickly the Lord will be zealous for the land, (you, the people in the land) he'll have pity on his people. And the Lord will answer and say to his people, "Behold I'm going to send you grain, and new wine and oil."

In an agrarian society that's prosperity. I'm going to bless everything you oversee. You're going to have fruitful fields, fruitful gardens, fruitful flocks. And he goes on to say, "I'm going to pour out," right here in Joel, "I'm going to pour out the former and latter rains. I'm going to bless you and make up to you for the years the locusts have eaten."

He goes on Betty and he continues to talk about the fullness of the blessing of God, which ultimately, would actually come far beyond Judah, far beyond anything that happened to Israel or any nation. "You're going to reach a place," God says, "that I'm going to show you the fullness of my blessing and fruitfulness," which is culminated in Christ's coming. Because you can then, in Christ, step into a whole new realm of life of

fruitfulness, an abundant life--abundant life without necessarily abundance in life. And if you have abundance in life, you don't allow the abundance, or prosperity, or the blessings come between you and God. You don't make an idol out of them.

Now I want you to just listen to the man who understood it best. Not only was he as highly educated as you could be with the greatest school under Gamaliel. What a brilliant... he persecuted the church! He hated Jesus. He denied Jesus. What got a hold of this Saul of Tarsus who became Paul the apostle? Stephen, as he was dying, he was proclaiming Christ and he was revealing Christ as they were stoning him. And Saul of Tarsus consented to the death. And he says, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. Forgive them! Forgive them!"

Like Jesus said, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing. They're under the control of the deceiver, a divider, a destroyer, under the control of the spirit of death, forgive them!" And Saul denying Jesus, saw the living, resurrected Jesus in dying Stephen.

This is the Jesus that Paul saw encountered on the road to Damascus that transformed his life fully. And in Philippi, when they set a woman free who was controlled by demons who was making people wealth, and boy, so many people worship wealth today and so much of it is not honest at all. It is very deceptive. You can watch the power brokers and the wealth creators begin to try to control everything. God forgive them! Well, they set that woman free and took away their godless income and they put them in prison in stocks.

But when you're really free, you can live free in prison. In stocks, Paul and Silas sang praises to God. They were at peace in prison and God threw the doors open, Acts 16. And the jailer saw they were free and thought he would be tortured to death. Took a broadsword, Betty, he was going to kill himself. You've got to really want to die to thrust a broadsword through your innards. They said, "Don't do it! Don't do it! We're still here. Look at us. We were free and we're still free." And that jailer that was afraid he

would be found out when they got out led Paul and Silas down Main Street for the whole city to see, here's a man set free. I fear nothing. And he took Paul and Silas to his home and his whole household gets saved.

That's what God wants to happen right now in the face of this pandemic. He wants every one of us to turn to God with our whole heart. And God did not free us so we spend our lives in prison camps, so we spend our lives locked inside in a cave hiding, or that we spend our time only in a monastery alone. He wanted us to be the shining light, illuminating everywhere the darkness was prevailing and guiding people to life.

Paul said to these Philippian Christians in the letter of Philippians, he said, "In the face of all pressure I want you to rejoice in the Lord always." And he said, "Be anxious for nothing. In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, all comprehension will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good report, if there is any excellence or anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you."

Now Betty, I want everybody to lock in on this. Paul is saying, I want you to get this because see, I understand what the peace and fullness of God is like. He's saying to the Philippian Christians, and I want you to take this as though God, like through ministers like us, like through Paul said to the Philippian Christians, I say this to you, the viewers of *LIFE Today*, those of you who don't overlook the unnoticed, the least of these, but you touch them with the love of God.

Listen to what Paul said, "I rejoiced in the Lord greatly now that at last you revived your concern for me; indeed, you were always concerned but you lacked an opportunity. Not that I speak from want for I have learned--get this--I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am in. I know how to get along with humble means, and I know

how to live in prosperity. I know how to live abased or abounding. I can live with or without because I have abundant life, even if I may not have what appears to be abundance in life. Are you getting this? He may not have stuff but if he has stuff, stuff doesn't have him because the peace of God prevails in his heart. So that if he has it, he rejoices, if he doesn't have it, he rejoices.

