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Week 38: Christmas Shoes and Smiles

James and Betty Robison

Pete Hegseth

JAMES: It is a joy for us to come into your home. I'm James. This is Betty; next year married 60 years. I love it and I think you do most of the time, right? Most of the time?

BETTY: I do.

JAMES: We count it an honor to come into your home. We wish we were sitting right there with you. I want you to know that this book I'm holding here is what Betty put in our hands and our home. Pete Hegseth wrote the book along with Dr. David Goodwin who talks about classical education according to God and our founders.

But Pete got a real burden. His life was changed by God for what was happening in our schools to take everything pertaining to God out. Why did you get so interested in this book that you devoured it, you marked it all up, you were anxious to talk to Pete; why did you get so interested in this?

BETTY: Well, you know, James, for the very reason you just said. That Christianity has been taken out of our education. I want our great-grandchildren to know that the foundation of education was, when we were going to school, was Christianity. And we used to have prayer in the school. We used to have a scripture read over the loudspeaker. All of that is gone and the foundations of how God was in our lives, it was a big part of it. You don't hear or see a trace of that anymore.

JAMES: As a result of it, the liar, the deceiver, Satan himself who wants to take over this

world by taking over individual lives have taken over the American mind. And Pete just did a fabulous job. I want you to listen to an interview we did with him. We aired this on the stream, STREAM.org. You ought to go to the Stream every day. But listen to Pete; and listen to Betty and me talking to him right here because I promise you, this is going to bless you. The *Battle For the American Mind*. We are losing our schools. We can get them back. Here we are talking to Pete.

Begin video clip

JAMES: Well, Pete, I'm James; and Betty, my wife of 60 years next year, is by me. We have 25 grandchildren, can you imagine that?

PETER: Wow! Good for you!

JAMES: I want you to know that we just think the world of you. We think that you are an amazing communicator. We feel like we've watched you grow in your life. I would have to use the term spiritually, even in the last few years that you've not only become concerned -- and thank you for your military service. Thank you for the way you support the military as courageously and with as much conviction as anyone on the planet. I'm going to have to say this, you and Will and Rachel on the weekend, on *Fox and Friends*, you should be on five days, and they should take the weekend shift. You all are simply the best. They're my friends. We join them every day, but you guys are absolutely fabulous. Are you enjoying that weekend beat? Do you like it?

PETER: They are an absolute delight to host with. Will and Rachel are the best. I hope it comes across on TV. We're genuine friends and have been for many years. Do you know what it is? It all centers around the faith and the principles that we all share and hold. So to have an opportunity to call that a job which is -- it is not work to work with them. And just to have the ability to fight the good fight of the information war which is what we're all involved in right now.

JAMES: It comes across that you all not only like each other, you love each other, and that love is very genuine. But here's the thing that comes from all three of you, you love all of us, you love every American, you love freedom, you want it for every American because you care about every American, and you realize that freedom is threatened.

And you took it on, in this *Battle For the American Mind* and you took on the education system. Now, let me just tell you what I've watched, Pete. In the last couple of years, probably since you met David, he's put some great deposits in your life. And I would say you've had some pretty deep changes in your life spiritually where you can look back and say you know, there were sometimes I didn't walk exactly as I should and all of the sudden, I'm seeing, let's say in a magnified fashion, the importance of God. And you talk so openly about Jesus and a relationship with him, unapologetically, and how that was what made us great when we were birthed by founders who believed that. And so am I right about that? I'm watching changes in Pete?

PETER: Amen! I'm so grateful for David Goodwin and the good Lord putting him in my life. What an amazing human being. This book does not happen without him. It's hard to overstate what an influence he has had on me. And sometimes it takes winding around in your own life in a winding path to realize how fallen and broken you are and in need of a savior.

