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Week 28: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Louie Giglio

JAMES: Louie Giglio, I wish you were right here. The studio would be full. Everybody would be clapping. I just can't tell you how much Betty and I love you. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Thank you for the Passion Conferences. Thank you for the passion and love of God that is really dominant in your life. I want you to know we love you, Louie!

LOUIE: Hey, I wish I were sitting there with you as well. I love you guys so much. I consider myself a part of the *LIFE Today* family. I love being in the studio. I also love getting to have dinner with you before every show that we do. That's one of the highlights of my time there.

It's great to see you. You look amazing as always. It's good to see that God is taking care of you and bringing you through this crazy time. Thank you for everything you do to change the lives of people around the world. I love your heart for people. I love you. So it's great being with you today.

JAMES: Well, thank you, Louie, it's good to be with you. *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table*, I've got to be honest with you. I like this:

"It's Time to Win the Battle of Your Mind." I think the enemy has a seat at too many tables. And I think those tables go everywhere from the highest places of authority right down to the local family and community, subdivision, or wherever you live.

Boy, he just really doesn't need a seat at the table. Sometimes it looks like we've left the King of kings and Lord of lords without a seat at the table. We've got all this confusion. What inspired you to write this? Because I can tell... I can just tell in the book there is a lot of zeal in here.

LOUIE: Well, A, just so people don't freak out. We're not talking about my enemy that Jesus said, "Love your enemy." We're talking about "the enemy." We're talking about "the adversary." We're talking about the one that the scripture says, "Prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour."

I hate to say it, but I've been honest on your show every time I've been there. I've come through a hard season of life; some things were said and done that maybe weren't fair. This was a decade ago. A month went by, two months went by, and something happened that vindicated me. It was a small private thing, and we have a tendency to want to commiserate in moments like that, so I reached out to a friend who had walked through the whole thing with me. Sent him a text and said, "You're not going to believe what happened today!

Just give things time, and the truth will always come to the surface." And I really just wanted commiseration, but I got a short text back. In fact, it was nine words long.

And I was like, surely that is not the whole text. You're going to send me another one and say, "I hit SEND too fast." But I looked down at the text, guys, and it said, "Don't give the enemy a seat at your table." And I was standing in my driveway. I can remember it like it was two seconds ago. That phrase arrested me. I realized that through this whole process, I had let the enemy, the adversary pull up a seat at the table that my Shepherd has prepared for me. In the presence of any circumstance, in any situation where he has promised me himself, he has promised me that we're going to make it together. And I'd let the enemy just pull up a chair at my table, and I was having, in my mind, a conversation with a killer.

And right in that moment, I knew I'm going to take back my table, in Jesus' name. I'm going to take back my mind, my thoughts, and my thinking, in Jesus' name! And that text led me to the text Psalm 23. That text came to life for me in a brand-new way: The Lord prepares a table for me in the presence of my enemies. All of a sudden, this idea sprung up from a talk which I gave around a table with a few seats. The talk has now traveled around the world, and I saw the way it impacted people, the way that little phrase has impacted people. Fortunately, we've now got it in a book so more people can take back control of their thinking and can get back into the place where God wants them to be.

BETTY: Louie, do you think that sometimes we're unaware when we allow the enemy to come into our situations or our life existence? Or are we always thinking, well, that was just a moment? But we kind of...

LOUIE: I think most times we're unaware of it because he never walks up to the table and says, "Hey, I'm here to steal everything you've got. I'm here to destroy everything that God has dreamed about for your life."

He comes up, and he just picks up a cup of coffee and says, "How ya doing?"

How are things at home? You know, I don't know how you hung in there all this time. I don't think I would have made it if I were you. How are things at work?

Your boss is a jerk. I don't know how you stay at the company."

And he starts down that road that we all want someone to come alongside us in, give us that commiseration, and he starts by just prodding. And you know, he only needs a little bitty sliver to get in there, to get between a marriage or between two business partners or to get into our own thinking. He just needs a little crack or a little crevice to get in. But boy, once he gets in, and we start partnering with him in those thoughts, and we dwell on those thoughts, then all of a sudden, there is a foothold and a root. When that root takes part in our thinking and in our minds, all of the sudden, the dominoes start rolling, and sooner or later, there will be action out there. Because all of our thoughts ultimately lead to some kind of action in our world.

JAMES: I want to ask you because that's just so keen. He comes at you when he gets in place. The Bible talks about the fiery darts of the enemy. He is not running around with a dart gun or an arrow gun or blowing darts. He is firing suggestions and accusations, and he gives you justification for the anger or the bitterness, or the unforgiveness. He'll just make you realize that they are really worse than you even think they are. And they deserve worse than me, but you can dump some worse on them, and he'll give you some suggestions on how you can dump worse on them. Isn't that the way he comes at you?

