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Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Jason Wilson

JAMES: I'm so glad you're watching *LIFE Today* right now. I'm James Robison, and this is Betty. Boy, I'm excited about this guy. Jason Wilson wrote a book called *Battle Cry*: "Waging and winning the war within." I'm telling you what. He is talking about winning the invisible war where the invisible forces and father of lies are prevailing and overwhelming people and dividing us, defeating us, destroying us because that's all he does. Well, what Jason is doing is showing people another father, and he is showing them how to live. He uses martial arts; he uses every means.

Tell us what you call your ministry. It is based in Detroit, but you kind of reach out all over the world. We're going to talk about a little video clip that last I checked, over 100 million people watched it, him and a kid. It's really important because he is pointing to that Father. But tell me what is going on in Detroit with your ministry.

JASON: So our ministry is a nonprofit, faith-based, called The Yunion. And because Detroit has so many union locals there, we had to put a "Y" in front of it to separate us from being --

JAMES: How did you, in a union city that's so divided, oftentimes, over union and union demands. How did you pick Yunion?

JASON: Well, God did it because he wanted to draw his people together, unifying the gifts so we can all shine our lights in such a way that men could see our good works but glorify him. So the Y is silent for youth but also could be for Yeshua or Yahweh, as well. And so through it, we've reached over 15,000 youth and families through mentoring, job skills training. We also offer family and individual counseling. The video that went viral is the academy God told me to

start called The Cave of Adullam, and that's where David ran from Saul. And as we know, the story says that 400 men who were discontented, in debt, and distressed came to him. These 400 men who were in this emotional state, something happened in the cave so special that when they left, they were called "mighty men of valor."

JAMES: Isn't that great? And you want them, those boys to come right there, in Detroit. Let's look at that clip. Let's just look at it. It is a little longer than we're going to show, but this is really good. Watch this.

Begin video clip

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> You're pulling... punch all the way through. When you feel the pain, go all the way through. That could be a barrier in life or anything. Punch harder.

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> You're not punching hard enough. Punch through it! You feel pain?

>> Yes, sir.

>> Shake that off. Let's go.

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> Hah!

>> Zoos!

>> That's what this is about. Good. Let's get to that. Why are you crying? That's what this is about, son. It's okay to cry. We cry as men. Why are you crying, though, son? Come on. Tell me, why are you crying? It's called a test for a reason. Why are you crying? Go ahead, son. Because what?

>> Because it is hard to punch through with my left hand.

>> Okay, good. But you did it, though. You punched through it with your hand. Do you know in life there are going to be things harder for you to do than other things?

>> Yes, sir.

>> And you know those things that may appear to be hard to do you're going to have to do as man regardless? And it's going to take tears; it's going to take the blood of Yeshua and your sweat (diligence) to break through it. Do you understand?

>> Yes, sir.

>> So I don't mind if you're crying. I cry a lot too. Do you understand? All right, so I want you to just... you're pulling your blow. I don't know if you're facing your fear or you're feeling that you may not make it, and we all face that from time to time. As soon as we hit resistance, we want to stop, right? Because it is hurting, we feel that pain and be like, I'm not going through this anymore. Right?

>> Yes, sir.

>> But we have to fight through it as men because it's going to be very painful. Do you understand?

>> Yes, sir!

>> Being a black man in this country, you're going to need mental fortitude. You're going to have to be strong here more so than here. Do you understand?

>> Yes, sir.

>> You can do it. You just gotta put your mind to it. And it is good to cry so you can work through that emotion so when it arises again, you can push it to the side and do what you gotta do. Do you understand?

>> Yes, sir.

>> Let's see what you've got. Bend your knees and dig. Hard. Teruwah hard as you can.

>> Hah!

>> There you go!

[Applause]

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: I love it! Wow! I love what you said about weeping. I'm so proud of that young man. I'm so proud of all those boys that were sitting there watching all of this and listening. And I'm so proud of you for helping him understand what a man is like because you learn from the Father.

Tell us some of your story that you would like people to hear and know that you believe God wants them to hear to be what God wants them to be.

JASON: Well, you bring up tears, for so long, growing up in my community, the gold standard was the hyper-masculine black male. I tried my best to fit in what was called the thug life, being this dominant dogmatic male who was fearless. It wasn't until I became a comprehensive man that I realized what a thug actually was. And I made an acronym. A thug is a Traumatized Human Unable to Grieve. That's why most of the time you see, we're so quick to explode when something happens that is minor. Our capacity, we walk around with it here instead of allowing us to release the emotional pain and trauma that we've just been through.

