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Week 23/Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Ken Harrison

JAMES: I want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are just thrilled to talk to you. Let me just say this. I emphasize what you're going to hear is really important. Now let me tell you how important it is. It's important for everybody you love. It's important if you care about yourself.

Betty, you remember years ago when I went to speak to 1.4 million men in what was called, "Stand in the Gap," Promise Keepers. Just look at this picture and listen to Jack Hayford. Interesting how this Baptist and this Pentecostal, and all of the sudden showing you that God's family can be one. Just take a quick look and then you're going to meet the new head of Promise Keepers. Just watch this. I'm going to introduce you to Ken Harrison in a moment. Watch.

Begin video clip:

JACK: Everybody say, in Jesus' name. There's James Robison. James, come and share with us right now. Here he is right now.

JAMES: Is your heart full?

>> Yes!

JAMES: Do you love the Lord?

>> Yes!

JAMES: Would you say I love you, Lord?

>> I love you, Lord!

JAMES: I love your church.

>> I love your church.

JAMES: I love my family.

>> I love my family.

JAMES: I love the lost.

>> I love the lost!

JAMES: I love the world.

>> I love the world.

JAMES: I love my enemies.

>> I love my enemies.

JAMES: My heart is full.

>> My heart is full.

JAMES: Now Jesus said out of the abundance of your heart your mouth will speak. You will express what's inside your heart. All day long your heart has been filled and thrilled with the glory of God's presence. I called my wife a few moments ago in Dallas. She said, "James, the

whole house is full of the glory of God!"

[Cheers & Applause]

She said, "The glory of God is on the television stations. The glory of God is on the news." Jesus is being exalted!

[Cheers & Applause]

To God be the glory!

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: And that's what it's all about -- 1.4 million men. I walked out on the platform with Coach McCartney, Toni Evans and Jack Hayford before all the other speakers got there. And tears welled up in my eyes. I looked at the others and there were tears in their eyes.

I said, "Look, God is looking down and saying, 'Look at my kids. Look at my guys. Look at my family!' He and Jesus were talking about what they were seeing."

Ken Harrison, you never thought you'd be connected from being a police officer and you went into business, in real estate and you became unbelievably successful and wealthy. Then you were asked to take over an organization where people want to give to charities and they want to guard their resources wisely. And you headed that up and helped it grow. And then all of the sudden somebody asked you to do something with Promise Keepers following something, I'm just telling you, these are things I know. That you wanted to retire, ski and hike, and you were located in Castle Pines between Denver and Colorado Springs; and God said you weren't going to do that. So what did he let you know you're going to do and then you hear about the Promise Keepers situation?

KEN: Well, you've heard me tell this story. I was praying, really, in the spirit, just really, you know those moments when you have you wished you could be on the mountaintop with the Lord where he is speaking to you? And all of the sudden he said, "Ken," by name. "I did not put you through everything I did and teach you everything I did so you could ski and hike for the rest of your life."

Which was my plan. I said, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

He said, "Are you willing to be as ambitious for my kingdom as you were for your kingdom?"

And I, in not one of my greatest moments said, "I don't know."

He said, "Be careful of your answer; it's going to cost you your life."

I talked to the Lord for about two hours. I just said, "I'm tired of leadership, tired of firing people, being sued, stabbed in the back. I'm just tired of people." When I finally got done whining at him and said, "Yes, Lord, whatever you want."

He said, "I'll tell you what I have for you when you are ready." And then three more years went by where I just learned humility, and learned to seek him, and learned closeness with him. And finally, when Promise Keepers came along, I didn't see it, I didn't know it, I didn't want anything to do with it. God reminded me, "Remember that conversation we had that night in your closet? This is it. My men need to be woken up." So here we are.

JAMES: Well, we want to make sure all of you know that there's no attempt to resurrect Promise Keepers. They had hundreds of stadium and coliseum meetings, not only all over the United States, but all over the world. And it was men coming together at the invitation of a coach who had won a national championship, who faced a lot of challenges himself. But he really, somehow inspired men to seek God and to become Promise Keepers. You and I know, Ken that men are not to Lord over anything, and the Lord is to be their Lord. And if they do what God wants them to be doing, they're going to be leading wisely under the direction of the Lord God

Almighty.