So when he gets to the table, these are the darts that he is firing:

Suggestions. He'll show you how to manipulate people, how to use people, take advantage of people. Does that sound like the enemy at the table that doesn't belong there?

LOUIE: He's going to get there, and we talk about some major ways that you can know the enemy is at your table. We talk about a few suggestions. For example, if you recently heard that it's better at another table than the table that the Lord has prepared for you, you know the enemy is at your table.

If he is saying, "Hey! You could just get out of this relationship. Get away from your family. Go to a new city. Start a new life. That's where it is going to be great for you," the enemy is at your table.

If you're hearing things like, "You're not going to make it. I don't think you're going to make it this time." And then we start repeating what he is telling us. So if someone comes to you and says, "How are you doing?" And you go, "I don't know. I don't know if I'm going to make it." Well, where did I get that idea? "I don't know if I'm going to make it." I didn't get it from my Shepherd, who is sitting at the table with me because he just told me even if we go through the valley of the shadow of death, we're going to make it.

He is with me. So if I'm saying to you, "I don't think I'm going to make it through this season" or "I don't know if I'm going to recover from this situation. I don't know if I'm ever going to be normal again," I didn't hear that from the Shepherd; I heard that from the enemy. If he says you're surrounded, and there is no way out, that did not come from your Shepherd. If he says, "Oh, everybody is against you. Watch your back." That did not come from your Shepherd.

So these are the big lies that we grab on to. I think the biggest one of all is he's at our table, and he is saying to people, "You're not enough. You're not good enough. You're not smart enough. You didn't come from the right family. You don't have the right background. You are not enough." And there are so many people, even in the church, and they're coming into worship every single time we gather. They're already feeling less than when the King has invited them to sit down and dine with him. That's how much value we have that our Shepherd would lay down his life for us.

So this table he's prepared, this reservation that he booked was expensive.

And it is because he values us and loves us and wants to have a relationship with every one of us.

JAMES: And he'll lead us in green pastures, not barren deserts. He loves to take care of us. He loves for our cup to run over with goodness and mercy that follows us forever. He'll anoint our head with the same anointing that's on him. He'll put his blessings all over us when the enemies are all around us, accusing us if we could just grasp it.

I want to read just several of the chapter titles. Now you make it very clear that the 23rd Psalm, which for the last three years I've been preaching all over this. I mean, you can just break this thing down and preach on it a year. As a matter of fact, what you've just started, you may be preaching the rest of your life. You may be just come right back up to 23 and stay there.

Let me read these chapter titles, and if you want to jump on one of them, that just kind of jumps out while I'm reading them and say, let me expound on that just a little bit or expand: "Deadly Lies Exposed." So you probably can list some of those. "The Spiral of Sin." "Freedom Revolution." "Take Every Thought Captive." "Grace That Silences Shame." Boy, the enemy is putting shame on people and shame on the church, but we put more shame on people who are already ashamed and shamed. That is a big non-grace factor and practice. Wow! I have an idea you're going to really let's just say you're going to show people that grace can silence that nonsense. Then you say: "Staggered by the Mountain." And then "The Garden of Your Mind."

Take off on any of those you'd like to for the little time we've got here.

LOUIE: Well, I think the idea of taking every thought captive is the heart of this message. That's Paul encouraging us and encouraging the church in Corinth. What happens in our lives is that thousands of thoughts come through our minds every day. We don't know where they come from, how they get in there. But all kinds of thoughts, suggestions, ideas float into our minds. I think once they're there, a lot of times we just accept them and say, well, I'm going to think about that because it's in my mind now.

What God says is no. You're the steward of your mind. So when the thought comes in, you have to do a few things. Number one, you have to examine that thought and question that thought. We have to take that authority in Christ and say, where did that thought come from? Does it match

God's character? Does it match God's word? Does it match God's will and God's way? Does it mirror the example of the person who Jesus is?

If it doesn't, if it fails the test, that thought right there, that thought does not look like, sound like my King. It does not match up to God's word, so I now have to bind that thought. Take it captive, in Jesus' name. And one of the two things is going to be bound. Either that thought is going to bind me, or I'm going to bind that thought.

And people need to take responsibility for their own thinking. We have to know that, in Christ, we have the power and authority, in Jesus' name, as sons and daughters of the King to say no! The thought got in my mind, but it is not going to stay in my mind. And the way it is not going to stay in my mind is not by saying, oh, I'm not going to think about that. I'm just not going to think about that. I'm not going to think about it. No, I'm going to replace it.

Paul said, "Whatever things are lovely, whatever things are pure, whatever things are true, whatever things are praiseworthy, whatever things are of good report, think about those things."