Paul said, "I want to thank you that even though you were the only church, in the matter of giving, (that's verse 15) you did it--you alone. There were some times, Paul said, in this very city where people were born again, as the prison doors were thrown open and people began to receive, starting with the jailer's family and throughout the community, you became a Christian body of believers in Philippi. And you alone helped me. You noticed what God wanted. You rejoiced in me. You trusted me. You know God made it possible.

But now listen to what he said to you, when you're that sensitive to his will. He said, "You have sent not only in Thessalonica a gift, not once, but again and again for my needs. And not that I seek the gift, itself, but I seek the profit which increases to your account because you noticed a need that you could meet, and you did it. So he says, I'm so grateful. I want this to increase to your account. But if I have received everything in full and I have abundance I am amply supplied having received from Epaphroditus, and this fragrant aroma, this acceptable sacrifice. In other words, they brought the gifts you sent.

Now look at what God says to you. This is not Uncle Sam's promise. This is not some priest's or Levite's promise, this is God Almighty's promise, "My God shall supply all of your needs according to his riches in glory." Betty, that's a promise to people who have lost their life in his kingdom purpose to find it in fullness.

Father, I pray this for every person watching. I pray, somehow, they zeroed in as though we were not only the only ones in the room, but the Holy Spirit is flooding them with the awareness that the peace that passes understanding comes from you; that the riches

beyond measure are in the fullness of Christ in us; and that we can have peace whether we have or have not. And regardless of what we have received from you, we will not put it between you and us. God make it so for everyone watching. And thank you so much for their prayers, in Jesus' name.

Listen. God said you keep praying. You stay serious about me. You keep me first and I'm going to meet your needs. And Betty, as he meets our needs we get to reach out and joyfully give a cup of water. And in many instances, and boy, are you something, we can give a well of water. I want you to listen to Sheila Walsh and our son Randy. I think we've told you our son, Randy, he's now a grandpa. Hard to believe our children are grandparents. It's so awesome. Thank you, God! I want you to listen to God speaking through them. And I want you to know that in just a moment you're going to be a New Testament miracle for somebody. You're going to show them the living Jesus. You're going to show them the love of God in undeniable demonstration. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Sheila: It's been absolutely devastating to see how hard these people work to get water and it's not a clean source of water. To talk to so many mothers who have had to bury their children. It's something that should never happen. So sorry.

Open Captions:

>> My son asked, "Mom, can you carry me on your back?" My legs hurt. My stomach hurts. My body hurts."

Then he vomited, walked out of the house and collapsed. He died right there.

Randy: This is water that will kill you. This is death water.

Open Captions:

>> When my brother and sister died, I didn't know, and I looked for them everywhere.

When my mother told me they died, I didn't believe her. I kept crying and looking for them. The only water we have is from the pond. I'm afraid I might die like my brother and sister.

Randy: This is not water you can live from. We have to do as much as we can. Help us take the gospel, help us demonstrate the gospel as we bring them Water for LIFE.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Boy, just listening to her voice, it broke my heart.

BETTY: It's so sad. It's hard to watch as a parent, a grandmother, now a great grandmother. But I want you to know God was there with that little girl catching her tears and he's letting her know that help is coming. It's so hard to see children die because of the lack of good water, safe water. They have to have water. We have to have water for our bodies to live. But yet they're having to drink all of that diseased water. It breaks my heart and I know it does yours too.

You've helped us many times before and I know you will this time. We need to drill the water wells. We need to offer a cup of water to these precious children. Please join with us again and let's do this.

