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Week 36: Christmas Shoes and Smiles

James and Betty Robison

Dr. Robert Jeffress #2

BETTY: Welcome to *Life Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty, and this is James. We have a very good friend of ours as a guest today.

JAMES: We have Robert Jeffress. But I'm looking at you and thinking because I mentioned to him in a program we did before this one earlier in the week. And I said, "Doc, do you realize that in October of this year, I will have been preaching 60 years?"

He said, "James, you don't even look 60." Oh, thank you. I know you'd say that about Betty.

Honey, I look at you and realize how many years have we been married?

BETTY: Fifty-nine!

JAMES: She says it is 58. And she said several times this year, "You said 57! 57! It's 58!" We've been married 58 years, and you're just beautiful. You're radiant. Thank you for the way I know you love her. Many people have asked, how is it you have such a blessed ministry and such an incredibly blessed family? To think that by the end of the year, we're going to have 13 great-grandchildren, and we have 11 grandchildren, ten of them married, and they're just having babies. So we're going to have 24 total grandchildren by the end of the year; we're really, really blessed.

Why is that that you're so blessed? Because we decided, as much as we could understand, we would lose our life in Christ to find it. I'm going to be talking to Dr. Jeffress, who is just one of

my favorite people on the planet. Not only one of the favorite preachers and pastors and teachers but also authors; and one of the greatest gifts we ever have on *LIFE Today*. Because he communicates very directly with you as though he is sitting right there in the room with you because he is, that's the way he communicates to his church.

He's written another book. I think he's written more than 20 now, and they're all exceptional; this is *Invincible*. He touches on the areas of concerns we're facing right now that have pulled many people down into a pit of despair and depression, and even hopelessness. Well, he helps show us we can be *Invincible*: Conquering the mountains that separate you from the blessed life.

Our Pastor Robert Morris appreciates you putting that in there about *The Blessed Life*; this is the life of blessing that God wants for all of us when we realize there is no greater blessing than being a blessing. But you've got to get in the right place and not let those mountains separate you from God. Dr. Jeffress, I'm glad to have you back.

ROBERT: It's great to be back.

JAMES: We mentioned in the last show that we were going to try to give some counsel and some encouragement to all the people in the body of Christ. We might say to everybody that understands the importance and the value of freedom and understands if you don't, you better get it quickly. Freedom has a foundation. Life has a foundation. It can be rock-solid and unshakeable if it is the principles of Almighty God. You talk about those in this book.

What do you believe Christians need to do? Because these are perilous times. They are shaky times. They are troubling times. Do you agree?

ROBERT: I agree.

JAMES: We should be troubled by them. We should be concerned about them. Give us some counsel.

ROBERT: I think this is a pivotal time for Christians. I think it is a pivotal time for our country. I go back to First Chronicles 12:32 about the sons of Issachar. The Bible says they were men who understood their times and knew what Israel should do. As Christians, we need to really be discerning about the times we're living in so we can know what we're supposed to do.

I think Christians go to several extremes when it comes to what should we do in the culture? Should we have anything to do with the culture? I don't understand these Christians who think we're supposed to live in a holy huddle and just wait for Jesus to come back. We're not to be silo Christians; we're to influence, we're to impact our culture. Jesus called it being salt, being light. I think we understand we need to push back against evil.

One way we do that is through the leaders that we elect. When people say, "Oh, elections don't matter. Leaders don't matter." Leaders determine policy. Policy determines the direction of a nation. If you don't believe that, look at Adolf Hitler. A leader determined policy, and policy determined direction. So we need to be concerned about that.

James and Betty, what I'm concerned about is also some Christians can get so immersed in the culture -- so immersed in the political front that they lose sight of the other thing Jesus said we are to do. And that's to be light, to share the gospel with people. It is not either/or. It is both/and. Yes! Let's push back against evil leaders and evil policies, but let's remember, the gospel transcends politics. It transcends race. It stands by itself.

