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Week 24: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Tony Evans

JAMES: I want you to know that I'm always thrilled to invite you into the family room to hear the Father's heart, not this father's heart, you'll hear it too, but the Father's heart. This is a very exciting day.

I'm James Robison. Betty, my wife of 58 years, you've been pretty tough. Everybody knows, boy, that is a tough lady. We are thrilled to be joined by you. But we're also thrilled to be joined by one of the people that I hold in the highest possible esteem. There is nobody I respect anymore -- period! There is not anyone that I think has more to offer than this man. And I'm talking about Tony Evans, Dr. Tony Evans.

This man understands something. He keeps writing about this. I thought, okay, so you talk about kingdom. You talk about the kingdom of God. You talk about kingdom people, kingdom men and then you just keep coming out with another book about the kingdom. I'm saying, this is amazing. I'm thinking, what's going on?

You want me to tell you what's going on with Tony Evans? He's been captured by the kingdom, the reality of the kingdom. The king has come! There's a kingdom that we're going to be in but there's a kingdom that's here because the king is here. Tony Evans is here. If this studio was able to have the audience, and we will maybe again soon, we don't have to because we've got him here, the King of kings, we've got you. But I promise you, people would be standing and cheering. Tony Evans, do you understand that I love you with all my heart?

TONY: It's good to be loved. Thank you. [Laughing]

JAMES: Do you know that I am convinced that you've been captured by the reality of the kingdom. It's not like something distant but it is a reality right now. Do you actually believe God's will could be done on earth according to the Father's will? Do you even think that's a possibility that Jesus told us to pray in the model prayer? Do you believe really believe it is possible?

TONY: I believe it is incumbent upon us to make that our central message. In fact I believe the unifying theme of the Bible is the glory of God through the advancement of his kingdom. If you take out kingdom then the Bible can't be stitched together as a whole. It will be picked; you'll pick and choose pieces that you like or don't like because you don't see the overarching umbrella framework that God is seeking to do in history, which is to reflect heaven on earth and eternity in time.

JAMES: Wow! Can I ask you this question? *Kingdom Men Rising*, why not *Kingdom People Rising*? You've got to be careful with these gender terms. We're really living in a... I don't want you totally canceled off the earth. It ain't going to happen. But why men?

TONY: God did not create Adam and Eve at the same time. He created Adam first, gave Adam his responsibility, gave Adam his word because God holds men responsible first. When men abandon their lead responsibility, women are critical, they're essential. He uses "ezer kenegdo." She is an essential collaborator. But when mankind fell God didn't come and say, "Adam and Eve, where are y'all?" He said, "Adam, where are you?" The Bible says, "In Adam all died" not "In Adam and Eve all die." When God did the covenant he said, "I'm the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" not "Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel." In other words, he would hold men ultimately responsible.

In Exodus chapter 34, verses 23 and 24, God called all the males, he left all the women home, and he said, "If I can get you men to listen to me, I will send you back and I'll save your nation." So he holds men ultimately responsible. So when men fail it is like the foundation of the house failing. The other parts are critical but the stability of the other

parts are dependent upon the solid foundation. The foundation don't have to be pretty but they better be strong.

So God is calling men to be strong so that everything else, family, churches and culture can be built on their strength. Because if not, then we're calling on women to be women and men and God is not calling on them to be both. He's calling on us to be men. When men fail the Bible says in Isaiah chapter three, "When men fail," it says, "the children rebel, the women take over," and it says, "the men become weak." So the Bible holds men ultimately responsible.

JAMES: How do you feel about this? You're the opposite of men, very much so.

BETTY: I wholeheartedly believe with what you're saying because I love this man. I am so glad he is the one that is in charge of helping build the foundation of our relationship in our home and I respect that. I don't feel any less important to God. I feel like I have my part. God created me to be a helpmeet to him. So therefore if he is doing and following God as he should that's going to help me to do and follow God like I should.

JAMES: Don't you think that's what all women really want?

BETTY: I really believe they desire that.

JAMES: They don't want to be married to a boss or a pawn. They want to be treated like a queen by somebody that's a king that doesn't lord over them but leads righteously. Does that make sense to you?

BETTY: Absolutely!

JAMES: Does that make sense to you, pastor?

TONY: Absolutely. The man should be setting the pace that the family can follow

because as Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ" that his submission to Christ should be the model for the submission in the home. He can't say, "Y'all submit to me while I submit to nobody." He's got to be modeling the same submission that he's asking for, expecting and demanding, and wanting. So when we fail there, modeling it, then we get the rebellion that we don't want and fight against.

