

5/20/21

Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

"Putting God First"

JAMES: You are the most wonderful people on the planet. I believe you are part of that remnant that God has set apart to lift him up so high that he draws all men to himself because they can see him.

We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. We share life today every day first and foremost, hopefully with every one of you. And we just want to thank you for being the greatest expressions of God's love and life we've ever witnessed.

Betty, in this most challenging time ever in our nation, in our lifetime, 77 years of life, we've seen more pressure come on everything related to the freedoms that we've enjoyed. And we know God is walking us through this and we need to be giving him a whole lot more credit because all of the good decisions made that wisdom comes from above. We thank God for all the healthcare workers, all of you that have sacrificed, all of you that have lost loved ones. We lost quite a few. At our age, a lot of people were very vulnerable. We lost some. We lost some friends that were younger to this horrible disease.

Father, comfort—comfort, as only you can, the broken heart. Comfort them God, in Jesus' name.

By the way, you are a source of comfort. You literally put God's arms of love around your neighbor, around people many of you have never even met, many on the other side of the world. You pick up the least of these and you lift them up into the arms of God.

And I want to thank you for that.

Betty, did you ever think in our lifetime in our nation that we would ever see a time where we would be expressing concerns about boys going in girls' restrooms, going in their locker room, in their showers? Did you ever think that we would be redefining sex/gender? Did you think we would see boys competing with girls in sports and calling it fair? Did you ever think that we would be redefining marriage? That we would basically be redefining sexuality? What does it do to you as a mother of three, as a grandmother of 11, a great grandmother of 11 more, 22 grandchildren, loving your family like you do, what does it do to you to see what's going on in our nation?

BETTY: You know, James, at our age, we're both 77, we could say, well, we've had a good life, we've been blessed, our family has been blessed. God has been so good to us. We've had opportunities to minister to people and to share and to help people, to feed people, to give water to those that are thirsty, and it is time for us to just sit back and let the world go. In my own heart, I can't do that because of who God has become in me personally. It is not time to retire from life. We need to step up and be counted as the soldiers of Christ as he intends for us to be.

Now we don't go out and beat up on people. We don't criticize people. We love them through God's love. But we show them a better way. It is God's way. I think now is the time, James that we don't just... it breaks my heart to see what's happening to our world today, and especially in our nation that's supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. And those that love to help people, and those that love to share what they have and how God's blessed them, this is not a time for us to step back. We need to be first on our knees and ask God: what is our part in this? And if you really want him to, he will show you. He will show you how to step up and how to reach out and show them what truth looks like and what love looks like and what compassion looks like, James, and what helping one another looks like.

JAMES: You know at an older age, there are some things that we simply can't do that we

once could do. There are places now, you had a terrible injury that could have paralyzed you on the rough roads of Africa. There are some places we can't go physically. There are some things we can't do physically.

We have 11 grandchildren--11! I used to be with 11 grandkids crawling all over me from everywhere. I mean I'm telling you, trying to keep up with all of them, get down on the floor and playing with them, playing with all of their toys. Now then we have 11 great grandchildren.

Let me just say this to you. Great-grandparents are very grateful for grandparents because great-grandparents can't do what grandparents can do. You don't bring all these kids over; don't bring one entire family over. I mean we had, our children, one of them had four children, another had four children, another had three children. We said, we used to take all four, all four, all three, and all 11 of them. If I got down on the floor now with the great grandkids I'd be saying, "God, who's going help me get up off the floor?" I'm telling you, we can't handle it. It doesn't mean we don't love them just as much but thank God they've got grandparents because we can't handle this. There are things we can't do at an older age.

But do you know what I found about older people? They seem to have a wisdom to listen to God and time to listen and need to realize that you have the possibility of shaking the world with the power of God, the truth of God, the love of God. That's what those of you who watch *LIFE Today* and support the outreaches of LIFE, you're putting God's arms of love around a broken desperately needy world. The least of these, the most overlooked, the most downtrodden, the most hopeless and you're giving them hope and life because of the love of God.

