

5/17/22

Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Louie Giglio

JAMES: We've got one of our favorite people here. Well, your favorite people. You're going to want to hear Louie Giglio. A lot of people say I preach with passion. Well, he calls a whole conference, Passion Conferences. And he's not talking about the wrong kind of passion, he's talking about the passion for the Lord and for truth and for life.

He was, a year ago, had zoom, when we weren't allowed to be around people or you're masked, where you wouldn't know us. You didn't know we were coming into a restroom or what. God help us! But anyway, he had a book, *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat At Your Table*. Powerful!

So anyway, here is the new one. If you don't let an enemy, Satan, have a seat at your table, *At the Table With Jesus*. I'm pumped to hear about this because see, I kind of know he prepares a table before us in the presence of all these enemies that have made it so obviously clear they're not only our enemy but God's enemy, and an enemy of God's word, and an enemy of God's truth, and an enemy of the first amendment. Okay.

Well, Jesus says, I'll prepare a table before you in the presence of all these accusers anointing your head with oil. Does that sound like that might go right along with this?

LOUIE: It absolutely does. I think that's the power of Psalm 23. We sometimes, if we had written that verse, James, I think we would have written, you prepare a table before me in your presence. Isn't that what we want? Forget about the enemy sitting there. You can smoke all the enemies. At the table in your presence, Lord. But he says, no, I'm going to put the table in the middle of the battle, in the middle of the conflict, in the middle of

the storm, whatever is pressing in, the hardship, the darkness, all those things. I want to prepare in the middle of all of that a table. And yes, maybe you are surrounded but the message of our story is that whatever is surrounding us he's already got all that surrounded.

So we can sit down with Jesus in the storm and know that at this table is everything we need. Listen to what he is saying to us, I'll lead you. I'll guide you. I'll restore you. I'll comfort you. I'll protect you.

JAMES: I'll lead you to green pastures. He protects us from the wolves and the bears and the lions and the Goliaths. How about we give him a chance?

LOUIE: The rod and the staff, they comfort me, David said. They comfort me. We're looking to so much for comfort right now. What this book is, is just an invitation. If we don't want the enemy at our table, and those nine words right there, James and Betty, they changed my life. Those words came to me in a text from a friend when I was going through a big-time storm. I got a little bit of validation. You know how you get that call sometimes that proves that maybe your side was right after all. And I texted a friend who had had my back. And I said, "You're not going to believe what I just heard today." I was looking for commiseration.

JAMES: And you heard that?

LOUIE: I got a text back with nine words: "Don't give the enemy a seat at your table." I was like what have I been doing for the last four months with all this stress and consternation and lying awake at night and trying to manage the outcome?

JAMES: And this was with COVID when it kind of blew up everything you did to bring people together. You can't do it, you might be arrested.

LOUIE: It is crazy times. But regularly now, I will have a thought come through my

mind, fear will come into my mind, and anxiety will come into my mind. I'll be like, no, no, no! I have the power through Jesus -- and everyone does -- to take their table back -- the table of our mind. So if that's who we don't want at the table, who do we want at the table? Because I don't think you win the battle by fighting the lie. You win the battle by knowing truth. Jesus is inviting us.

JAMES: He says if you abide in him, you know truth. How do you translate that into a clearer understanding? He didn't say everybody, you know the truth, the truth will make you free. He didn't say everybody will know the truth that will make you free. He said, if you abide in me, you'll know the truth. That sounds to me like being at the table with somebody.

LOUIE: It is a mindset of communion. Because obviously, it is not a table like this table. It is a mindset. It's waking up in the morning and realizing that the King of the universe is inviting me to sit down with him. He came down, sat down, prepared a table, and invited us to it.

Unfortunately, we need a to-go cup of coffee in the morning because we don't have time for the table. But if we will take a moment to adjust our mindset and commune with God -- you know that's what we were made for. We do all have an assignment, we all have a role to play but we were made for communion with God. We were made to walk with God.

BETTY: In this sitting *At the Table With Jesus* is most important when you've got all the chaos and all the turmoil going on the outside around you; that's when you need to draw into him, and that peace comes that does pass all understanding.

LOUIE: Absolutely. I finally saw a little glimpse of like why is the table in the middle of the battle? Do you know why? Because ultimately, I believe everything is about God's glory. At the end of the day, it is all about his glory. And when you're sitting at a table and your head is anointed and you know your cup overflows, therefore, you're like, good

morning! Would you like some? Hi! To your neighbor who has been a complete jerk in the neighborhood, "We baked some for you as well."