What I'm afraid I see happening in the church today is that too many Christians are dividing with one another over secondary, tertiary issues. And you all have done such a great job of bringing the body of Christ together so we can do the unique thing the church was called to do, and that is to share the gospel. I mean, I could divide First Baptist Dallas if I wanted to over vaccinations. I can divide over race. I could divide over all kinds of hot button issues.

JAMES: Over a political party. A point of view politically.

ROBERT: Look, Christianity is not republicanism or democratism. It is transcendent over all

political parties.

JAMES: It is not denominational either. I believe you, and I know Baptists have held fast to the Word of God. Every Charismatic and Pentecostal friend I've met around the world has said, had it not been for Baptists, we would not in our world of experientialism, and maybe hyper-emotionalism -- this is what they're saying, this is the leaders of the great moves of God through these different groups -- they said that Baptists kept the Word of God up as the reliable authority. So we could understand it under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. And it is not the letter that's the answer but doing what the letter says because it is the spirit that gives life. And when the spirit comes on those who understand what God is saying.

Let me just say something to you right here. When you have trouble, you're going to be invited by many forces and influences. And they're going to be inviting you, oftentimes, to become a part of a movement or start a new movement. In other words, there are a lot of people talking about we need to start a new party. We need a new political party. That's like saying we need a new denomination. Just about how many Baptist denominations are there? Scores of them. Just enough to make you dizzy. Just enough to make you and God nauseated.

We just start over a disagreement. And we've got to stop the nonsense and have supernatural unity. That's what he said to pray for. Not supernatural sameness. God is a God of diversity. No two fingerprints are the same. No two snowflakes are the same. He doesn't make identical. He makes beautiful diversity and beautiful designs.

All right. Bring all of that together, not to start a movement, not even to join a movement. You've got to understand that there are plenty of movements calling for your attention, plenty of denominations calling for your attention. Jesus called for us to yield our lives to the Master Potter's shaping hand to be shaped into a vessel of honor through which he freely flowed in the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't need a new movement. We need a move of the Holy Spirit that impacts every movement in a positive, profound, transforming way. Is this good preaching, sir?

ROBERT: Yes! Let's take the offering right now.

JAMES: Go for it! It's a matter of really and truly saying I'm going to do what he designed me to do, desires me to do, left me here to do. I'm going to show people what the real Father who knows best, who loves perfectly, who can deliver the best, who can direct our steps, who can guide our hearts and our desires, that's who I'm going to sell out to; give him this earthen vessel to be filled to overflowing with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Everything God wants to be done is done in the power of his spirit, the spirit of the living Jesus living in us. Because Jesus said, "I'm sending one like me to live in Dr. Jeffress, James Robison, Betty." Sometimes we can look at someone like Betty and say, "Well, we can see that!" Well, he wants it for everybody. And that's what people have to do right now. I want to yield my life to fulfill God's kingdom purpose. So take off on that a little bit and expand.

ROBERT: I just have to just tell you. My dad is in heaven right now, but he was saved through an Assembly of God chaplain when he was in the Air Force. The chaplain knew he was going to move to Dallas. This was the end of the 1940s, and my dad said, "Where should you go to church? Where should I go to church?" He said, "If you're going to Dallas, there is only one church, First Baptist Church Dallas, because that's where the Bible is taught."

JAMES: I believe there is only one church. But it is his church, and because you represent his church as a part of his church, that's why this Assembly of God pastor said, "Go and be there because God is there."

ROBERT: But my dad always had an affinity for the Assembly of God. So he would take us to First Baptist Dallas in the morning, we'd go to the Assembly of God at night, where I was dedicated to the Lord. But he loved you, James. He loved you because of that kind of preaching you just did and your desire to bring all the body of Christ together. And that's when he died he left you in his will. He wanted this ministry, *LIFE Outreach*, to continue to be a beacon for the gospel.

JAMES: You also told me that when he was going through a challenging time, I actually called him and prayed with him. It meant the world to him. And we literally reached out. I believe our staff is as beautiful a picture of the body of Christ and the love of God for one another, and for God, and for others, of any people I've seen anywhere on the planet. That's a beautiful thing to be able to say. That's what we should say about every church and everybody that's meeting in a church. We need to be the body of Christ.