So I ran from my calling from Christ. When I was 16, he was calling me. I was in my room, there was a dream, and it was an earthquake at first. I fell to the floor. I looked up; it was a soldier with a sword. He says, "We need you to fight for us." I said, "No way! I hate the church.

It's full of hypocrites; the pastors are pimps. If they really were about the work of Christ, the community would be transformed. But when I look a mile radius around this one building, it looks worse than the so-called church.”

When I looked to my left, it was an image of Christ, and this was before the *Passion of the Christ* came out. He was completely covered in blood, just like Isaiah prophesied. He was beaten beyond recognition, and he was in so much pain. I got on my knees, and I went and hugged him. And so when I went to hug him, all of the pain that he felt went into me, and I fell back to the ground.

So then I wake up, and my mother is going to work as normal. I run to the door, and I'm crying, and she says, "What's wrong?"

I said, "I had this dream." So I told her what had happened.

She just broke down. She says, "He's trying to call you, but you're running."

I used to walk downtown in my own city and just pray. I'd just walk the streets because I knew he was calling me to reach, rescue, and redeem his people in a way that I didn't know how at the time because I used to do Christian hip hop music. I was a popular deejay in the secular world, but he wanted to use that to bring glory to his name and the culture.

But quickly, that shifted from that to creating The Cave of Adullam, where I teach, train, and transform boys into comprehensive men of the Most High. Men who are physically conscious, spiritually astute -- mentally astute, but spiritually strong enough to navigate through the pressures of this world without succumbing to their negative emotions.

So that came from my father wound. Not having my father actively in my life, losing two brothers to homicide. So I grew up alone a lot walking, playing baseball by myself. I would hit the ball and have to get it, and that would go on and on.

But during that time, I had a father there just with me. I didn't know it, and I wasn't willing to allow him to train me because I'm like, I need this sensei to teach me. He said, "There is no greater sensei than my Holy Spirit." So all of the martial arts I've been through, none of my teachers can say what's happening now, they can take credit for. I was no different than David being a shepherd in training against lions and bears. My animals were different; they were human beings; dealing with boys. I would mentor drug dealers' sons. They would drop their sons off at my house because they felt safe. I didn't know at the time he was calling me to be his servant and minister to those who were hurting.

So that's how that journey started. But I didn't get to the place where I could actually yell a battle cry and wage the war that was inside of me until I allowed him to purge away my understanding of what it means to be a man by this world's definition. Which is truly for us to only live under masculine attributes such as strength, boldness, and aggression.

So there's no such thing as toxic masculinity. A man becomes toxic when he only allows himself to be masculine. So here it is, we are masculine males, but we limit the power of the Most High flowing through us because we only can be strong, aggressive, and powerful. But what happens when he needs us to be compassionate? What happens when he needs us to be nurturing? What happens when he needs us to be weak so that the power of his son Jesus is perfected through us? We can't because we're only taught to be masculine.

So when my mother developed dementia, I was provider; I could protect and make sure the pharmaceutical companies were not ripping her off, or the doctors weren't just pill-pushing, and were looking at the trauma she's been through instead of just giving her psych meds.

But what happened when mom repeated a question 30 times? What happened when mom curses at me because of her frustration, but I know she loves me? What happens when mom needs her hair done, and the caregiver is just overworked; needs to be changed, needs her nails done? So I had to become something more than masculine. I actually prayed for her to die. I said, "Abba, take her because she is no longer living."

And at that moment, he said, "Jason, that's not love, that's fear. In order to give your mother the care she needs, you have to become a comprehensive male like Yeshua. He was courageous but also compassionate, strong but sensitive. He lived from the good in his heart and never his fears."

So when I became comprehensive, I could do her nails, I could rub her feet, I could massage her scalp when she was having hallucinations. I could go get her food whenever she wanted, and I would sit there. I denied my entire life for my mom. Shoo!

[Struggling emotionally]

JAMES: Lord, I want every man and woman to see what is so clearly revealed in Jason. It's you, Father.

I want all of you to know that this is what a father looks like. It's being carried by the Father and the Father's love, courage, compassion, tenderness, strength.

When you've seen what fatherlessness does and you've talked to so many kids, can't you see very clearly if this Father became our father, and we'd be his healthy family, it would change the world, wouldn't it?

JASON: There's no question. He is called the Father to the fatherless for a reason. What we have to realize as men until we are spiritually healthy enough and mentally free, how does he father the fatherless? He uses vessels. But when we're only masculine to children who need the love of a man in their life, the nurturing, and the compassion, we can't really fulfill that prophetic promise. So it is imperative that as men, we break free from what I call emotional incarceration, which is a self-imposed mental imprisonment that appears to be a safe space with a wide-open door.