So Betty, I found out because God has entrusted the oversight of all the resources of America's wealth even, to the people that are 60 and over and half that wealth of the whole nation in the hands of people 70 and over. And you know what a lot of them are saying? I am going to see that my resources go for God's kingdom purpose, God's

kingdom impact. He didn't leave us here to get us out of here. He left us here to get him in here because we want people to know him so the kingdom he's preparing for them, they'll be in it with us. We don't want anybody lost. We want to help everybody.

So when we look at why these things are happening, why is it that we're redefining marriage? Why is it that we're redefining sex? Why is it that people want to cut themselves, sever themselves, I mean amputate body parts because they say, "I'm not a boy. I'm not a girl." God have mercy! God have mercy.

He wants to. You say James, how did we get to this place? Now I want you to really zero in. If you ever just stopped everything you're doing and sat down, if there is any way you could just lay your hands on a Bible right quick and open it to Romans chapter one. That powerful passage that says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ." Why? Because it set Saul of Tarsus free. He was against everything godly and he became the one who wrote two-thirds of the New Testament under the power of God's inspirations. Saul of Tarsus became Paul the apostle.

Get your Bible. I want you to open to Romans one. Now Betty, this is one of the most important passages that anyone could ever consider. This will tell you why we've gotten to the place we are. Now don't miss this. Many times this passage is used simply to point an unkind, unloving, accusing finger at people who may have same sex attraction. But you see, we have just regular sexual attraction that can become addictive. The unnatural desires are no greater than the natural desires. Any of them can easily take control. We, as Christians, are either going to live in control, out of control, or under control--his control. It's basically the way we all live.

Well, this Romans one passage is used so often to just point at people who are bent let's say sexually toward a certain direction, but God tells us, why do you get there? Not just to where you would have same sex attraction. Get Romans chapter one, get it open. We're going to start at verse 18, but just get it open but stay with me. You must see this progression here. You must understand how it starts and you've got to see the end result

of where it's going.

Okay. Many people are saying, "Judgment is coming." No, judgment is already here. The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all wickedness, against all ungodliness. God has told us the consequences of our sin. You can live in sinful rebellion, that's what freedom gives you the opportunity to do but God loves you too much not to tell you the consequences. You love your children too much not to tell them the consequences of playing in the street. That's not limiting their fun, it's extending it. The consequences of playing there is what? Pain, injury, even death--it terminates their good time here. God tells us the consequences of our decisions and our actions and our choices. Okay? He says that the consequences of our sin, our wickedness, our self-serving, our self-seeking is devastating. That is his wrath revealed against the consequences of sin. He's not running around like some policeman with a club waiting to swat you. Your actions bring this judgment.

Look at what he says. *The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness--not just some of it, all of it--unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in their unrighteous living.*

Now I'm going to paraphrase along with this. This is expounding. This is proclaiming the gospel. This is preaching the word. Proclaiming it. *Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident in them. For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes...* (if you want to see what God looks like, you want to see his characteristics, his qualities, his attributes, just look at everything he created.) "I reveal myself in everything I created."

All the plants are seeking light. Every leaf, every blade of grass seeking light. They're going down to be deeply rooted to do what? --Draw water. *I want my people to live in the light, seeking the light. I want them to be rooted and grounded in love and truth.* That's how we become strong. His manifestation of himself in everything he created is undeniable. *Since the creation of the world his invisible attributes, his eternal power, his*

divine nature have been clearly seen being understood through what has been made so you are without excuse.

You can see God and his creative genius, he's creative power, his hand, his magnificence in everything he made. Guys, God did good when he made woman. Whoa, man! Listen! God is the greatest! The relationship he lets us have as far as joy and ecstasy and a thrill; the sexual relationship and true intimacy is indescribable! And many people spend their whole life seeking it and many people live in fornication and sin and they damage their body. They hurt their ability to enjoy the greatness and blessings that God has offered us. Man, what a God we serve. And you can see.