ROBERT: And if we are really sold out to God like you talked about, we're going to be about the Father's business. And the Father's business, Jesus told us what it was before he left this planet. He said, "Go into all the world and make disciples." That's the way we're going to transform the world.

Again, it is not either/or. Christians have to learn how to multi-task. Yes! We can vote. We ought to vote. It's a sin not to vote, I think. I think you need to use whatever influence God gives you to push back. But at the same time you're voting, don't think you're going to change the world through the political process. You may just keep evil away longer so that we have longer to preach the gospel. Our unique goal is to go out there and share the love and salvation that Jesus Christ offers. It is not either/or; it is both.

JAMES: He did not leave us here to get us out of here. He left us here for him to come in here in power.

ROBERT: And he was honest about it. He said, "In this world, you're going to have tribulation. You're going to have problems." I think we're going to have increasing problems. I'm getting ready to preach through the book of Acts right now. Persecution came incrementally, but it came. And it became more and more intense. I think we're going to face that. That's what I talk about in *Invincible*. In fact, we have real obstacles in our personal life. Jesus said, "In this world, you'll have tribulation." But then he said, "Take courage, for I have overcome the world." He's not going to deliver us from problems, but he is going to take us out of the problems, and he will be with us through the problems.

JAMES: Or deliver us from the fire.

BETTY: And the courage comes from him. When we feel our weakest, he is his strongest. If we will just receive that and realize that. I'm going to take a minute to talk about the sameness. I know growing up as a good little Baptist girl, I was taught that I was supposed to do everything the same as everybody else in the church. And that bothered me; it confused me because I thought, I'm not outgoing like this person, or I'm different from this other person out there.

God, if we have Jesus in our hearts, he's what makes us one. But he also, God gave us different personalities. He gave us different gifts. The illustration I have to look at is our children. We have three wonderful children and all these grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They came from the same family, but they're all different, and I love the difference in them. I look forward to the difference in my children, my grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I love it! I think it brings new life into our family.

And so to criticize those that, oh you need to be the same. I think that's where our world is kind of headed right now. Everybody should think the same, believe the same, walk the same, say the same words, speak the same way; that's not how God created us. He's so creative. He gave us different gifts.

ROBERT: That's why different Christians in the body of Christ have different perspectives on certain things. Some people have a gift of mercy, and they tend to look at one set of circumstances one way. Some people have a gift of prophecy, exhortation. James is a prophet; he's been a prophet for 60 years, and things are pretty black and white with James. I have a gift. Instead of condemning people for a different perspective, we ought to realize that maybe God brought them into the body to help me become more like Christ.

JAMES: Boy, that's what Billy Graham said to me, "I suggest you spend time with people you've been taught to avoid." Meaning other Christians. And boy, that was a transforming moment.

When I heard you say, "I'm about to preach in the book of Acts," I must say this, I'm going to sow this seed. I told you I'm going to spend much of the rest of my life sowing seed in people who will be far more fruitful in their effect than I am. They're going to be more gifted; you are in ways that I can't do it. That doesn't mean I'm less important. It means you have a different perspective and point of view, and a different approach and different gifting to present it. So when you said I'm going to preach through the gifts of Acts, I'm going to sow this thought, I pray it's carried through the theme of the book of Acts.

But listen to me. The disciples had spent three years with Jesus. He taught them the kingdom. That's the first thing he said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Later he said, "It's in you." At the end they still didn't understand it. He came back after the resurrection, spent 40 more days explaining it. At the end of the book of Acts, Paul is still trying to help them understand the kingdom.

But here's what happened. When the prayer of Jesus was fulfilled in one little setting, this is just to show you how powerful it is, coming together in supernatural unity. He told them, "You tarry until you are endued with power from on high," before he sent it. And they tarried in one accord in that upper room.