Well, that was beginning to happen with these men, and they were beginning to become like a family. And it ended with that "Stand in the Gap" where we all came together to say to America, let's be men of God. Let's be examples God wants us to be starting with our families, in our communities; of course, in our churches. In other words, let's look like the family of the perfect Father.

Now we don't know why suddenly it just, it was like it faded. Here's one of the things that I've tried to make clear, very clear, there is no movement other than the move of God through the one force on this earth the gates of hell cannot be effective against, that's the church of the living God. It is that church, that force, not any organization or part of the church that you suddenly let replace the church.

So when we're talk about Promise Keepers, we're talking about men doing what those men were saying was important and in faith do you believe God wanted you to ask for AT&T Stadium, which is a very well-known stadium where Dallas used to have a football team and played there and people knew about them. Maybe again someday.

Here's the deal. We want to see men come together in the presence of God to become the examples and leaders that love their wives the way God wants them to be loved, that wives want to be loved, and have a man that is a man. They want to be treated like a queen but not by a pawn, by a king that loves the king, king of kings and love them, and lead the children the church properly.

I believe the stage is set for the greatest move of God in the lives of the people in the church and with men. Ken, is that--I'm just going to ask you point-blank. Are we trying to bring back Promise Keepers or are we trying to see the God that moved them under his control make the powerful impact the church should make on everything on God's planet?

KEN: That's such an important point. We're not trying to bring back a ministry. We're not trying

bring back the '90s. We're trying to wake our men up. Because our women and children are depending on our men waking up because when men are screwed up it is women and children who suffer. The church needs men to be strong. They need to be reminded of who they are in Christ. That they are kings, they are the son of God. When it comes to leadership, it is servant leadership. We're to lead our wives like Christ leads the church, which is to love them and give our lives up for them. We've got to stop arguing with each other and we've got to start coming back together as who we are. We are beggars telling other beggars where we found bread.

Christ's grace is good enough for you, for me, and for everybody else that is going to be in that stadium; that's the message that we've got to get out. And when we do, when we start acting like who God said we can be, when we're born again and changed from the inside and filled with the Holy Spirit, the whole church, the whole world is blessed by that.

JAMES: Betty, what do you think about, you know people have said they believe we love each other? We're crazy about each other. We've been married 57 years. We're more in love than we have ever been, and we went together four years before we married. So we've been together over 60 years. I'm crazy about you. But I wouldn't have made it without you. You became the source of strength.

But how important is it to you to know that I love you and you could help me learn and we can learn together? How important is it for men to really come to God and learn how to love their wives the way women want to be loved and inspired and bless them and lead the children? How important is that to you and how important do you think it is in our nation?

BETTY: I'm very excited about what God has put on your heart, Ken, to really seek him first and then step by step let God guide you. Because I think it is so important. God created us different, man and woman. And not to one, lord over the other one but to work together, help meet one another, help meet each other's needs and to serve God together as one.

I think that's what God has helped James and I to do so much. He has honored me as his wife. I'm not less than he is. He is not less than I am but we are a team. We always want to move as

one, as God leads us. It makes for a happier heart, a happier home, a happier place, a family, a happier family. When mom and dad are working together, not one telling the other what to do, the other one, always coming at one another.

I remember when our children were very, very small. You know kids, they can try to play mom against dad. They do that very well. So I remember one time when our kids were attempting to do this, James sat them all down and said, "Let's make something clear. Your mom and I are one in guiding you, in training you to grow up the way God wants you to. But also in discipline. So don't play this game of one against the other." I think that's the way God wants it to be. We're a team. We're one. We compliment the gifts that God... God gave him different gifts. He gave me different gifts but together they mesh because we're not trying to over one, you know get over one and outdo one another but we're trying to do what God has called us to do.

JAMES: I promise you, Betty and I really do pray for you. If we were in the living room with you in person you'd know, these people love us. I want God's best for you. I want God's best in every man and every woman and for every child to behold the glory of the Lord.

This meeting in July, two days, is to bring men together as many as come whether it is Gideon's Army or whether it is 80,000 men who decide to lose their life in kingdom purpose.

Ken, we're not just having a gathering with great anointed speakers, which we've got, we're having a gathering to come into the presence and fullness of God. I think you and I have come to hear something very clearly from God and together as we pray, God cares about our dreams. We too often make our dreams and our goals our kingdom. God's building one kingdom and we're either gathering or scattering, it's his kingdom. He left us here to make a kingdom impact. You and I seem to believe that if men would lose their life in his kingdom purpose, the power of his kingdom would shake everything in this world. Do you agree with that and believe that's what we're really hoping, praying, and trusting God for?