And then it gets urgent how much you want that in your kids. My parents were wonderful. They gave me every opportunity in the world and so I can't complain about that. They taught me about the Lord but I made my own decisions for a long time in a lot of different ways. When you come to realize that you can give that understanding to your kids at that earlier age and maybe save them a decade and a half, [Laughing], so that they're prepared to enter the cultural warfare that is our world today, without hoping they eventually find the path and a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.

So between David Goodwin, my pastor Chris Durkin who is featured in the book, and my wife Jennie, I'm just so grateful to God to be a very small part of the fight for his

kingdom. Right at the top of this book, this ambitious project is approached with humility and a full reckoning of human nature. It is my brokenness that brings me to this book. And that's exactly right. I want my kids, and eventually, grandkids, to have a country worth fighting for and know their Lord and Savior. It does get more urgent with time. I can only imagine with grandkids. I'm hoping this is a gift for them.

BETTY: Your heart is what drew me to your book too. I have hardly been able to put it down. I've read most of it; I've marked it up like crazy. But it just blessed my heart because I'm a mother, I'm a grandmother, and now a great-grandmother and I care about our children's futures, and what they're going to grow up, the foundation that they're going to have. Your book just so well explains the history of Christianity and education and how they were together, but they've been pulled apart because of what we're facing, the things we're going through today. They're trying to wipe out -- wipe God out of the education and that is the foundation of where we learn.

How are kids going to learn if they don't know the history? And they're trying to wipe the slate clean, whereas like you said indoctrinating them instead of educating them. And so your book has been a blessing to me. And I encourage anyone who hears about it to pick it up and get it and read it.

PETER: Well, Betty, thank you very much. You're exactly right. Not only is God gone from the classroom, but it is also openly hostile to any ideas of faith whatsoever -- condescending to it. And if you look at the people that originally pulled God out, they were atheists. This was not an accidental thing. They knew for their Utopian humanistic schemes to work they had to pull God out and they wrote openly about it a hundred years ago. And they did it subtly. You've read it, they did it subtly by first we're going to pull out, we're going to do a pull-out period off of campus grounds so the parents would sort of wouldn't notice fully that it's missing. And frankly, then the church did its part too abdicating its responsibility in education and said, well, we're just going to do Sunday School. Well, one hour on Sunday is not going to replace 40 hours during the week. And we got rid of that vocational part of what churches had done.

So sometimes it's scarier when you realize at the baseline what they did. It's not a bunch of schemes; it is, get God out. You have to get the anchor of truth, of biblical truth out of the classroom. The immovable object has to go.

And all the way down to the pledge of allegiance, which did not say "under God" originally, was meant to create an allegiance to the state. They took the cross away from the front of the classroom and put up a flag. And we love the flag, I love America but that was their original intention. That's why they're happy to throw the flag out now because it was never about the flag. It was always a placeholder for something else for them.

I mean the Bible was in every classroom 100 years ago in this country. It's the waters in which we swam. It was the foundation of how we were educated, and now kids don't know Matthew from Mark, or Luke from John. That's going to have consequences.

BETTY: I was a senior in high school when they announced over the speaker in my homeroom class that they were taking prayer out of the school. I was shocked. I could not believe it. And they had already been doing a lot of negative stuff about it, like you said, way before that. But that was a key step that changed, which started the change in our country and what we believe.

JAMES: They ripped out more than a morning devotional that we would have and the prayer, they were on their way to ripping God out. And when you talk about the *Battle For the American Mind*, uprooting a century of miseducation, they have removed the very concept of a creator, God, the faith of our founders, the answered prayer that led to that founding, the great distinctive diversity difference of even disagreement on the part of the founders and their ability to defend their particular positions, somehow this was all laid down for the benefit of others and the sake of freedom and the birth of the greatest nation in history! Not one of the greatest -- the greatest! Many people have said second only to the birth of Jesus was the birth of this nation. I personally don't think that's an exaggeration. The birth of this nation was a supernatural miracle where great minds came

together and became supernaturally united like Jesus prayed they could.