So here's an example. A thought comes into my mind. I don't know if I'm going to make it through the day. I just got a phone call. We got a diagnosis. There is a circumstance, a situation, and I don't know if we're going to make it through this. Now I've got to look at that thought and let that thought bind me, so all day I'm worrying, I'm fretting, I'm afraid, I'm scared. I don't know how things are going to work out. I don't know if we're going to make it through this. Instead of going, no! I need a new thought. I'm going to get a new thought.

So I write down the old thought, I don't know if I'm going to make it, and then I say, scratch it out. Literally, with a pencil in my journal, and I write a new thought above it. And my new thought is: I have made it through every single day by the grace of God. Therefore, I have something new to think about today. You know what it is? I'm going to make it today. And the fact that I'm here right now is proof that God has brought me through every single day.

So I'm binding "I'm not going to make it," and I'm planting, "No!"

I am going to make it." That's my new thought. I'm focusing on my new thought. And now that new thought is bringing peace to my heart, it is calming my soul, giving confidence in my King, and allowing me to take control of my mind.

JAMES: And I have a shepherd who is the Lord who will walk with me through every valley including the darkest valley, the valley of death, even a loved one, a family member, a spouse, or a child--he will walk with us. You either take the thought captive, or the thought will take us captive. I know you make it very, very clear.

Any other of these you'd like to comment on? We've got maybe about five minutes left. Is there another one you want to take off on?

LOUIE: Well, I think I like the one, somebody says, what is that chapter, "Staggered by the mountain"? I thought this was a book about taking control of your thoughts, and now it sounds like we're out on an adventure somewhere in the Swiss Alps. The chapter is an invitation for us to get to know the Shepherd sitting at the table. Because peace comes to our heart, not by a technique, some leadership technique, or a mind-control technique. The peace comes that you're talking about of knowing who's at the table. I've given this message a lot of times, and I've put a bounty on the table so that people can see our God is the God of abundance, number one. And I think when we think the world is against us, or people are against us, everything is against our cause we want to have a scarcity mentality. Like I've got to hold on to what I have.

But this table that we're at with the Shepherd? It's laden with good things. Everything we need. So that we can realize my cup is overflowing. And even in the presence of my enemies, that guy at work that is maybe against me, I can just say to him, I'm going to be for you. I'm going to be kind to you and generous to you and overflowing to you. Why?

Because I'm sitting at the table with a God who has got an endless supply, an endless supply of love, strength, mercy, resource, whatever I need.

And so I'm inviting people in this book not just to do some things to clean and declutter thinking, I'm inviting them to get to know God himself. To get to know the character and the person of God because when you know who is at your table, you are not concerned about any enemy that is surrounding you, any situation.

It is Elisha all over again. He said, "I'm going to pray for this servant because all he can see is the Aramean army that's surrounding us. His eyes need to be opened to see that God's got everybody surrounded. He's got the whole town surrounded. He is sitting on a throne above all thrones. There are chariots of fire on the hill, for crying out loud. There are angel armies everywhere on our behalf to do what God has called us to do.

So I'm inviting people, come up to the mountain of God. Come to know God so that you'll know I'm sitting with a King. And that King is able, more than able, to do immeasurably more than I could ask or think or imagine so that he'll ultimately get the glory. And that's why the table is in the presence of the enemies so they can see the look on my face while I'm sitting with the King, and they can know, man, whatever that guy has got, that's what I want.

JAMES: You know what I'm thinking. Lord, I'm thinking he needs to get the Passion Conference back up because he is full. I really want you to let that go. I want everybody to get this book. As a matter of fact, I'm going to tell you, we'll send it to you because we want to bless you. Any chance Passion Conferences come back up within the next six months to a year?

LOUIE: Yes, I believe so. We started 2020 and probably did the last Christian stadium event on planet earth on New Year's Eve. COVID shut us down. Listen to this, guys. We did an online gathering last New Year's Eve. One million people linked together around the world in the middle of a pandemic. So God uses everything.

But we're praying and believing that we're going to be back in person in some big venue lifting up the name of Jesus very soon. Stay tuned. The Passion Conferences, I believe we're coming back.

JAMES: Let me just say, all of you who are here, you know we want to bless you. I'd like to send you this book. Let me show you something else we're doing. We want to send you the book Randy wrote, *Upgrade*. Now he's explained this, and you'll hear him explain it, but he took Proverbs and broke it into seven categories. So he talks about seven moves in seven weeks to a better life, a spiritual life. This is good stuff because Proverbs is kind of all over the place. But he's pulled it together, and he boiled it down to seven distinct points.

Living Amazed became an absolute, let's say, life-changing book because *Living Amazed*:

"Divine Encounters" can change your life. We have now republished the book with what I thought was very important, a table of contents that tells you all the individuals and the things happening. Like what could happen to Ronald Reagan. What could happen to a Cassius Clay, Muhammad Ali? What could happen to him when he encounters where we were blessed to be a part of? All the lives of preachers and leaders that you know when an encounter occurred, it will inspire you.

