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Week 22: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

"Relying on God's Word"

BETTY: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James. I think you're really going to be especially blessed today.

JAMES: Boy, I love you. I'm going to ask you... by the way, I'm going to share with you so get something that you can at least write down these references. I'm going to share with you the verses of scripture that God literally led me, not because I'm some Bible student. When God called me to preach, he just jerked the shyest guy on the planet up and said, "You're going to preach." I'm thinking, I can't even talk to people. Humph!

Well, he got me to memorize some verses. I'm going to tell you what they are. And these verses, I didn't even realize until, I don't know, in the last years just how those verses impacted not only my ministry at the beginning but still do right now. What the Lord has impressed on me is that if I'll share those with you and you memorize them, they can have the same effect. It may be that for a while I'll just keep building on some of them. I could even, if you write questions about something you learned or you're learning or something happened inside and you wanted to tell and ask if I'd develop it more, well, we will. But I want you to write this down.

But I want to start Betty asking, just asking you a question. When I closed the message earlier in the week, I made the reference to the God of this world has blinded the eyes of the unbelieving, those that don't believe in God. So he blinds them, he deceives them, and he defeats them. And he will ultimately destroy them. But he will use them, these blind

people who are spiritually blind to reality and truth; they don't even realize what's happening. And he says the blind lead the blind into the ditch. And the ditch is defeat and debt and despair and depression and destruction, dissension, division, hatred, animosity, and crazy actions. Okay. If we see a blind person, we should have compassion on them, right?

BETTY: Right!

JAMES: We should pray the God who is able will open their eyes, but you have to ask him to. He doesn't force his ways on us. He didn't make puppets and robots. He made people with a free will to choose who they serve. So a blind person has to want to be healed and they have to turn to the one who can heal them and that's God. And in the spiritual realm, the only one who can change us from the blindness of spiritual activity is God, who is spirit and power and who wants to be our Father. So we as compassionate Christians should pray for God to heal the eyes of the blind and open them. And we're the ones, if we walk in the power of God's Spirit can help open the eyes.

Okay. So we're praying for the eyes of the blind to be opened. Would you say as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, would you say it looks like there are blind people leading this nation in many ways? And it is leading us into a ditch of defeat and division and destruction?

BETTY: Absolutely! I agree with you on that. I think also it is the enemy taking control. He wants people to be all the same. No individuality. And God created us to be different, but yet our world is becoming, well, you've got to talk like this. You've got to look like this. You've got to do this, or you've got to do that, or we'll just going to put you down. We're going to shame you. So we live in shame and we're afraid to look to the right or to the left, James.

But God created us to be different but to be one--one in his spirit. I think that's the difference that we can make. We don't go around judging people because they can't see,

like you said. Recently, a year ago, I had eye surgery. I had to look face down for two weeks. Well, I couldn't get around too easily like that.

JAMES: That was 24 hours a day, seven days a week face down.

BETTY: I needed some help getting every place I needed to get up or get around or anything. You had to wait on me. Well, if you had said, "Well, you just do it yourself. You can do it. Come on! Come on!" That would not have helped me heal in any way. It would have caused me to draw back and say, "Well, he doesn't love me. He doesn't care."

I think as Christians sometimes we turn people off from Christ, from his love and his caring and how much he loves them because of our attitudes, James--because of our judgmentalism. So I think we have to look now and say, God, change me first and then let me be a light to the person that's in that darkness.

JAMES: When you see the blind leading the blind and they're all headed into the ditch, if you have concern you should be concerned about everybody that's ending up in the ditch. And you should be praying for blind eyes to be opened but you can still show them the damage that's being done by leading people into this ditch.

But Betty, the only thing that can make the difference are the Christian people so full of the spirit, think about it. We may be persecuted, we may be stepped on. We're not to go off and live in monasteries or little spiritual camps together. That's not what we're looking for. We need be lights on the lampstand. We need to be together like a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden because that light cannot be and will not be covered. That's how we're supposed to live.