JAMES: Tell me some of the high points that you just hope jump really out and grab people's hearts in the book? Any of those that come immediately, as with the first chapter, talking about the challenges we face? Is anything you just wish that men would get today and wives would get, and women who care about men doing what's best? Anything you just want to kind of emphasize to give us an illustration of what needs to grab the hearts and minds of men?

TONY: Well, the first thing men need to understand is that the culture can no longer define us. The culture has taken us in two different directions. Both are wrong. Turned us into passive leaders so that like Adam we're sitting there listening to the devil talk to our mates while we keep quiet. So that's passive leadership.

Then there's the other side where there is this dominating, oppressive definition of manhood. Both are non-biblical extremes that the culture gets us wrapped up in because we lose a kingdom mind-set. And a kingdom mind-set, and a kingdom man is defined as a male who comes under divine accountability and responsibility. So I'm trying to get people to think kingdom in defining their manhood and their maleness, and not culture.

So that's the challenge we face. We face the challenge of rejecting the culture and submitting ourselves to a biblical worldview because everything else is dependent upon it. So that's the whole first section trying to get men to think like that.

JAMES: You have written a lot of best-selling books, and great books, an entire commentary, as a matter of fact. And you've written extensively now for quite a while on the kingdom. This one right now, I think it is interesting that *Kingdom Men Rising* comes

right ahead of the meeting that we're participating in and really helping every way we can; not the resurrection of Promise Keepers, but maybe a rebirth of men becoming Promise Keepers and following the promise giver who always keeps the promise and wants to direct us. We want to see AT&T Stadium filled. Now we're told we can have up to 80,000 if they'll leave it where it is. Wouldn't it be something if 80,000 men, or even 50,000, however many are allowed to come and come, if those men will become kingdom men and walk out of AT&T Stadium to make a kingdom of God impact on his planet? Wouldn't that be something? Couldn't that help let's say lead to a great spiritual awakening that we need?

TONY: I think our nation is waiting on it, they just don't know it. God has set it up. God has a covenantal order. He even operates within himself that way. Jesus is equal... Jesus the son is equal to God the Father but when it came to function he said, "I have come to do the Father's will." So he submitted his human manhood to his spiritual oversight. So all God has done is he has transferred that covenantal order into the culture.

So when we flip that order then we're operating out of order. And when you operate out of order you've excluded God from the environment. All of these divisions, the racial, the cultural, the social, the police and community divisions is because God does not have enough kingdom-minded men who come together around divine authority to set a divine blueprint in the culture for the culture to react to rather than letting the culture divide us. So the culture is waiting on us and so is the kingdom of God.

JAMES: And we've got men in leadership roles in the culture that don't know anything about leading properly, leading with wisdom. We've got lots of ministers, preachers and pastors who are not kingdom-minded people. They tend, it seems to me, and this is true of business people, it's true of a political person, it is basically any individual, they begin to build their kingdom. They focus on their kingdom rather than his kingdom.

Why is it that you wrote this book at this moment? When you've written so much about the kingdom, Tony, even when I glanced through and I just look at the chapter titles I'm

thinking, wow! Wow! Wow! Have you got a fresh insight? Or has he told you that you need to get this message out at this particular moment in the life of this nation and on planet earth?

TONY: Well, yeah. This started, really, ten years ago when I wrote *Kingdom Man* and it was such a big response to that. And as I studied more bouncing off of that book it occurred to me, as I've been watching cultural demise and chaos, that men have not stepped up to the plate at the level that God has called us to do so. And that's showing up in our family and what's happening with our children and what's happening in the culture, and the weakness of the church, even.

So when I saw that men individually were responding to *Kingdom Man* but we were not yet having the cultural presence that we needed I wanted to go one step further. So that's why the whole third section talks about influencing the next generation. See God is a generational God. He doesn't just want me to be a kingdom man, he wants me to influence and raise kingdom men. The Bible says about Abraham, at the end the Chapter 17 of Genesis, it says he had all the men, including his son, circumcised who worked for him. So he didn't just affect his own son, he brought all the men in his employment under his kingdom influence and authority.

So we need men not only to be kingdom men and to raise kingdom boys but to be kingdom influences to every other male in this sphere of influence. When you get that kind of transference taking place on a massive level, you've got cultural engagement that addresses the chaos that we're dealing with today.

JAMES: Don't you think the stage is set for the greatest kingdom impact in history?