JAMES: I know as you listened to that little precious little voice and there at the end, I just saw the tears again, I was grateful that our son Randy is there right in the midst of it, putting God's arms around those children. I'm so thankful for Sheila. But you see Sheila couldn't be there, Randy couldn't be there, the missionaries and relief workers couldn't be there if all you did is look and turn away.

You know Paul said to those Philippian Christians, time and again, he said, "You're the only church," this is New Testament day, "You, Philippian Christians, you're the only

ones that kept sending."

You know Betty, we've watched our viewers amazingly send time and again during this pandemic. Amazing! It's like supernatural help. I've heard from so many of them that sent the gifts who said, "God just told me, he gave me this and he gave me oversight of it so that I could use it where he wants it."

When I see a need that love meets and I see the least of these overlooked, and Jesus tell us tell us, if you notice them and do it to them you've done it to me. It's like Jesus, we gave you water when the world and the enemy gave you vinegar and gall in your patched lips to hurt you more. We get to give you, Jesus, fresh water. We get to give you food when you're hungry.

That's what you do when you give those children a well of water. The wells average cost is \$4800. It is amazing how much people say wow! I could do that. I could, with this money, give people water the rest of their life. And the missionaries are going to tell them about the water of life! They're not just going to tell them about it, they're going to demonstrate the power of that person Jesus.

Would you right now go online, or would you dial that number? But get your bankcard. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. We need to know. We've targeted 350 wells and we know the areas. I've started asking God, God, let us do more!

Did you know that last year during the pandemic many of you stepped up and we actually drilled more than we asked because you said we're going to pour the love of God out on those people? Would you right now during this last week, and this is the last week of this emphasis, but we can see a miracle! We can go above and beyond. If you can give \$4800 do it. If you could give \$1200, three people join you we've got a well. \$2400, one joins you, we've got another one.

But now don't miss this. Most of the money comes from people who give \$48 to give ten people water the rest of their life. That's how it breaks out. Or \$144 as an example will give 30 people water the rest of their life. There is a level at which you can participate. And we're going to send you gifts to send this beautiful little granddaughter, Laney, who is now a mom of a beautiful little girl--oh my goodness how beautiful! This is an amazing book, a devotion with the Lord. You're going to love it.

We have other gifts to send you, a beautiful, "Be Refreshed" pitcher you're going to love. And a beautiful bronze "Divine Servant," that's what we become, kingdom servants for the glory of God. Would you right now get that card, make the gift? And remember, real important, this is the last week. We need to hear from every one of you. Some of you say, I'm going to give again, and I know you will.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Dirty disease-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 poverty, this is their only choice.

But 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 350 water wells this year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide ten. \$72 will provide for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift, we'll send you *Speak Your Name* devotions and declarations on the reality of Jesus. Filled with stunning imagery, these 40 encouraging devotions by Laney Rene serve as a reminder of the power of Jesus' name.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the “Be Refreshed” pitcher. This beautiful ceramic pitcher is decorated with Proverbs 11:25 and is sure to make a lovely addition to your table or home.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our brand-new, inspiring bronze sculpture, “Divine Servant.”

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the mission field:

JAMES: Just as we’re giving water here in Southern Africa, we need to give water like this, a cup of water, all over the world where there are contaminated water sources that are killing not only children, but their entire families. Many children lose a parent because of some intestinal disease from contaminated water.

And it may be that you can give a well. You can provide the entire cost, or you can say, I’ll join another person or a couple of other people. But I’m going to help. I’m going to help provide water all over the world. Thank you for doing it.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: You know I'm praying, as this is the last week, we're going to have a miracle. This is "Divine Servant." Max Greiner came and showed me this when he first designed it. He asked me to pray with him that it could be a blessing all of his promises. Boy, have they ever. This appears before some very impressive places in full size. But we're sending

it to those of you who will give \$1200 or more toward a well or give a well. In this last week, that's really important.

All of you who give, we're all kingdom servants because when we lose our life in his kingdom purpose, we find it in the fullness of His glory and His grace. Thank you so much for being such a blessing.