So we'd love to send you all these books. And Louie, what we're going to ask our viewers to do is to give clean water to people that have only filthy, contaminated, disease-ridden water. I just want you to know, buddy, you're a real blessing to us. I'm going to talk to our viewers right now as directly as I can because you care so deeply about people that God wants to take in his arms, and he wants to embrace them. But he wants to meet the need that only he can meet--only love can meet.

Jesus said if you notice the least of these, the most likely unnoticed, those who feel least likely to ever be cared about, you care. And I want you right now to just look in and see a place where you can be the miracle someone never expected. This is the least of these. When you touch them, Jesus said you minister to him.

On the mission field:

SHEILA: Waterborne illness is a killer that knows no boundaries. The death of a child is the tragic result of having no choice but to drink contaminated water.

Miriam lives in a shack in Central America. She had to watch her son die in her arms because the only water source she has is a contaminated river.

In South Asia, the journey these women make each day to collect water is filled with potential danger; danger not from the rough terrain but from their water source that causes sickness, and all too often the death of a child.

Pitch is a young mother from a small village in Cambodia. She knows the water she

collects is filled with contaminants, but she has no other option. One of her children has already died and the other one is sick.

Thousands of miles away in drought-stricken Angola, the rural clinics cannot keep up with the number of children dying from waterborne diseases.

JAMES: I am by a water source that is so typical of water sources all over the world. The water is contaminated. We know for a fact in this area disease is killing entire families and many children. Would you be an answer to the need of so many people right here and respond by giving them clean water? Thank you so much for doing it.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: When Betty and I come to you and ask for help, I mean, we don't wonder if you're going to help. Maybe sometimes we wonder how many will or if some don't why.

And Father, for any who can't help, I think it breaks their heart they can't. Let them know that any gift really does matter and to pray that all will come in, in Jesus' name.

I believe that you want with all your heart to become a miracle. Betty, I can't imagine any of our viewers seeing how horrible the diseased water is and how simple it is to replace it. The missionaries have shown us where there is water accessible, subsurface. Sometimes, it's because they dig a borehole. A lot of times, it's just dirty rivers. But you know in that land that you can access water. They don't have the resources to drill. But together, we can do it. Our viewers have been doing it.

BETTY: Absolutely. You've been so faithful to help us with this! We've gotten a response from you that this is one of your most loved things to do, help LIFE Outreach give them fresh, clean water. Well, we need to do it again. There are so many that still don't have that clean water.

Won't you join with us and let's drill the water wells? And let's give those precious little ones a cup of clean water so that the mothers don't have to bury their precious children.

JAMES: I wish I could lean in, and I would want to take your hand. I wouldn't do it if somebody felt uncomfortable. But I want to be close to you. I want to lean in, and I want to say to you, you're an indescribable miracle. And those of you who have been with us for years, just putting God's arms around people giving them water and food, and setting them free, I thank you. But I know with all my heart you want to be the miracle. You want them to have water.

So whatever you can do, no gift too small. As an example, and this is where most of the money comes, thank God there are people who drill a well. God has blessed them where they can give \$4800 or \$1200 or \$2400 and pray two others join them or another joins them, and we have a well. But most of the resources come from people who give \$48. You know what? You just gave ten people water for the rest of their life. That's how it breaks out. Where could you better spend \$48? \$144, many people can do that. It may be a sacrifice, but you give, literally... now think about this, you give 30 people water the rest of their life. \$48 gives ten. \$144 give 30. You drill a well you give a whole village life.

Please, right now, go online or dial the number. Get your bank card and use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. And then do it, and we'll look forward to that. Thank you so much for being a miracle today.

Begin video clip:

ANNOUNCER: Waterborne illness is a killer that strikes the most vulnerable. For many impoverished families, the death of a child is the tragic result of having no choice but to drink contaminated water. But with your help, they won't have to make this choice ever again. Mission: Water for LIFE provides clean, fresh drinking water for thousands of children and their families giving them a life free from the fear of death.

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year. Your gift

of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten, \$72 will provide for 15, and \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift, we'll send you James Robison's book *Living Amazed* full of inspirational true stories. You'll learn how divine encounters can change your life. In addition you'll also receive Randy Robison's brand-new devotional, *Upgrade*: "Seven moves in seven weeks to a better life."

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the N.I.V. Thinline Bible with easy-to-read large print. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Divine Servant."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Betty and I not only pray for God to meet the needs that we talk about, but we thank him because we believe he is. And just thank you for loving the overlooked, the too often forgotten, the least of these. We'll send you the book and the other things we told you about if you'll just give a cup of water.

God bless all of you. Louie, God bless you! Thanks for being with us.

LOUIE: Always love being with you guys. God bless you. We'll see you soon.

JAMES: Thank you for what you do. You are a blessing. God bless you!