TONY: Absolutely. Because God has allowed in this chaos for things to get so bad that only a return to him can fix it and he is waiting on men to lead the way.

JAMES: And we can see clearly how ugly and how destructive the deception of the

enemy is. You can't deny it, it's there. It's visible. It's ugly. It's dangerous. It destroys everything meaningful to life. It's destroying the very essence of life and will destroy life itself.

TONY: Absolutely! And when we have this view of life that says God owns life from womb to tomb, he owns the dignity of life in-between, and we address not only righteousness issues but justice issues, and we pull all of that together under a kingdom umbrella. Psalm 89:14 says, "From God's kingdom throne comes righteousness and justice." Psalm 25 says, "If God can get men to operate under his covenantal regime, he will show them what to do next."

So God is waiting to tell men how to roll and he is ready to roll with us. And we'll roll with him because he will not adjust his agenda to us. He demands we adjust our agenda to him.

BETTY: I would think this message that you're sharing with us would be very exciting for women. Because if men would take the place that God put them there for and stand on that, then women can be who God created them for.

TONY: Women will flourish under a kingdom man. My son Jonathan, his wife Kanika told me... I said, "How do you liken this world being a female?" Her response to me was, "Well, when you have a husband who will own the responsibility, I can be the best kind of female." That made me feel real good when she said that about my son. Because a woman will flourish in a relationship with that kind of man because she knows she's loved, cared for, protected and her gifts and skills will be embellished and enhanced and appreciated and valued. And there you've got a package that's unstoppable in the home and that can just roll out to the family and you get enough families doing that, now the community has to look up and respond.

JAMES: You know I'm going to look out here because I know Tony's family is watching to see how dad's doing. Dad's doing like he always does, he's doing great -- but you do

too. And you're the most beautiful children of a pastor I've ever seen. You're kingdom people and I just want to thank you for yielding your life to the King of kings.

Tony, I believe that every woman watching probably wouldn't be making a mistake if she started praying for that gathering of men in AT&T Stadium. You remember Dallas Cowboys used to have a football team? [Laughter]

TONY: Many years ago! When I was a chaplain. That's when they had a football team, when I was the chaplain.

JAMES: Exactly! But one of the great three ring champions, Chad Hennings is one of our best buddies. And boy, he is one of the leaders of Promise Keepers. And we'll be there. Jonathan is going to preach. You're going to receive an award of gratitude from all of us who love the kingdom and love what you've shown us. Would you agree that would be a wise thing for the women to do right now, start praying for that?

TONY: Yes, here's why. Ezra chapter 10 verse four, God says to the men, "Arise. It is your responsibility." He says, "Take courage and act and we will be with you." So we need an environment where men know other men are with them. And you're not in this alone because we're going to create an army. You know, Ezekiel 37, the dry bones? It says they became a great army. But women were not allowed in Israel to fight in the army. So the focus is on men. So if you want to become, if you want to change the culture he says "become a great army" because the women are going to be covered if the men become a great army.

JAMES: He's really throwing out a lot of truth that can change Washington! Did you know that? Did you know that God makes everything better because he loves us so perfectly, so unconditionally, so redemptively? I mean it is amazing. A lot of people have lost loved ones, a lot of people have been through pain in the pandemic. You've lost some of your family. You lost your wife. What's it like to have to step up and be a kingdom man when you said good-bye to the greatest part of your life apart from God? How did

you do it?

TONY: Wow! I talk about that in the first chapter of the book, *Kingdom Men Rising* where she died on December 30th, 2019, and December 31st was our New Year's Eve service. She would always be at the New Years' service. So I had to make a decision in 24 hours, do I not go? Do I turn it over to somebody else? And I knew that she would be there.

She told me before she died, "Don't ever let the Word of God be lost in light of all this we're going through." And remembering that, I put my feet on the floor. In weakness, stood up and stood up before our congregation. My message was "Life is a Vapor" from James four. I was feeling that vapor. And yet God has called us to put our feet on the floor and keep his kingdom moving forward.

So that was a tough thing to do but I had to act on what I believe is true, what I've said is true and I wanted people to see it's true. So it was hard, one month before that, I'd lost my father, a couple of months before that, I lost my sister, my sister's husband, brother, and I know you had Jonathan Pitts on, my niece. So it's been so much loss. But at the same time, God gave me strength and continues to give me strength even with the heartbreak and loss to say his kingdom moves forward, even when Jesus is still king, heaven is still real, and there is ministry still to be done so let's keep going.

JAMES: I want you just to pray. Put your hand over here with me, Tony.