And Pete, it can happen today. If we would come to the table of reason, we don't have a single challenge that people seeking the wisdom that's freely offered that comes from above could not solve. We don't have one. We just need to come to the table of reason. Frankly, I think you and David, and I believe your weekend program, and even *Fox and Friends* -- and FOX, thank God for them, and all the other conservative outreaches because there are not many comparatively. But I believe that you're helping inspire what I call the next necessary great awakening. And it will be the greatest in history. So we will birth because of that. We can have a rebirth of freedom. We can save the future of freedom.

That happened under Reagan with General Daniel Graham. And I was a part of that. I'm told that I was the person that got him, Reagan, to even run. And I know I brought Daniel Graham into his life who led the military and knew what the Soviet Union was doing, and he helped tear it down. And we can see that same great move to save the future of freedom.

That's what this book is about. Betty is reading the book to me and she doesn't like to read. I mean I don't have to read it, she's reading it, she's highlighting it, she's making sure I don't miss it. And I hope everybody watching us right now will get the *Battle For the American Mind* because I'm telling you, Pete, if millions of people would read this and begin to fight for the American mind like you inspire us to, we can see the future of freedom extended. We can even see it saved. If we don't have this, I think our children are going to miss the blessings that freedom offers and has offered all of us.

PETER: Amen! Amen! What an uplifting message. You are precisely right. Every kid today deserves the exact type of education that our founders got that led to that providential brilliance of 1776. That was Latin, that was Greek, that was great books, that was biblical history, it was human history. They understood human nature. They understood our impulses, our fallen nature. As a result, knew how to architect a form of

government never seen successfully done on earth. And we're benefitting from that today.

If they made one mistake it was that they assumed it would perpetuate itself in the classroom. And it is our job to revive that type of teaching so that we can revive a generation of young kids that are not just survivors of public school. We need salt and light. I'm an advocate of salt and light in institutions. But when it is gone and it's poisoning the minds of our kids, it is time to pull them out, seek out an alternative to fortify them, put on the armor of God, go out into this culture and be the type of generation we had in 1776 that would be a rebirth of freedom.

You're exactly right. It is not an accident. America does not perpetuate itself. It starts in the home with parents. It then goes to the church in what we teach our kids and the community they're involved in. And after that, for 40 hours a week, it is what we want to be pumped into their minds.

And the left has been immensely successful in controlling every lever of that pipeline. And that's why we aggressively, David and I, call for pulling your kids out of government schools if you can. And there are other things you can do. I get some people cannot, I get it. But pulling your kids out if you can and putting them in a classical Christian school or a school you know is rejecting the progressive pipeline of education so that they can be prepared to think critically, to have a liberated mind.

That's what the liberal arts meant. We used to teach the liberal arts. We don't teach them anymore in schools. That kind of Renaissance is needed today and I'm grateful for folks like you, for FOX, and elsewhere that are talking about it because awareness is a word of the left. I remember hearing it on college campuses all the time, "We need to raise awareness." That's really what we're doing here. We're raising alarm bells about that public school that you thought was good. I was a public-school kid, my dad was a public-school teacher. It is not the same public school, and you can't afford to resign yourself to it. I think folks are waking up to that. Thank goodness.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Let me just say thank you, Lord, for the zeal that we hear in Pete's voice. Thank you for what you put on Betty's heart, in Jesus' name.

Now listen to me. With the Supreme Court decisions, either side of Roe, the one before and the one after the Roe decision gave us back -- as Kelly Shackelford taught right here on *Life Today*, and on the Stream, The Stream.org. That's where you ought to go for the news every day. The smartest people who love God are pouring it out with truth and principles.

But Kelly said that those two decisions by the Supreme Court, gave us, Betty, the ability as American parents and grandparents and great grandparents to take back our schools. And you're already seeing people so upset.

Betty, the reason prayer was removed from the school was we didn't take it as seriously as we should in the home. And the reason God has been left out of our schools is we didn't think it was important to keep the principles. We're not talking about teaching your particular denominational or sectarian view at school and having a preaching session at school. That's not what we're talking about. But we're talking about leaving godly influence in the school, which is where a teacher could express concern for a child.