KEN: We spent a lot of time together and Betty, you're good friends with my wife, Elliot, so you know that there is no lording over my wife. She is a tough woman. And yeah, at the stadium,

look, when you talk to people who went to the '90s events, they talk about that feeling of hearing 80,000 men sing "Amazing Grace," the feeling of I'm not alone anymore. They could feel the Holy Spirit. I've heard more testimonies about men who went home and fell on their knees and asked their wife for forgiveness. Because they never knew any better until they heard these mature men of God explain to them what it is to be a man and what it is to be a man surrendered to God.

So we've seen households change. 45% of the ticket that were bought in the '90s were bought by women sending their husbands and their sons to the event because they heard all the stories about completely transformed lives and transformed families. And it is more important than ever today because we, we're making the mistake of hoping that America wakes up somehow from this craziness that we're in. We're not going to wake up unless the men of God wake us up. Because the education system and the homelessness, the fatherlessness that is going on in this country, boys are not being taught what it is to be a man. They don't know what it even means.

If you say to me, James, "Ken, act like a man." We both know what you mean by that. You say that to a 20-year old boy today, he doesn't know. What do you mean be like a man? And so we've got to remind these guys of what this means. That's why we have so many scholarships that we're putting out. We're trying to bring 10,000 fatherless boys and poor boys from all over Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana to the event. Because if we can get 10,000 fatherless boys in there to see what it is to be a man, imagine what those 10,000 boys can do when we light them up. And it is not just the event, but we have a whole follow-up program, discipleship program getting guys with mentors. We're linking up men, mature godly men with boys that they can teach them how to be a man.

So this is not just an event, it's a whole thing that is centered within local churches, follow-up discipleship, mentorship, so that guys are not having a mountaintop moment and then leaving there not sure what to do. We're going to help walk with them throughout life this time for a long time.

JAMES: It is in July, the dates?

KEN: July 16th and 17th, Friday, Saturday.

JAMES: Friday/Saturday and you have to register. There is the Promise Keepers website. There is the information; take note of it. You can go there, you can get more and more details. But it is \$75 to go. And when Ken was talking about fatherless people or people that are challenged, it may be people that live in a very low-income situation but boy, you want those men to come. We're going to do our best with your help, to help people who need a scholarship to go to do that. You may say, James, we want to help with that. So you can go on *LIFE Today/PK* and say, "I want to help somebody go. I want to help take care of their ability to go and be there." And do whatever it takes. And so you can do that. We thank you for that. I can promise we've already given scholarships to some of these that don't have the resources to come even the \$75.

I'm asking every woman, Betty, just as you said a moment ago, if you want to say, and Ken talked about how women paid for their husbands to go and they saw their husbands change, encourage your husband to go. If you have an older son, encourage him to go as a father and son. And those of you who say, James, I want to help someone go, there again *LIFE Today/PK* and say, I'm sending this gift. Just tell us what it is. And we'll put it in.

Ken, I'm going to do everything I can in every way, and you know that. I'm encouraging everybody. I want to encourage every pastor to encourage their men to go. Those of you watching right here in the United States, in Texas, really in the metroplex, you could fill that stadium. Here's what I'm asking you to do. In prayer I want you to fill it with the glory of God. I want you to fill it with the power of God so that when those men get there, they have an encounter with God. And they lose their life to find it in kingdom purpose, and they will find it in all the fullness of who he is. He is love. He is compassion. He is boldness. He is delivering truth in unconditional redemptive love. Pray God fill that stadium. Fill it with your glory. And fill it with men that will yield their lives to your glory.

Ken, you and I are going to stay very, very close for the rest of our lives. There is no question

about that. Both of us know because of the miraculous power of God, we've lost our lives, and we were not men without dreams. And our Father cared about our dreams. Most people never really cared about his dream. Somehow you and I, and our wives, and boy, your wife is a blessing. Listen to him. They're much alike. You and I are much alike. But we have totally lost our dream in his vision and his dreams.