When you have that spirit of abundance and peace in the middle of the battle because your eyes are fixed on Jesus, people are going to look at you like what is going on with you? But eventually, they're going to try to figure out who are you looking at? Where are you getting this sense of peace and confidence and calm and rest and abundance? And they're going to go, oh! You're getting that from the shepherd who is sitting at the table with you? And that's how the glory comes. He's going to put it in the middle, so people can see me on your face, and I ultimately can get the glory.

JAMES: When I saw your subheading down here, it's pretty tiny here but when I first saw it presented to me it jumped out: 66 days -- 66 days. What part of the year is that? 66 days to draw closer to Christ and four or five of them want to be sure somebody didn't stick another six on here. Here I can just see some critics of God put one. But I said I wonder why 66? And I had one of my staff, and boy, you were ready to go on the 66 days. You made it clear there was something significant about 66 days. Would you please tell our viewers a little bit about that?

LOUIE: When *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat* came out, I interviewed with probably the most well-known Christian neuroscientist on earth. She was explaining to me how the brain works on a bunch of different levels. She said we create these neural pathways in our mind and they're like roadways. We build them ourselves by dwelling on a thought. She said it takes 66 days on average to create a new habit. I was like, wait a minute! I thought it was 30 days. We kind of pick stuff up over the course of our life and in 30 days you can create a new habit.

JAMES: I had heard it was just two weeks.

LOUIE: Two weeks for the exceptional people, is 18 days. For the not so exceptional people, it could be as long as 200 days. But for the average human being, it takes 66 days

to create a new habit.

JAMES: A little over two months.

LOUIE: And so what that means is, and she broke this down, James and Betty, in a way that floored me. She said if you think a negative thought consistently for 66 days, you literally -- this is science now -- literally create a pathway in your mind for that negative thought to travel down.

JAMES: Do you have to be aware that you're doing that or is this something that happens unaware?

LOUIE: I think a lot of what we're doing just comes under our subconscious radar. We don't ever examine it. We don't ever question it. We just go, oh, okay. So I'm not valuable to God. Someone told me I'm not valuable. Somebody told me I'm not worth anything. So now I started thinking I'm not worth anything.

And if you go down that road, you guys have some land and know what it is like to be on a ranch. And you go down through the pasture the same way the cows do, it wears a little narrow path. But over time it gets wider. If you drive on it sometime in a truck, all of the sudden you see a two-lane track. If you get committed to it you put gravel on it, and super committed you might pave it. And if you want to go all out, build a freeway down there.

And that's what happens after 66 days. It starts out being a little path, then a two-lane road, then a dirt road, then a gravel road, and a lot of people have an asphalt road in their mind of the negative thought they've been thinking for years.

JAMES: And they don't even realize it is negative?

LOUIE: They see the outcome of it as being negative. They see that it doesn't bring them peace, it doesn't bring them joy, and it doesn't line up with God's Word. It's not bringing

them into the right relationships they want to be in.

So what this neuroscientist said was Louie, here's the thing. This book, the subtitle to this is, "Time to win the battle of your mind." That is not hype.

JAMES: And here is your timeframe.

LOUIE: You win the battle of your mind by thinking truth. And if you choose to say, I'm going to think a true thought. I'm valuable to God. That's true. I have a cross to prove it. I matter to God. That's true. It doesn't matter what the circumstances around me say. Maybe my husband walked out. But God didn't. Maybe there is a bad diagnosis, but God is in it with us and he is going to bring us through it. And so if I think that true thought, I can create a new pathway.

JAMES: Did you figure a way to break these 66 out into simplicity?

LOUIE: I broke it into 11 sections that are all about Jesus. So Jesus is God. Jesus is fully God and fully man. Jesus is our friend. Jesus is the Lord of hosts. Jesus is the King of kings. Jesus is our soon and coming king. He is our glorious Savior. So 11 sections, and then six days in each section get us to the 66 days.

JAMES: And are they both, about all of them the same length, basically, the same?

LOUIE: All the same length. It is a short 15-20 minutes. Starts with God's Word, of course; not just with some nice devotional thought. And really, the thing I love about this devotional is it is not just a warm fuzzy to start your day. This is nothing wrong with encouragement to start your day but this book is going to help people see who Jesus is. I believe this is the watershed for where we are in culture right now. There is this little hot fire going. There is this one going. There is this one going. I believe the master plan is to take down the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. That's the hill that's at the top.

I just love to be able to say to people -- someone asked a friend of mine, what do you think is the biggest challenge to the church right now? He said it is one challenge in three stages. One, undermine the authority of the Word of God. Number two, so that you can undermine the uniqueness of the person of Jesus. Number three, so then you can undermine the power and the effectiveness of the gospel.

