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Week 38: Christmas Shoes and Smiles

James and Betty Robison

"God's Dream Fulfilled"

JAMES: Oh, it is such a joy to come into your home or wherever you're watching. We're on at night in many places, and people watch us in clubs and bars. That's great! Because we're going to point you to what every heart is actually seeking. It's seeking peace, and joy, and love. Those are things that are a priority to so many people.

When you look out today, you don't see many people who seem to be living with personal peace. We are wondering if there is going to be much peace on earth. There can be peace on earth if the peace of God prevails in the life of God's family, the church, the body of Christ, which is revealing the living Jesus to a dying world. It is illuminating the way with the radiance of Christ's power and the light of his presence in our own lives, especially as the body of Christ. It is a city set on a hill. That's what people are looking for.

Yes, that light can prevail in intense darkness. As a matter of fact, the greater the darkness, oftentimes, the brighter and more noticeable the light seems to be.

Now we were talking to you many times in recent weeks. This week we were already talking to you about the importance of losing our life in his kingdom purpose. I pointed out how the disciples didn't really get it, but it got them. They didn't understand what he meant by the kingdom at hand, the kingdom in them, and that God's will could be done on earth, preceded by "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Because the king is here, the redeemer has come to Zion, the king is in us; the same Jesus here, crucified and raised from the grave. That resurrected Jesus, who ascended to heaven, lives in us. He says, "The same Jesus that was with you, I send another just like

me to live in you."

This means, Betty, everywhere we go, Jesus is riding in the car with us. Jesus is sitting around the table with us. He is with us all the time everywhere.

Now real important for something that caught me when I began to be grasped by, carried with the power of the kingdom to realize that his will can be done through us individually, collectively, also as a family, the church, the body. That's what the gates of hell cannot prevail against. This idea that we have to let the enemy walk over us, and we're all going to have to be in prison -- many will be, many will die for the faith -- but he wants us to overcome the enemy's intentions where he doesn't prevail.

And it is possible for the body of Christ to come together in such supernatural unity that the greatest supernatural awakening in history will become the reality of God's people coming together in supernatural unity with great diversity and difference, even disagreement, but allowing the friction and the iron to sharpen the iron, not dull it. We're sick and tired of all the fights and arguments. We don't have to compromise one Word of God. So why do we compromise the Word of God? By refusing to love our neighbor. By even refusing to love unconditionally other members of the body of Christ.

I'm telling you, one of the greatest things that have happened to me in the last couple of years of my life, I've spent a tremendous amount of time praying, most of my time is spent praying, meditating on the word, praying for you, praying for those of you who support kingdom purpose, and help us get God's arms of love around the least of these. You're amazing people! But as I've prayed and I got close to the Father, I found myself saying, "God, what's on your heart?"

Have you ever noticed, Betty, that parents rejoice when their children's dreams are fulfilled? Have you noticed how sometimes in a family that's challenged, many of these families are where you had a single mom, no dad, no husband there? And she's raising the boy, and he becomes successful; maybe an athlete, maybe just successful because mom

got him to study when Father wasn't there like Ben Carson did. And look at what a blessing Ben Carson is. But you know what I've watched? I've watched those children become successful. And they go back and say, "I want to give this to you. I want my mom's dream to come true. I want her to have a home." So sometimes you see kids say, "I want to see my parents' dreams."

Think about it. Betty, we can fulfill our Father's dreams. And I find myself asking, what do you want? He wants his people to love each other. He says the greatest commandment is love God and love your neighbor. But I find a lot of church people, Christian people don't even seem to like each other. We seem to find reasons to divide.

Don't you find it beautiful when you see Christians come together? And you've seen leaders of all these different factions in the body of Christ, different denominations and groups, you have watched with me in the last years, these people that were taught to stay apart, they may not agree, they may have a theological disagreement, but they believe the Word of God is reliable, it's God's word. They believe we have a Father, Creator God, and they're coming together in supernatural unity. Doesn't that give you great joy when you see it?

BETTY: Absolutely, James! I think it comes from me realizing how much more, every day, how much God loves me. Because as a parent, I know with our own children, James, when things, maybe you had to correct one, two, or all three of them, and you think, God, do they know how much I love them?

And I think God feels the same way, James. When we're struggling, we think, God must not love us very much. And he's saying, oh, please let them know how great my love is for them. So great that I gave my only son. My only precious son! He loves you. He loves you every day, no matter what you're doing. If you feel far away from him, he's not far from you. He's right there, ready to pick you up.

And through that love, if you will receive that love from him, today, even, maybe you're

not feeling very loved, God loves you. He says, "I want to fill you with my love. I want to fill you with my faith, with my forgiveness, with my joy." And let it overflow. I'm beginning to understand when they say, "Let it just overflow." You've said that many times when we're sharing. "Betty, God has done so many things in you. Let it overflow." That's what God wants us to do. We don't have to go out and plan it. God has a plan. If we will just follow Him in His footsteps. He will open the doors. He will make the occasion for you to represent Him. Trust Him!