Here's what happened. Here's the book of Acts. When they came out of the upper room, including Simon Peter, the king, the kingdom at hand, the kingdom Jesus said is in you, the spirit that he put in them, resonant in them became president in them, the Holy Spirit, the spirit of the living Jesus took over those earthen vessels. When they walked out of that upper room, they walked out in kingdom power, Dr. Jeffress. Kingdom power carried them all the way through the book of Acts.

And if you wonder what areas of life those kingdom disciples did effect, read the book of Acts. Every area that's important, from academics to national leadership, to theological era, to religious nonsense and deception, to "You crucified the son of God. You, the leaders, the religious leaders, the political leaders, you rejected the very truth that will give you freedom. They preached it all the way through the end. They might not have been able to explain it at the end of Acts; Paul

wouldn't have spent two more years trying to explain it if most people got it.

But this is the beautiful thing about it. You don't have to be able to explain it to experience it. They experienced the power of the Holy Spirit. Too many people are discussing the Holy Spirit, arguing about the Holy Spirit, rather than yielding to the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit and be carried. They're split on gifts of the spirit, fruit of the spirit, speaking in tongues, not speaking; we've got to stop the nonsense and let the power of the Holy Spirit we're discussing take over and carry us. Can this fit into your message on the book of Acts?

ROBERT: I am making notes in my mind. I'm going steal every word of what you just said.

JAMES: I want you to!

ROBERT: And I may not give you any credit. I'll give you credit!

JAMES: Listen, God said, "What has thou that thou dost not receive?"

Father, I'm praying that every pastor, teacher, shepherd, prophet, evangelist, will realize that we can experience what oftentimes we can't explain. We can't explain clearly the spiritual birth, being born from above. We can't explain it, but we can experience it, and we have! And the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the fruitfulness of the spirit, the gift of the spirit, the fruit of the spirit can be experienced, the power of the spirit, and we can make a kingdom impact on planet earth, in Jesus' name.

Listen to me. You were left here for kingdom purpose. We come together uniquely designed parts of the body, all of us appreciating and supporting one another, building one another up, but we all submit to the one head, and that's Jesus. Father, let it happen.

Doc, I want everybody to go online and get the book. But I want to tell you something else. We're going to give shoes and smiles for Christmas. Our viewers know it is more blessed to give than receive. They know the greatest blessing is blessing others. So we're going to ask you to

give some shoes and some smiles. We'll send you, along with other gifts that you're going to really like -- I promise you, you're going to like them; we'll send you Dr. Jeffress's book. So you just help us give some shoes to children, some smiles to children.

I want you to watch this. You're going to be moved, and you're going to do the Father's will. You're going to be a blessing. Watch closely.

Begin video clip

Announcer: If there's one thing mothers around the world pray for above all else, it's the health of their children. And with everything these children are exposed to, that can be a tall order.

This year you may have partnered with *LIFE Outreach* out of compassion to take care of some basic needs like clean drinking water and a daily bowl of food. But have you ever thought about the dangers children face every day simply from being children? With poverty as the deciding factor in what these mothers can provide for their children, a pair of shoes is a necessity that many children will never have.

This coming Christmas season, we'd like to do something special for these children and give them a pair of shoes of their very own. These shoes will not only protect their feet from injury and disease but will be a treasured possession that will remind them of God's love.

BETTY: We come over here to be a blessing, but we always go back so much more blessed, James. I think because we see what can be done, we know that our friends, because they love children, they love to give, they love to share, that's you I'm talking about! You love to help. And this is a real need--shoes for the children. Please join with us. You'll get such great joy out of it. I know you will. God bless you and thank you!

End of clip

In the studio

JAMES: Honey, you have a beautiful smile! That's what got me -- and watching you smile all over the world. Just think about this. Betty and I, after preaching crusades in stadiums and coliseums for over 30 years, and seeing millions of people come to Christ, started going to the ends of the earth. And for the last 25, now pressing 30 years, we've been going and putting arms of love around those children. Watching those smiles on Betty's face, looking at all those ones you'd recognize giving the shoes, seeing these beautiful children smile, I know you love that! There is no question in my mind. I wish you'd come back and show the picture where we're all sitting there together and just holding those kids. I look at that and say, God, that's so beautiful! Those are your children, and you love them; we've got your arms around them. We're not just telling them that we love them; we're showing them we love them by giving them water or food.