And our viewers, listen, you've been listening to us for a long time. You think, I've been on television 50 years and I've been preaching this year, 60 years, you know we want God's will done. I've said to you, I believe you're the remnant, those of you who love us. You're a remnant to wake up the remnant that can awaken the church to witness the next Great Awakening. Pray for that event. Encourage others to go. Get your church involved in prayer and filling that stadium with the glory of God and with men who will give their lives to God for his kingdom purpose.

Ken, we've put God's arms around people that are overlooked. We have started putting our arms, now for more than 30 years, around the least of these. And our viewers, they love it. You show us a need that love can meet, we're there. I want you to look in and see what God's love through you can do right now to become a miracle in somebody's life -- save their life and point them to Jesus. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Open Captions: Thousands of children cry. They are hungry, malnourished, suffering, and dying.

ANNOUNCER: The mortality rate for children under five in Sub-Saharan Africa is the highest on record worldwide. Severe malnutrition and starvation are two of the contributing factors in an unrelenting food crisis causing misery and death.

ISAK: It's absolutely devastating to just walk through this cemetery here and see how they're digging graves. They're preparing graves for young children; more than ten graves that have been

dug here. These graves don't have a name yet. They've been allocated to a child, but they've dug them because they know that children will die in the next week. Children who don't deserve to die. They don't deserve to die simply because they didn't have enough food. Because their families couldn't provide for them. Because their village was ravaged by drought. Because they don't have mission feeding.

You see, we can stop the digging of these graves. We can stop children from dying. We can stop children from filling these graves. We can bring the cycle of death to an end if we'll just act. You give mission feeding, you give life--life in the form of a bowl of food--a bowl of food that not only fills a stomach but empties a grave.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Wow, Betty. I just remember the first time that I knelt there in that cemetery. And it went on to where they're -- listen to me, I think they were just in the hundreds on their way to the first thousand, but it got to where it was thousands. I'm pretty sure it went from 10 and 20,000 right there where I was first kneeling, and now there is another one. Most of these little graves were very small because they were children's graves.

I remember saying to you, we can stop this. You did it. Now listen closely. I just referenced hundreds, thousands, maybe 10,000 because you reached out and you saw those little children, you saw those graves and you said, "We'll stop digging graves and give life." Your love stopped that death cycle. I went back there where there was schools meeting in churches and the children singing. And I remember walking away, the pastor of that particular school said, "Are y'all not coming back anymore now that we're okay? Cause we want you to come back. We want to keep feeding them so we can keep singing." I had to say through an interpreter, and I reached out and I put my arms around him, he's a little guy, "We'll never leave you."

Love never leaves. I want to say to you right now. I want you to stop the death cycle. I'm not exaggerating. This is not total childcare. This is miraculous life-saving love. \$30, \$50, \$100 we

can feed three, five or ten children for the next months. Think about this, \$1,000 will feed 100 kids. Please! Go get your bankcard, dial that number, go online. Use that bankcard like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. Call us and tell us you're mailing it. Please do it right now. You're giving the greatest miracle, you're giving life and pointing to the life of God in Christ. You become a demonstration of 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

On the mission field:

James: Betty, you look at this long line and boy, it goes all the way back to the big four-wheel-drive truck. You started praying years ago that God would make the line to feed the children longer than the line to be fed. I think God's answered your prayer.

Betty: He has, James. At the same time, the line gets longer so we need to help our line to reach them, continue to grow and you to reach out more because I know you're blessed as you see these children being fed here. Let's don't let it stop. Let's keep soup in the barrel so they can come and line up and get fed.

End of clip**In the studio**

JAMES: You know what I believe? If you've called and got a busy, you're going to call until you get through because you're going to save lives. I believe that. You're the most wonderful people. You're going to start praying for that Promise Keepers meeting in AT&T Stadium in July. Ken, we're excited about what God's going to do. This is important.

KEN: I can't wait! Just think about the visual of this will be the first major gathering in the world since COVID hit, and it will be 80,000 men in one stadium praising the Lord. The people of the world are wondering, what happened to America? Where are the Christian men? This will be such a massive news story as they all rush in to what is going on? All these guys are getting together and they're singing and they're repenting and they're falling on their face? What is going on? And they see all these young people who are fatherless who have come in. The whole world is going to see this and go, "My goodness gracious, American men are back." I believe this is the beginning of a revival James.

JAMES: They're going to behold the glory of God not a movement but a move of God through the vessels yielded to his kingdom purpose. Really pray! You pray, you support, you be a part of it. Thank you so much. We sure do love you.