JAMES: Betty, I know everybody that watches, I tell Betty what I know people believe, that Betty has made it clear, I'm not a teacher, I'm sure not a preacher, I'm a homemaker. But I love Jesus. People look at Betty, and they identify with Betty more than gifted, dynamic speakers or communicators. And they say, "I'm more like Betty. And Betty is full of Jesus." So I think Betty has inspired viewers far more than I have, or maybe any preacher or maybe many of our guests. And many of our guests that you see are what you would call an ordinary person, but extraordinary persons are happening through their yielded life because God is powerful in them. And Betty, they see that in you.

I want you to know that God wants to flow his life and love through you. Think about this. Jesus wanted the Father's will to be done on earth. Jesus came here to give his life for God's kingdom purpose. He not only lived the purpose of God, revealing kingdom purpose and making a kingdom impact, but he died to make the kingdom impact. He died for us so we could be born into that kingdom, that eternal kingdom, and the kingdom of God prevailing in us. Jesus was raised, died for us, raised for us, and left to send another just like him, the Holy Spirit -- just like him -- to live in us. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God came upon people. After Jesus' resurrection and at Pentecost, they yielded their vessels to God, and the Holy Spirit came to live in them.

We're facing a tremendous amount of pressure today. We economically don't know what's going to happen. We're puzzled and concerned and even, let's say, horrified and stunned at what we're seeing and the decisions that are being made; that so obviously lack wisdom. It is as though the deceiver, the manipulator, is trying to take over and bring us

all in bondage and destroy the freedom that is so important to God that he gave his son that we could be free.

He led Israel out of Egyptian worldly bondage to freedom in a fruitful land. God loves us so much that he will bless us so much and give us such incredible things to enjoy, even pleasures, that only God's power can keep us from making an idol out of the great gifts and blessings of God. They're good blessings, they're beautiful blessings, there is pleasure in them, but they will become a god if we're not living for His kingdom purpose. If the king is not in place living in/through us, then we're not going to be able to overcome all that the enemy, the deceiver, the destroyer throws at us.

Betty, as I prayed about this program, I was led to a passage of wisdom, and I'm going to break it down, in Proverbs three. Now just listen to this because Betty, many people are saying we don't know what's going to happen nationally, we don't know what's going to happen economically, we don't know what's going to happen physically. We've never had such challenges that the whole world is being threatened, and you don't know what to do. We can't seem to get wisdom on how to deal with it. We need the wisdom to come from God.

Now listen to this. This is Proverbs three, verse five: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart.*

Totally! Mind, body, spirit, emotion, everything about it, your will -- trust him with everything in you.

Don't lean on your own understanding.

Do you know that wisdom is best defined as understanding? And clearly defined because the book of wisdom, Proverbs, over and over talking about getting wisdom. And he says, "Seek understanding. Seek understanding." Over and over. Understanding is wisdom. Wisdom, understanding from God's point of view.

Don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him.

We have a creator, we have a God, we have a God who wants to be Father and wants a family that will look like the family of the perfect, love-filled, love-guided wisdom-giving Father.

He will make your paths straight. You won't be like this. You'll press on toward the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus.

Don't be wise in our own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn from evil.

That doesn't mean be scared of him. It means fear, living one moment, one hour, one day out of his shelter and his shadow. If you live in his shadow, you're close. And as he moves, the shadow moves, and you move with him, you stay in it. You stay in the light, and you will radiate the light. You'll be filled with the spirit. It will overflow, and the fruit of the spirit will be clearly manifested.

If you will do this, it will be healing to your body.

Miraculous healing! And it can be healing to the body of Christ, where Christians really love each other the way Jesus loved, and the way he prayed we would love one another. He said, "Then the world will know you're my disciples, you're the Father's family."

He will be refreshment to your bones -- damaged bones, broken bones. Don't miss this!

Honor the Lord from your wealth, whatever it is, meager or great. *And from the first of all your produce.* All that you gain. Put him first. God only fits one place, first! No other gods before him. First! That's the only place the living God will fit. Don't try to put him somewhere else.

So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

God is going to bless your life. Not necessarily with great wealth or great abundance but abundance in life with or without wealth. But he says wisdom will guide your steps, and it will bless the investment of your time and your gifts and your ability and your faithful labor for kingdom purpose. If you would just understand right now that I am going to put God first in every place, and I'm going to lose my life to see my Father's dreams fulfilled.

Betty, every time I go to God now, he knows James is not coming to me with all those requests. I've always heard him, I've always gladly received them, I've always answered him with wisdom and wise direction. But when James comes to me now, he's going to lean up against me, look up in my eyes and say, "Father, what are your dreams? What are your desires?"

How about pausing right where you are. Wherever you are, I don't know if anybody is there with you. How about all of you? How about you just pause and say, God, Father, I know you care about my dreams. You've directed me. When I delight in you, you actually fulfill and direct my dreams and my vision. Well, Lord, I want you to know, I want to see your dreams fulfilled. Can you say that to him? Father, I want to see your dreams fulfilled. I want to see your kingdom will be done on earth for your glory.