Now watch this. *Even though they knew God, they could see him, they did not honor him as God. They didn't magnify him as God. They didn't give thanks, but they became futile and vain in their speculations and their foolish heart was darkened. And they professed themselves to be wise.*

We know what we're doing! We know how to take care of the people! We know how to take care of these needs! But what happens? *When you knew him, you didn't do these things right and professing yourselves to be wise you proved to be fools. By doing what? You exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God into an image and the form of corruptible man.*

You start worshipping things God made or things people created in his image made. There is not anything people created in the image of God can't accomplish for good and meaningful purpose. He has given us unbelievable ability. No bird can fly as fast as we can. My goodness, we're not traveling the speed of light yet but boy we are moving on. We can do anything necessary to be a blessing. But you don't put people in dependence upon anyone other than God and his wisdom and his direction. And you love one another.

Please don't miss this. If you're going to help the poor, you're going to help the needy, you're going to help the downtrodden, you want to help the person that is totally defeated

or misguided, you don't throw money at them, you don't take care of all their needs without a compassion, a love connection that gives observation and oversight. You never really help anyone and assist them if you do not give them oversight, responsibility, and accountability.

Look what he says in his word. *They are literally worshipping birds, four-footed animals and crawling creatures, idols. As a result of this, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity so that their bodies might be dishonored among them. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie. They worshipped and served the creature rather than the creator who is blessed forever.*

They no longer worship God. They no longer glorify God. They begin to focus and worship something else. They put other things before God. They may be ugly things, vile things, they may be beautiful things, magnificent beauty but they put it before God. *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions.* Those degrading passions are not simply same sex attraction but where your own desires control you: The spirit of gluttony, sugar addiction, all kinds of addictions that damage the temple of God. When we don't put God first these things are going to take over.

Then he says: *God gave them over in these degrading passions to extreme; women changing the natural function for that which is against nature, (it's unnatural) in the same way men abandon the natural function of the woman, burning their desire toward one another, men with men, committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the penalty of their error. They became captive, they became prisoners of it.*

Listen. God loves every person that says they're homosexual. God loves every person that's defeated in any area that's being held by addiction, unhealthy attraction, distraction, whatever it is, he loves you. You extend that love to people.

But here's what I don't want you to miss. *When these things happen*, verse 28, boy, don't miss this! *They did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer as the God that he is, so*

God gave them over not only to these out of control affections and desires and addictions but he gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slanders, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boasters, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.

This is what happened. Your minds aren't straight. You've got depraved thinking. And then watch where it ends up. This is unbelievable!

And although they know the ordinance of God that those who practical such things are worthy of death--death to everything beautiful. Death to everything meaningful. Death to great relationships. Death to love. Death to life. Death to productivity, opportunity, prosperity, the ability to bless and help others; to be blessed to be a blessing. It's gone! They not only do the same, but they give hearty approval to those that do them.

Betty, that's where you start putting it in the laws. You legislate to defend corruption, extremes. God in heaven deliver us! You say, James, what's the answer? Put God back first. Acknowledge him as the God that he is. Say God, I want to trust you, depend upon you. I want to bless the needy. I don't have a problem paying my taxes to do good things for others, to provide services, to meet needs, to do the impossible in love. But we want it done with oversight, with compassion, and with accountability in place so that we're not just throwing it to the wind.

In other words, Betty, we become God led, filled with God love, compassionate people committed to his word to honor him and glorify him as God.

Father, the only hope we have is in you. We know we have a kingdom you're preparing for us but you've told us here we could live as overcomers. We can live free, more than conquerors. We can be an expression of your life and people can see your kingdom in us for your glory in your kingdom purpose. That's what we commit to. Would you say, Lord, that's what I commit to? Heal our land. And use me to be an example to lead us out

of darkness.

Betty, I want our 22 grandchildren to have the blessings of freedom. I want all of our viewers to have the blessings of freedom so that we can put God's loving arms around a world in tremendous need right now. You're going to look at some children that you're going to say I'm going to be that child's miracle. I'm going to get God's loving arms around that child. Because God put his love in you. You do acknowledge him as God. You do want to magnify him as God. You do want him to heal our land and to restore our thinking and heal the mind so that we're not depraved, when we don't know right from wrong, night from day, good from evil, heal our minds. He says he will.