What if they did to us what they did to these New Testament Christians? What if they did throw us in prison? You know what I find myself saying? God, the book of Acts shows us people living in kingdom reality and kingdom power. And when Paul and Silas went into Philippi and they set a woman free that was demon-possessed and she was making a

lot of money for the city, and a lot of demonic activity is making money. Everything from pornography to drugs to all the things that can distract, all the rotten entertainment. Look at how ugly and awful the entertainment is when you look at the award shows. Look what it's doing to people. It's so sad.

Okay. When you see what the enemy is doing it should break our hearts and only the Lord can stop that. That's what he wants to do. In the book of Acts when they threw Paul and Silas in prison because they stopped the worldly crowd from making more money off a demon-possessed woman, they're in prison, they're in stocks. What did they do? They sang praises to God. Why? Because you can't take away somebody's freedom by just putting them in a prison cell.

Paul spent years of freedom in prison in Rome. He wrote the majority of the New Testament in the power of the spirit. So he said, "Look, I'm delivering the gospel even to those of Caesar's household. I'm winning these people."

Well, Paul and Silas in jail they started singing praises to God, "We're still free!" And all the sudden God just threw the doors open. That's what we want him to do. God, we're going to praise you no matter what the world is trying to do to us. We're going to stand against the danger of that blindness and that deception. But we're going to praise you because we're free and you can't take that away from us.

God threw the prison doors open. His jailer was so afraid he thought they were going to escape, and he'd be put to death and tortured. He took a broadsword, it wasn't a little fencing sword, he was going to kill himself. He was desperate to die and not be tortured by the government.

You know what happened? Paul said, "Don't do anything." He said, "We're free. We're not in stocks. We're free. We're right here."

He said, "What must I do to be like you?"

And they led him to Christ. And that jailer goes down Main Street taking these prisoners with him right to his house. Gets his household saved, people get saved, and Philippi became the one church that kept giving to the greatest missionary that ever lived--Paul the apostle. He said, "You alone time and again sent to my need."

Betty, that's the kind of people God's raising up out here. I mean I'm watching it and we're getting God's arms around the world. We're going to see God shake these powers if we'll just live in the fullness of his spirit.

All right. Get your pen and pad. I want you to write down the verses that I memorized when God called me to preach. You remember on all our dates, we liked to kiss. Do you remember me telling you after I got called to preach, and I'd sit close and I said, "Betty, I'm not even going to kiss you anymore." I said, "It might cause me to... You know how stuff can develop lust." And what did you say when I said, "I'm not going to kiss you"? What did you say?

BETTY: I was kind of hurt.

JAMES: You said, "Just once?" That's what you said. You remember that?

BETTY: I remember that now.

JAMES: No! You said, "Why did you do that, James?" I just didn't want anything to distract me from Jesus.

All right. Listen to the verses. On our dates I would quote these. You'd sit there and hold the Bible and I'd quote them, right?

BETTY: You did!

JAMES: And I got them down pretty well.

BETTY: We did it on every date.

JAMES: I'm telling you, if you memorize these because see, God's taking me back to it. I'm going to point some things out that he's showing me now about the revelation of the kingdom that people just didn't seem to get even when Jesus was teaching his own guys. They didn't seem to get it. Romans 12:1-2, memorize it: *I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may know what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

You know when I was reading that I thought, I think I could even memorize it. You know I've gotten a little older, I might have missed a word or two, but I want you to get that. If you present your body, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable, it's the least you can do because of all of his mercies. And you won't be shaped by the world, even the religious world, you'll be conformed by the power of God and his truth. And you'll know the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. You live in good will? Acceptable, but how about perfect? Memorize that.

This is really important. I am going to read it. I've got it memorized, I want to read it. I want to read it because I want to pause on some phrases. Philippians 2:5-11, now the first one was Romans 12:1-2, write them down. Philippians 2:5-11: *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But he made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a,* (put in all caps) *servant--took upon himself, King of kings, Lord of lords, God--God with us. Took upon himself the form of a servant.*

Who did Jesus say is greatest in the kingdom? Who, Betty, is greatest in the kingdom? Servant. You do remember that. Servant.

Have we not seen the most magnificent servants all over the world? Have we not seen them right out here who watch and see? Let us serve by helping them do what God has called them to do. That's kingdom life.

And he was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name; that of the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Someday every tongue will. Someday every knee will bow. You can determine to let your knee bow now and confess him as Lord of lords and King of kings. And then if you want to be the greatest in this kingdom, the kingdom has come and the king is in us, you become a servant. Greatest in the kingdom is servant.