I'm going to tell you something. You need to know this. He's coming back for a bride that looks like him. And that bride will be a body. It will be a city of believers revealing the living, resurrected Jesus so clearly that the whole world, before Jesus comes for that bride, is going to behold the glory of the Lamb on his body. Yes, he will!

Betty, I believe we're going to see that. With all my heart, I believe it. Father, your kingdom has come. The king has come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

I want you to know you have really helped us witness God's will being done on earth all over the world. Because when you minister to the overlooked, the downtrodden, the least

of these, and you touch them with love, you've made the greatest possible kingdom impact, and then you point them to Jesus. If you give them Water for LIFE and you tell them it's because of the water of life, we win them to Christ.

Right now, we're asking you to give Christmas smiles and Christmas shoes. I want you to look at some beautiful scenes and some touching scenes, and his kingdom impact and his love through you, giving you the wisdom to say, "Together, we're going to do that." It's going to bless you beyond expression. So I want you to watch this closely.

On the mission field:

ANNOUNCER: Jesus loves the little children. Even before hearing it, you probably know the next line of this cherished song already. For decades, the friends of *LIFE* have helped us in our mission to make God's love known to all the children of the world. Like when we brought you the story of little Domengas in Angola. Born with a cleft lip and palate, poor Domengas was embarrassed when James played back his recorded image from a camera. But the friends of *LIFE* sprang into action and provided a corrective surgery for Domengas to give him a brand-new smile.

And then you made sure we kept going. In fact, this year will mark 2,000 Christmas smiles, corrective surgeries that give children a much-needed boost to their self-esteem, as well as to their health and quality of life.

RALPH: James and Betty, you came to China many years ago and saw the need. Some of those kids that come have that cleft lip, cleft palate. Little Isaac here has been one of those that came here with that need. He's had the surgery now. He's one of the recipients of Christmas smiles.

ANNOUNCER: Of course, it wouldn't be Christmas at *LIFE Today* without an opportunity to give a child her first pair of brand-new shoes.

TAMMY: It's so concerning for me to watch her playing around broken glass, all kinds of debris, trash. A simple pair of shoes changes everything for this little girl's life. Thank you, *LIFE Outreach*, for making this possible.

ANNOUNCER: As we prepare to celebrate the greatest gift to humankind, help us share Christ's love with children around the world.

TAMMY: You're all ready to go! Who wants another pair? Come here, my baby.

ANNOUNCER: Help us give Christmas Shoes and Smiles!

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: I tell you what, I can't watch that and not just say thank you, God, that we can do it. But when I think about the "we can do it," I'm thinking about you. Betty, without the viewers, the missionaries said to me years ago, our hearts were so touched, I said, "I think we may just stay over here with you." And they literally looked at us with passion and said, "Please don't!" It wasn't that they didn't like us. They liked us. They said, "Would you please go and ask the people that listen to you to please help us so we can stay here and keep putting God's arms of love around them and not be empty-handed?" We can give them food or water or clothing? And now shoes!

Do you realize it was viewers like you that came to us and said, "Look, we can get these shoes." They look like these really expensive shoes that people have. They look like Crocs. But I found a way that we can get them so inexpensively. Let's give children shoes that never had them."

Betty, it was a viewer that came to us and showed us how we can get them. To think that you can give \$36 and have ten pairs of shoes go out. You can't get ten pairs of any kind

of shoe here for \$36. You can't buy one shoe most of the time for \$36. But this came to us with the love of God through somebody like you. You're the ones that make it possible for us to give shoes and smiles, to be able to put a smile on a child's face. We've given a couple thousand children a smile. See how much children's smiles bless their parents and grandparents and everybody who looks at them? Some of them can't smile. You can put a smile on their face, and I believe a smile in their heart.

I'm asking God right now to touch the hearts of many of you who will say, "I can give \$36, give ten children a pair of shoes." But \$1,000, and some of you can do that, will give 275 children shoes. The smile surgeries, because doctors go and do it at just basic cost. All of their laboring gifts are donated. But \$1,000 will give two children surgeries to put a smile on their faces.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you to say thank you. You're giving the greatest gift. You're giving God's love. Would you right now get your bank card? Please go get it. Dial the phone number there or go online and make the largest love gift you can, to touch these beautiful children all over the world with God's love. Thank you. I'm very confident, Betty, that you're going to help, and we thank you for it.

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

In the studio:

JAMES: I want to remind you, you're giving smiles and shoes, but here's a beautiful little shoe for any gift. And these four different colored shoes are for a gift of over \$100. So I'm praying you'll give \$1,000 or more, if you can, for two smiles or for 275 pairs of shoes. I just praise God for you.

Let me remind you of something. Make "The Stream," (stream like a river) STREAM.org, make it your home page, and you're going to get wisdom and guidance from people that love God with all their heart and love their neighbor, and are carried by the truth that they communicate with their pen. STREAM.org -- make it your home page. You'll receive wisdom from people committed to God's kingdom purpose.

Thank you so much for watching. Thanks for sharing life.