Many men know, this dark room you're in, where all your addictions are, we know we can get up and walk out. But the fear is of actually experiencing the emotions we've been taught to suppress, like we're supposed to be fearless. Or when someone is hurting, you can just lose your mother, and we give each other a pound and say, "Stay strong." I know some of the greatest

fighters in this world, and none of them can stay strong.

So what is it telling you when you're weak, when you need to rest? That's when his power is perfected. That's when you see Christ through me the most is when I'm weak, when I'm at my wit's end, when I can't go any further. He says, "Now I can use you. Now, these people will be healed because you are out of my way."

JAMES: Isn't this the kind of man you believe every kid needs to have as a father, and every woman would like to have as a husband?

BETTY: Absolutely! As I was listening to you, I could really see that you engulfed what God said, "I will send my spirit to live with you and through you." You have captured the thought, God will never leave me nor forsake me. And you move in your life in every aspect, knowing that God's Spirit is with you.

If we can all become aware of that, we think we're alone, but we're never alone if we have God. God is right there in the midst of every situation you face, and he will bring you through it. No, we don't get to avoid all of the sadness or all the troubles that come our way, but he says, "I'm there." And if we'll allow him to teach us through those circumstances, through those hard times, then we come out of it with his spirit full force in our lives, knowing and capturing God's true love for us.

JASON: Amen! I know David said it great. He said, "Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word." That's one I keep with me because carrying the cross isn't easy. People ask me, "Why don't you wear a cross necklace?"

I say, "Because I carry one on my back." And so I know what the journey is about. I stay transparent because there is freedom in that. And in Jesus, for him to weep over his friend Lazarus, knowing that he could raise him was profound to me. Because if we're eating at dinner and you, God forbid, drop of a heart attack and I had the power to raise you, I'm not shedding one tear. I'm saying, "Come forth, let's go!" Why did he cry? Because he was still what? He was

God, but he was in the flesh. It was very important for him to release that trauma of losing his best friend so he could now gather himself and perform a miracle of bringing his friend to life.

So think of us as men; the Bible says that we sharpen, iron sharpens iron, so as one man sharpens another. The issue with us as men is we keep our swords sheathed, so we can't really see what's going on. But when we reveal that sword and that blade that's not sharp, we have to go to men who aren't just polishing partners because we want to look good. We want to look like we can cut the sin away in our lives.

But it's going to take friction from that stone or that piece of iron to make that blade sharp so we can cut away those addictions when they come; of a flirtatious woman who wants to pull you away from your wife and your family. Or the father wound that makes you want to perform for God because you had to perform to even receive a father in a human vessel to love you. And now we're operating our relationship with the Most High, thinking we have to go above and beyond by performing instead of just trying to be obedient and operating in a spirit of love.

And so I had to fight and break through all of that. God the Father showed me, he said, "I love you for who you are." And as men, so often, we find our identities in what we do. And because of that, we can't rest. We adopt the grinding lifestyle. When you look up the word, it means: To torment, to crush, to oppress, to wear down. When you look at so many of us as men, and even women, when we say we grind, we look worn out. And the Bible says, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue." So we have to be careful of what we speak. So I don't grind. I work hard, but I rest harder so that I can recover.

JAMES: Jason, I love you. I see Jesus all over you; I see the Father. I want to do something right now. I want to beg you to get this book.

Jason, we're going to show our viewers a young man that was saved because people who watch *LIFE Today* gave him food when he was going to starve, and his life was saved. Now he's grown. He actually works for the nation's leadership -- in national leadership. It's a miracle of God.

By the way, you help us help those who are hungry, and you ask for this book, we're going to send it to you along with some other gifts. But you're going to be giving the greatest gift, you're going to be giving life -- life now and for all eternity. Watch closely.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: James and Betty Robison, and *LIFE Outreach International*, have been sharing life and love for almost 60 years. As part of the commitment to putting love in action over 30 years ago, *LIFE Outreach* introduced the Mission Feeding program in Africa. According to our missionary partners, Mission Feeding has helped save the lives of 18 million starving children. Currently, *LIFE Outreach* helps feed 350,000 children in crisis areas and supports village feeding programs to encourage school attendance and education.

On one of our mission trips to Angola, our team met a young man named Jose, who grew up participating in the Mission Feeding program. As a child, he lived in a remote village and attended a school that received food every day. Jose went on to work as a mission partner within the feeding program, and his story embodies the heart of *LIFE Outreach International* and why it was founded.