I believe that's where we're headed. So I love that we start with: Jesus is God. He is not just a nice guy that rolled through history. He is not just a moral leader, a good philosopher, someone who did good works. He is God in human flesh. Therefore, this table is an exclusive table because Jesus is at it, and there is no one like him. Now everyone is invited to it through the finished work of the cross. But you talk about a tough table to get a seat at. How do you get a seat at the table with the King of the universe? But yet that he comes down.

JAMES: He's invited us.

LOUIE: He invites us to sit down at this table with him.

JAMES: Do you think that -- you know you're talking about pain and the other route; that this pain is a new route. This process where you have a flow going is like a channel of blessing and a channel of transforming truth, and a channel of forgiveness and not holding resentment. Do you feel like that program, that thought process?

LOUIE: God is obviously in the past, in the present, and in the future right now. And so when he wrote the words, "Don't be conformed to the ways of this world but be transformed," how did he say it? "By the renewing of your mind." So when neuroscientists caught up to that in the 20th century and said, "Oh, you actually can do that! And here's the science that proves it." He was like I know. I wrote that in the Word of God thousands of years ago so that you could know that this is possible.

I just want everybody listening today to know that we're not stuck with our past, we're not stuck with all the negative thoughts of our past or what has been spoken over us in the past. People have more power in the name of Jesus and through the person of Jesus than they think they do. And people actually do have the power to change their minds, to change the way they think, and it takes work. So it is not going to happen in six hours or 66 minutes or a week. It takes some work. But if for 66 days, you will think consistently morning, noon, and night a true thought, a thought that lines up with God's character, His Word, His will, His ways, then you are paving a new road in your mind. And before long, new thoughts are traveling on the new road you paved. And as they are doing that, the grass is growing over this other path over here and a whole new way of thinking is born.

BETTY: We have a choice to make, which path we want to take. Because it's not going to be about how we feel, not about what maybe went on that day or anything, but it is God's path and his righteousness that brings us back. We will stray sometime, won't we? But we can come back to the right path and know that God is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He does walk with us through all these things that we face.

LOUIE: And the beauty is you go 66 days, you don't sort of put it on the shelf and say, well, that's done. You keep going, you keep renewing. That's a daily thing to keep choosing, like you said, choose truth, choose truth. So you've got to know truth. You've got to open your Bible. You've got to get the Word of God going inside of you so that then you can know this is what I'm going to focus on. You're not trying to just say to the enemy, no, no, no. You're saying to truth, yes, yes, yes, yes.

JAMES: Lord, I just want to thank you for Louie Giglio. God, he just got your arms around a bunch of young people who then went out and put your arms around a bunch of people who were overlooked and forgotten. And they began to snuff out the sounds of this world and the lies of the world and became a force. But Louie is walking on to say there are higher levels. We can have a newly paved road where truth flows not only in but out like a river, a transforming river of life and love.

And Lord, I want you to use this book. I'm excited about what can happen in a couple of months because I've seen it happen to where we're captivated by you. And then suddenly, your kingdom's purpose captures us. I want you to use this book and all that Louie does to see that happen and spread to every age level, to every identifiable group that your will may be done on your earth for your glory, in Jesus's name.

Louie, you have been a tremendous blessing. We feel like you're part of our family and our viewers are family. Right now, we're feeding kids. And you know we've been doing this a long time and it's effective. We're going to send this opportunity to get at this table with the Lord and keep the enemy away. Do you know when we do these things, Jesus says you're not just ministering to the overlooked and the least of these, you're ministering to me. Do you know what he makes clear? If you want to know who the sheep are and you're wondering, it's not just necessarily the people who show up to church. The sheep notice the least of these. That's what they do. Let's look at something right now that's going to touch your heart. And then we're also, not only going to ask everybody to go get the book, get these 66 days, but we'll send it to you if you will simply feed a hungry child, save a life, give them hope, be a mother's answer to her prayers. Watch closely.

On the mission field

ISAK: We've come into this village because we needed to understand what's going on in this area. We came to screen children for malnutrition because we've heard of how bad this situation is here. For year after year, no real rain falls, failed crops and this is the result. The only thing that they're eating, he explained to me, he said there is this wild sort of berry-like fruit that they're getting off of the tree and that they try to crush open the inside and eat what's inside of there. And then the only other thing is that they're actually taking these worms, drying them, and then they're eating these worms. That's all they have to eat.

I was just talking to the people. This lady responded the moment I stopped, and she started speaking to us. I need you to hear this because it is the cry of a mother's heart.

OPEN CAPTIONS

>> We hope you will come back and help us. We don't have any crops. If you don't come back, we will die.

ISAK: That was the cry of her heart. That was her message. She didn't say it gently, she said it passionately because it is a reality. It truly is a reality for she knows that this is the worst drought they've ever experienced in her entire lifetime.