I'm 77 years old. Jesus made another profound statement that becomes even bigger to me even as I get older, "The little children suffer them to come to me. Don't send them away. I want to hold them." He made another statement concerning children, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

I'm 77. Betty, I believe I have a more childlike, I have a lot of convictions, a lot of strength, a lot of boldness, a lot of courage, deep convictions; I believe I'm more teachable than I've been. Would you agree?

BETTY: I do.

JAMES: Do you feel like you're becoming more teachable?

BETTY: I hope so. I really do.

JAMES: Did you have a problem with having a teachable spirit?

BETTY: I kind of did. You had to help me with that a little bit.

JAMES: But didn't one of our children even said, "Maybe God is trying to teach you something, Mom." Because they'd heard you say you sometimes are unteachable. When they see that pretty smile, they don't think you've ever been unteachable. But you can be pretty tough.

BETTY: I can be pretty stubborn.

JAMES: Here's the deal. If we'll all become like a child and be teachable. Let me give you another passage. Write it down. Look here to see how much time I've got. Okay, we've got to go quick. First Corinthians 2:1-5. Boy, this is important! *And I brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified.* That your faith would not stand in the wisdom of men, *but in the power of God.*

Betty, we watched entire high schools get saved. Do you realize, Mike Huckabee has told people about this so many times. He saw it. We had so many people saved in one city in Tennessee that the football team that were state champions, they didn't want to go to the game on Friday night. The cheerleaders didn't go. The band didn't go. And it was a home game. The band and the cheerleaders came to the revival.

I had already told the football players, "Go to the game!" I made the cheerleaders get up out of the crowd and go to the game. I said, "Go get your cheerleading outfit on. You may get there late but go to the game." I made all the band members get up and leave. You say, "James! How in the world could that happen?"

The faith that came to those kids was so transforming and so powerful that they counted everything but loss for the surpassing value of knowing him. And the birth of the spirit in them was so great it overwhelmed them. Nothing else seemed to matter. I told them it does matter to take those responsibilities at the school. When your faith stands not in the wisdom of man but the power of God everything changes.

We've watched so many things happen. We've watched entire cities change, schools change. Listen to this. Very important. Boy, this is a biggie! *And you shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up take no thought of what you'll speak for it will be given you in that same hour, you'll know what you speak. For it will not be you that speaks but the spirit of the Father which speaks in you.*

I can tell you things God told me to speak to leaders that became nation-changing, literally. That's not an exaggeration. That's not some vain boasting. What they heard was so from God that it changed everything. And when they said it, it impacted a nation. I've watched that.

God will tell you how to witness to people. God will tell you how to approach them. You may be caught in difficult situations but when you walk in the fullness of the spirit, he'll tell you what to say.

Second Corinthians 8:9, *You know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor that you through his poverty might be rich.*

That's the verse I sign if I sign a Bible, Second Corinthians 8:9.

Here's the last one. Philippians 3:8-14: *Doubtless I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but dung, rubbish, that I may win Christ. And be found in him not having my own righteousness which is of the law but that which is the faith of Christ,*

the righteousness of which is of God by faith. That I may know him--this is the reason I'm doing it--that I may know him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings. I will weep when he weeps. I will weep over what he weeps over. I'll flow with compassion. "Oh that my head, my eyes a fountain of tears," Jeremiah said, "that I could weep day and night for the people that are suffering."

And then: If by any means I can attain the resurrection of the dead. That's in life now, not just in the final time. Not as though I had already attained it, either were already perfect but I follow after it that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not count myself as having apprehended it but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, I reach forth unto the things which are before me. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus.

Next year I will have been preaching 60 years. I'm still pressing toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Betty, for us, I believe right now is to live in the power and reality of his kingdom. When we lose our life in his kingdom purpose, we find it.

Father, I pray those who listen today will take the time to meditate on these verses. And I pray that your word will have a transforming effect on them as it not only did on me as a teenager but as it continues to. And let us all discover the joy of being kingdom servants, in Jesus' name.