INTERPRETER: When I was a child in a village like this, most of the time, we didn't know if we would eat each day. But when Mission Feeding came to my school, we got a hot meal every day during class. My friends and I were motivated to come to school and learn because we knew we would get to eat. If it wasn't for Mission Feeding, I don't think I would have gone to school. Before a feeding program comes to a village, not many children go to school. They stay home and work with their families. But when a school has Mission Feeding, the children are excited about school, and you see them running to the classroom each morning.

I am very happy to be a monitor in the Mission Feeding program. I'm very proud that I get to help these children just like I was helped as a child. One day, maybe one of these children will

work for Mission Feeding too. I want to thank the Mission Feeding donors, not just because I work here but because I'm a human being. I live in this community, and I see the condition of the children. Please, do not stop helping. Carry on!

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Wow! I can't help but just want to shout. That young man is now working under the national leadership in Angola. Betty, it is in Angola where after we had gone into Mozambique and some of the other hard-hit countries we ended up in Angola, civil war. Remember, you couldn't go the first time I went there. It was too dangerous, but we saw miracles. And that young man was one of those miracles.

But there was another one; we were in a malnutrition clinic where we were furnishing medical things, the things doctors need to help save children when they are at their very last breath, and we watched a child die. We watched another while they were trying to get some oxygen in with a little tube, a little squeeze bottle. They didn't have the oxygen they needed. And we saw those children die. And in that same place, and that's where we said to you, let's save their lives.

Betty, in that same place, one of the most famous pictures ever taken was taken. Princess Di, Lady Di, standing at that very clinic in the area where he came to Christ, holding a little baby. She said to the whole world, "We've got to feed the hungry." And that little baby was healthy. That little baby had been saved by love. So that young man that you just saw, he was saved in that program like that. And now he's touching other lives, like the millions that not only had their life saved, but they came to Christ.

I'm asking you to be a part of impacting millions of children's lives! We're feeding 350,000 a day that we found in very difficult areas where they're so stressed out for food that the parents are crying out, "Please God! Help me feed my child." Well, you're the answer to that prayer.

I want you right now to go get your bank card and use it like a check. Dial the number or go

online and make the gift God put on your heart. \$30, \$50, \$100 feeds three, five, or ten children. \$1,000 will feed 100 children.

God, if every person watching would give \$1,000, Jesus! At whatever level they can help, God, move them now, in Jesus' name.

If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call the number and tell us what you're putting in the mail. We have some gifts to send you that will bless you because you are a blessing. You are the miracle to so many like that young man you just saw.

Would you please go online or dial that number? And say, here is the gift I want to give. Please do it, and thank you for it.

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.

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. Also, please consider an extra gift to help immediately rebuild malnutrition clinics destroyed by record flooding in South Sudan. This urgent need is \$392,000 above our normal feeding budget and is critical to help save the lives of those suffering most.

With your gift of any amount, we will send you *Christmas Grace*. This eye-opening, new 31-day devotional will give you a fresh perspective on the greatest gift ever given and the life-transforming hope found in Christ's birth.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the "Love and Thanks" tumbler set with scriptures reminding us that "God's love never fails" and to always "Give thanks." These tumblers will keep drinks hot or cold wherever you go.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Divine Servant."

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

End of video

On the Mission Field:

ISAK: James, Betty, I know your heart for the people of Africa. I know, Betty how you've just always connected your heart with the mothers in these communities. James, your heart for the children, the children like little buddy that's an orphan, are the ones that pay the biggest price, that suffer so dearly. And that is what we're seeing right now. We're seeing crisis at the level from a malnutrition and near-starvation perspective here in Angola like I have never seen before. We cannot bring an end to this crisis, we cannot save the lives we need to save without you. We need you to open your hearts today so please, I'm asking you to dial that number on your screen or go online and give the very best gift you can give today -- give the gift of life by giving the gift of food.

In the studio

JAMES: I pray every single one of you made the gift God put on your heart. Thank you because you're giving life. It's the greatest gift. If you want the book, you can get it online or in the bookstores, but we'll send it to you. You help us feed those children that need food, need to know where life comes from, and you want this, we'll send it along with the other gifts that we're sending you.

Jason, we're going to stay friends forever. We're going to be waging and winning the war within, the invisible war. And the father of lies is going to be overwhelmed by the Father of life and

transforming truth that makes us free. Thank you so much for sharing. You keep praying for us, too. I'm sure we're going to be crossing paths probably quite a bit from now on for his glory to see the church get healthy and men to get healthy. Thank you so much for watching *LIFE Today*. And thank you for sharing *LIFE Today*.