I know that if we don't bring food to this village that what she has said will not just be a cry of her heart but will be a prophecy that will be fulfilled. Please, help us today. Help us to provide the food that is so desperately needed here. Help us to bring hope and life into this situation. Help me to honor my promise to this mother that says yes, we will return. We will help you. We will save your lives.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Sweet lady, I would put my arms around you and hug you. Precious people, Betty. The pain and the misery and the death. And for them to say, do you want to know why they were there? They heard that someone was going to visit that was known for feeding hungry people. And you saw Isak. We've been working there over 30 years, Betty, but his dad who passed a couple of years ago, and Isak now, his son, and his wife Anne, Peter's wife, have always been a part, they've got the load and they're being more effective than we've ever been.

But those people were there because they heard there was love. And she said, "We will die." And they're in a battle. And there is no telling how many grandchildren and maybe children she's already lost. But Betty, we know what love does. It changes everything.

BETTY: Well, we've heard that heart cry like that woman for many, many different times, James. It's hard to hear because it's a world that we're not used to, necessarily. We go home, we have a nice meal, and we sit down with our families. This woman is saying, we're desperate. If you don't come back, we won't be here. We will die without your help. So she's begging, she's crying for help.

I know you've done it before with us so let's don't stop. There are still some that need our help, that need food to live. They need it for their families. They'll eat anything, as you can see. I can't imagine them having to eat what they're eating now. But when you don't have anything, James, you see something and you think, maybe we can eat that just so we can live a little bit longer. But they need our help. Please join with us and let's get the food to them that they so desperately need.

JAMES: Betty, I was -- just even as I was listening to you talk, I was thinking that they're asking for hope -- help, hope. And we know who the blessed hope is, the Lord is our hope. Think about that. They want hope. Hope lives in us as believers. And the hope they look for is in us. And it is not just wishful thinking about a hope, it is hope expressed with help. It's where you see a need like Jesus said, and these are the sheep; when they see the hungry, they feed them. When they see the thirsty, they give them a drink. When they see them in bondage, in prison, they set them free, they visit them.

Do you realize that -- I want you to think about this -- you heard one person's cry expressing the cries for hope, which means help. You have saved 18 million children's lives. That's an absolute report, not from the missionaries but from the overseers of all the different nations where we put God's arms around people. "We" means you -- people like you.

Would you right now go get your bank card? Or go get a check, go get it! And I want you to give life today. We've got 350,000 located. That was a group right there. Yes, we were looking at them to see, you better believe it is, as an example. Would you right now make

the best gift you can? Think about this. For \$30, \$50, or \$100, you can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months; that's not total childcare, saving their lives -- not total care. \$1,000, dear God, some of you could give several thousand and you'll gladly do it because God blessed you, and you want to bless others. \$1,000 can feed 100.

Would you go get that card? Would you dial that number? Or would you go online and make the gift God puts on your heart. If you do mail a check today, please call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. We've got to let the missionaries know. They've got to know that if they tell the people they're going to feed them because you're the source, they don't have the food. They don't have the resource. We have spent what you gave for the last period and now we need your help.

Please, make the gift God put on your heart. We're going to send you the gifts, *The Chosen*, the beautifully framed art piece, Louie's book -- it will bless you. You're going to save lives and we're going to bless your life because we love you. Thank you for being the miracle people long for, for giving them hope.

Begin video clip

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.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach your gift of love can be an answer to prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you *The Chosen*: 40 days with Jesus. From the

creators of the widely popular television drama, *The Chosen*, this devotional invites you to discover Jesus through the eyes of those who knew him best. With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "Amazing Grace" sheet music framed wall art. This timeless and well-beloved hymn can be displayed as a reminder of God's grace to you. 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, "Let the Children Come." This beautiful bronze is a reminder to care for children around the world in both word and deed.

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

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Lord, I pray everybody watching will do what they can, and do it joyfully. You love a cheerful giver. We're giving life, in Jesus's name.

Thank you so much. If you've never given before, do it. If you've given often, maybe you've even given to this feeding emphasis, but if you can help us today, do it. We're going to send you Louie's book if you want it; just ask for it.

Louie, we'll always love you. Always lift you up. And we want to thank you for what you're doing. Thank you for the fact that we know you love us too.

LOUIE: I feel a part of this family. And I'm always grateful to be here. Thank you for opening your doors to me. And thank you for leading all of us to help make such a big difference in the lives of people around the world.

JAMES: That's what you're doing, and we do it together. And by the way, none of us could do what we do without the help of people just like you -- period. Thank you so much for watching *Life Today*. Thanks for sharing *Life Today*. Share it every day.