You're the remnant that will see that happen. I believe that with all my heart. I'm not going to turn God's planet over to the devil when we can point them to the King of kings and Lord of lords. One way we do it is sharing with the least of these, his love. Watch closely. You're going to be excited to do it because God's put it in your heart to do it and I know you will.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Within the life of every child is God-given potential. We can see it in the dreams these children have for their future. Though he lives a meager life and has few possessions, Fernando dreams of moving to a city to become an architect. He'll design a school for Antonio, who dreams of becoming a teacher. He'll design a hospital for Rosa, who dreams of becoming a doctor. Who would have thought children with so little would have dreams so big?

But Fernando's mother knows that his chances for realizing his dreams are slim. She knows the painful reality that his food supply is unstable at best. And during lean months completely depleted. Already the scarcity of food has led to the deaths of many children. And with it their chance of a dream extinguished.

The biggest obstacle for children like Fernando is simply the lack of food--food! It's as simple as that. By helping to provide just one child like Fernando with a daily bowl of food you'll be making a world of difference; not only for him but for every child who is holding on to a dream.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Boy, I look at those kids and I'm telling you, I just feel like-- And I have-- I have embraced them. I didn't care if they had some disease. I didn't care, I just loved them. And I look at them now and I just see little children that have so much potential.

Betty, I think about a little boy that didn't have a father, the product of rape, that's the reason he was born. An ad in the paper, somebody come get him, they just lived so poor. And yet, God looked down and he saw me. He said, "I can use that boy." That's what he sees.

I've watched those kinds of children that are right at death's door be changed. I've watched them become leaders in their communities. I've watched the country of Mozambique, the poorest nation on the planet be turned around and a miracle occur because of the power of the gospel and the feeding that you made possible to save millions and millions of lives! And I've watched them grow up and become teachers and professors. We see it all over Asia. We see it around the world. God's love transforms people. And we need that transforming power here right now.

I'm telling you what. When we share that, boy, you talk about our prayers having a greater force, a greater power, it's like concentrated prayer is like putting the power of the Colorado River through a turbine and it will light up the desert with energy, electrical energy. Prayer, when we come together and concentrate it, it is like that dynamic power that lights up the world.

That's what you're doing when you today say, I want to touch those children with the love of God. They're hungry. Many of them are going to die and they could live with a new future that love has offered them. Would you right now help us feed three, five or ten children? The missionaries have found these areas of great concern and organized them, and they say, "We'll be feeding here." And the people find those havens of rest and hope. But we have to provide the food. 350,000 of them organized now.

Would you feed ten of them with a gift of \$100 for the next months? Five for the gift of \$50? Three for \$30? Could you give \$1,000 toward helping us rebuild the malnutrition clinics that have been destroyed? They need to be restored. God's love through us makes it happen.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you to encourage you and to bless you and to inspire you during these challenging times as we put God's arms of love around the people he gave his life to redeem. Please go online, get on the phone, take your bankcard, make the best gift you can. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. Thank you for doing it.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Across the continent of Africa, children are suffering facing severe malnutrition and even death. With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us.

Call now with your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. Also, please consider an extra gift to help immediately rebuild malnutrition clinics destroyed by record flooding in South Sudan. The urgent need is \$392,000 above our normal feeding budget and is critical to help save the lives of those who are suffering most.

With your gift of any amount we will send you "It is Well" Quiet Time Bundle featuring an instrumental music CD with 12 classic hymns and a 31-day prayer booklet to help renew your soul.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the "No Greater Love" framed print. This portrait is a reminder of our Savior's love and the price that was paid for our salvation.

Finally with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Divine Servant." Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of video

In the studio:

BETTY: Let me first say thank you so much for your loving what God is doing through this ministry and the help that you give. We couldn't do it without you. We love you. We pray for you. God loves you. You have purpose in life. It's God's purpose. Let him show it to you. God bless you!

JAMES: Betty, they asked us to be sure we approved all these hymns. And "It is Well" Quiet Time Bundle, boy, you're going to play that; and then "It is Well" Quiet Time Bundle of 31 prayers. I tell you, this is going to bless you. The portrait of Jesus is going to really be a blessing, framed. I hope many of you will get the "Divine Servant" bronze by making a special gift. Help us rebuild those malnutrition clinics. We need a miracle outpouring of love, but you can do it. God has given us together the ability to do the things he puts before us and to get his arms around the people he died to redeem. Thanks so much for being a part of it.