And now then, we're going to put some shoes on their little feet. You saw those awful sores. You've got to understand, Betty and I stood there and watched children die because of hookworms that got in their feet through the cuts on their feet and ended up in their brain.

Father, please let us put peace on the feet of these children that you love so much, in Jesus' name.

Would you give us a miracle outpouring of love right now? Did you know that for \$1,000 you can give 275 pairs of shoes? And Dr. Jeffress, I always start high. People can think small on their own. So I know that if we give a \$36 gift, for instance, that's ten pairs of shoes. So don't think \$36 is small because for ten children it's big, and their families. Doc, I want to always try to get people to think beyond what they might think and say, God, can I do more? If you do exceedingly abundantly, can I do more than I thought? I want you to pray about giving the largest possible gift.

We're going to send you the beautiful little Christmas ornament for any gift. We're going to send you this beautiful box of Christmas shoes, many that we've shared over the past years. Remember the ribbon represents Water for Life, Mission Feeding, Rescue Life, and then the new one, Shoes and Smiles, Christmas Shoes and Smiles. We'll send that to you if you make a \$100 gift.

But I also want to encourage you to consider, and Betty, let's really be praying together right now this will happen; if you could give \$1,000 or more or \$10,000, do it. What a gift! Let me tell you what we're going to be doing with some of those larger gifts. We're going to do cleft palate surgery. And we're going to give children not only shoes but smiles for Christmas.

Let's just pray. Father, please touch every heart, everyone who can help to help, even above and beyond what they might have thought, in Jesus' name.

We're trusting God to bless you as you bless others. Let me tell you something else. You make any gift to Christmas Shoes and Smiles, not only what I mentioned, but if you want Dr. Jeffress's book say, "Would you please send me that?" You better believe we will because we want to bless you just as you're blessing others.

Go online, dial the number, take your bank card, use it like a check. Make the best gift you can. Do it now. Thank you so much!

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer, and because of it, children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we often take for granted -- like a simple pair of shoes. Far too many children living in extreme poverty have never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk with life-threatening infections and diseases that could lead to crippling consequences and even death.

By responding today, you will help secure and make ready 150,000 Christmas shoes to be shipped and delivered to children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pairs, and a gift of \$180 will help provide 50 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

As a thank you for your gift of support, be sure to request this beautifully crafted, green crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to display each Christmas. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may also request this keepsake boxed set of all four shoe ornaments celebrating the various outreaches of LIFE.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft lip or palate surgeries. And you may request the beautiful "Divine Servant" bronze scripture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video

JAMES: Well, Dr. Jeffress, and Betty and I have had a good time today. I hope you have. You might want to tell your friends to watch this. They can watch it on *LIFE Today* online. Go to YouTube, watch it. Our program that we air every day is on, and it will be on from now on so you can share it.

Dr. Jeffress, I'm praying for you to experience the greatest impact, not just on First Baptist, a church, but on *The Church*. That First Baptist will impact His church, the church, which is everyone that knows Him. So I really pray that for you.

ROBERT: Thank you, James. Thank you, Betty.

JAMES: Thank you for being a great friend. We'll send you this book if you'll just help us give shoes and smiles. I do hope you'll help us give some smiles. They're \$500, and that's because they're able to do it at very low expense because of the doctor's willingness to be missionaries themselves. But you help us, and you're going to love these little shoes on your tree.

Betty, thank you so much for being such a blessing to me and our family and all the people who

watch us. Dr. Jeffress, continue on. I'm going to be excited to see what happens when you show people what kingdom power does through the book of Acts. Thank you!

Thanks for watching. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today* and share *LIFE Today*.