We love you. I hope you enjoy these times together. And if you'll meditate on these scriptures, I think God is going to do some deep work in your life. And as a result of these he'll do a deep work in the lives of others.

Betty, we're going to let our viewers listen to Peter Pretorius's son, Isak right now. Isak is going to be talking to you about horrible floods in South Sudan. It is so dangerous and so deadly in Sudan many mission groups will not stay. Our missionaries do. They risk their lives to save lives and you keep them there. We need to rebuild some clinics. This is the

last point at which life can be saved. The floods destroyed them.

We need a miracle--two miracles. We need to feed 350,000 kids for the next months: \$30, \$50, \$100 feeds three, five or ten children for the next months. But we need to rebuild 16 of these emergency clinics. I'm asking you to be a part of that miracle. Nearly \$400,000; \$24,000 each. I'm asking you please, could you give \$1,000? It would be wonderful if 400 of you would: \$1,000. Perhaps you can build a clinic, \$24,000 plus.

Father, just lead your people.

Listen to this wonderful missionary. But hear God please and do what he says.

On the mission field:

ISAK: In South Sudan, we're experiencing levels of need that are not just at crisis levels, they're the worst that we've ever experienced. Some of that is being caused by the worst flooding in recorded history to hit that nation. Close to a million people that were permanently displaced, lost absolutely everything. Our programs have been directly impacted. Our malnutrition clinics, 16 of them totally destroyed.

ANNOUNCER: Over the past several years, *LIFE's* missionary partners have established numerous small malnutrition clinics strategically located in the most rural areas of South Sudan. These clinics serve as a last haven of hope for thousands of families who are unable to travel longer distances to a clinic in the city. As the record-breaking floods subside at the destroyed clinics the missionary staff continue to try and help as many malnourished children as possible. But the resulting food crisis is creating an even greater need for these rural malnutrition clinics to be rebuilt.

ISAK: We have to continue to reach out to the communities in South Sudan that have been so desperately impacted. We have to be able to continue the malnutrition response as part of the mission feeding programs. It is the most critical component of our mission

feeding programs. Those malnutrition clinics, that malnutrition response is literally the barrier that stands at death's door and saves those children's lives. But we cannot continue those programs without you. That is why I'm asking you today please, dip deep inside your heart and give the very best gift that you can give. You will enable us to rebuild those clinics and to save those lives. We cannot do it without you.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Well, I just thank you for, I thank you for the fact that you're still watching because Betty, anybody watching now has got to have the love of God in their heart enough to say, "I care about my neighbor."

We need a miracle; 16 malnutrition clinics, many of them mobile, and all you can see is scraps of parts of them. Some of them are full buildings. But wherever they've been destroyed, most of them in southern Sudan, but others in other places because of tragedies so we've got right at a \$400,000 need. So I've said God, there are 400 people watching today who could possibly give \$1,000. Please touch their heart and make them joyfully able to give it; cheerful in it. Could you give \$1,000? Is it possible you could give a clinic? You've been so blessed by God, trusted by God and where your heart is, that's where you put your treasure. So what you're overseeing, would you put it in building a clinic, an entire \$24,000 plus? Would you do it?

And then Betty, if everybody watching will just take the simple math, \$30, \$50, \$100 for the next months, we're able to feed three, five or ten children. The fact that it has remained that over these years is a miracle, Betty. And what you prayed, about going back toward 30 years ago, "God please let the line to feed these children be longer than the line to be fed." Okay. Could you give \$100 and feed ten, \$50 and feed five, \$30 and feed three? Please do it right now. Go online or dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check. Thank you so much for doing it. If you mail it in, call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. Thank you for doing that.

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:

JAMES: Father, I feel like your family is going to help. I've got a smile on my face

because you know we've been through this pandemic, it's not over. We're still in a battle. Always going to have an enemy assault. "It is Well" Quiet Time Bundle; "It is well with my soul." And here are the hymns. And boy, they asked us, okay, here are the hymns we think everybody just loves. They're really comforting." They said, "We like it. We give you a thumbs up. Go for it." So here is the beautiful CD and the "It is Well" Bundle. It will bless you, and those little devotional thoughts.

Thanks so much for making it better for somebody else. Thank you so much for watching *LIFE Today* and sharing *LIFE Today*.