Father, I'm right here with my brother. I love this man so much. We have such a love for you, for our neighbors, for one another. And we want to get our arms around the people you gave your son to redeem. We want you to heal our minds, our hearts, and we want you to heal our land. We want you to heal the brokenhearted that have lost loved ones. You're the only one who can accomplish in them what we're witnessing in the life of Tony right now and in his beautiful family. God, we want you to get your arms around everyone and raise us up as your family to reveal you as the perfect Father, in Jesus'

name.

Tony, I want to just talk to the audience here very directly. We are the children of the perfect Father. In many ways, Tony, we've got a fatherless nation, don't we? We have a lot of fatherless families. Even if the father is there oftentimes, he is dysfunctional or he's totally missing. Don't you believe, this is what I want to say to you, if those of us who know the Father, I mean would really commit to his kingdom purpose, I believe if the family of the perfect Father would show them what that family looks like, I think the fatherless would run to that father. Do you agree?

TONY: Absolutely.

JAMES: That is kingdom impact. I want you to pray for that. The book is available. I will simply tell you this. A woman would be wise to give this to the man you love, to the man you hope you'd be able to love forever. Get it to men.

But I'm going to send it to every one of you. I'm going to send it to you as a gift. Tony, we've been putting God's arms of love around the overlooked and the least of these for a long time. You know it. We've joined with you to do that. I want to ask you to help us feed right now 350,000 beautiful children, and God, I think they're beautiful. I think they're so precious. I know you do too.

Listen to this. This is the last week that we're asking you to help us with this mission feeding emphasis; 350,000 children that we've found. Likely when the people find out the feeding is there, more will come. I want us to be able to meet any need, I don't care how great it is. Would you help us? You do, you listen to God, you see the need, you help us meet it, I'm going to send you some gifts, plus this book if you want it because I promise you, and it's going to bless you. I want you to watch closely but then I want you to become a kingdom impact person.

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 a 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: I wish you could know what's going on in my heart, and I think surely in Betty's, when I look at those children, I love them all. I want to get God's arms around every one of them. I remember when we first went 30 years ago, Betty we saw these precious little children. And I held some of them as they were breathing their last breath. I held others that looked like they were too weak to walk. And we just began to love them.

And think about this, I stood in a graveyard where thousands of little children were buried, many of the little graves were just tiny and they were digging 10 and 20 of them a

day! And Betty, we shared it with you, the viewers of *LIFE Today*. I didn't know if you'd help. Betty, we stopped the death cycle in so many areas. Did you know that we are absolutely certain that you've helped us save the lives of 17 million little children like you just saw? Did you hear what I said? One at a time -- 17 million! Many of them now are leaders. Many of them are teachers. Many of them are in law enforcement. Their whole life changed because you noticed the least of these, the too often overlooked. And you became their miracle.

I want to ask you right now, would you go get a bankcard? Or get a check? If you want to make it to -- listen to me -- make it to *LIFE* because that's exactly what you're giving. That's what you're giving. Use your bankcard like a check, that's how you should always use a bankcard, like a check. But I want you to dial that number that's always a prayer line for you. Or go online and you make the gift God's puts on your heart.

This is the last week. We need a miracle; \$30, \$50, \$100 feeds three, five or ten children. If you could give \$1,000 and feed 100 children do it. We're also restoring the malnutrition clinics and those are \$24,500 apiece.

Father, we need some miracles. There could be 24 people right now who would give \$1,000. Maybe somebody could do it, I don't know what they can do. You know what they can do. You move them by your spirit, in Jesus' name.

Would you right now make the gift God put on your heart? Remember, the \$30, \$50, \$100 is not total childcare. It is nourishment and it saves lives. This is the last week in this emphasis. We need to hear from every one of you.

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."

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

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Well, we've shared with you that we've got special gifts for you. We always do. We never give you a gift to try to get something from you. You give to give life and love. We give to you because we love you and we want to bless you.

I guarantee you this, and I'm going to say it with absolutely no exaggeration at all, if we get what's in this book and it gets in our heart it changes the world. Tony Evans, thank you for being here. You help us with those children, you want this book too for

somebody, for yourself, by the way, women can read this book and get it. It would probably be better than if the men would. You probably have to teach it to them. Okay? Tony, thank you for being with us.

TONY: Thank you.

JAMES: Bless Urban Renewal. We'll always be standing with you. We'll always be supporting you and you know it.

TONY: Thank you for your friendship. We value it. Thank you.

JAMES: Thank you, Tony. God bless y'all. Thanks for your love shared.