To see a -- one of the Supreme Court decisions had to do with a coach praying on a football field after a game. The man lost his job. We've had people fired because they talk about God. But you can talk about the devil, transgenderism, all of this extreme stuff and even teach it in the schools. See, we have allowed that to happen. Because we didn't take prayer seriously at home, it was removed from the schools.

Because we haven't taken God's principles as seriously as we should at home and held up those principles that make marriages work -- see today marriage doesn't matter. You just

have sex, and you have babies and if you don't want the babies, you kill them because you're putting God out, God's principles out, God's truth out. When you leave that out of your marriage, your marriage deteriorates, your relationship deteriorates, your business deteriorates, your nation deteriorates, and your school deteriorates. Everything that matters to the one who knows what matters begins to be diminished. And you can't do that.

And now then, Betty, we have actually -- and this is a miracle, Pete. I'm for the private schools, and the classical schools are great, and the principled approach is good, the Abeka, all of the different ones that are there for homeschooling, all these different great things. But we could take our public schools back. It is our money that funds them.

Betty, we want our great-grandchildren to have the best possible education in public schools. Not everybody can homeschool. Not everybody can go to a private school, let's say. Now then we're getting the credit where you can as far as the money part goes. But the point is we could take back our public schools. I don't think most public-school teachers like what's going on in the schools. I think if we would come together, and people would begin to go back to the school board meetings, they're beginning to say you're not going to control what we think our kids think. You're going to give them an education, not an education according to all the horrible ideologies that you have, and the positions you have that are anti-biblical, anti-moral, anti-truth, and anti-God.

Pete, thank you. Get the book. Get it! In the bookstores, it is going to bless you. Father, thank you so much for what you're doing to wake us up. And God, we can see the greatest awakening in the history of the world, in Jesus' name.

By the way, it all starts with us. And it all starts with us revealing the love of God, the life of God, and extending the hands of God. Betty, our viewers have sent us and missionaries all over the world. Do you know the things that our viewers notice? They notice, for instance, in the feeding program the little children burning their hands because they had a tin can to get the soup. They wanted to give them heat-resistant bowls. They did it.

Do you know what else they saw? They've seen little children with hurt feet with no shoes. And we had one of our viewers come and say, I can give some shoes that are great, real inexpensively. Could we give away shoes? Well, we started giving away *Shoes and Smiles*. I want you to just look in on a scene that's going to capture your heart and then you're going to express the heart of God by extending his hands. You watch.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: In this season of giving, God's Word has very special meaning when he tells us not to be only hearers of the word but also doers of the word.

When I was hungry, you fed me.

When I was thirsty, you gave me a drink.

When I was a stranger, you invited me in.

TAMMY: It's a great day when you can give unto the least of these. I've hung out in this village all afternoon and I could not wait for this moment, to be honest with you. But I've had a chance to play with the children. We've hung out and I've played at their playground with them. You would not imagine what playground they play on. Many of them have never had a pair of shoes until this moment. I promise you, now they will not be playing in dangerous places again without shoes to protect their feet.

You shouldn't have to walk around without shoes on your feet. You shouldn't have to do that. You should be able to play and not ever have to worry about cutting your feet.

I'm so thankful to *LIFE Outreach* in this moment. This is what it all comes down to. Something so special and so simple. Changing his little life forever. Thank you so much for making it possible for these children and hundreds of thousands of children across the world. Thank you so much!

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Tammy, you've gone all over the world with us, and seeing you with those children. I'm holding this little shoe right here that we send for any gift that you will give to help us give those shoes. Do you think you can give ten pairs for \$36? You can give 50 pairs of shoes for \$180. I wish you'd do that.

We're sending, if you give over \$100, and I'd love for you to give that \$180, we're sending the little box of shoes with this shoe. You know, Betty we've loaded our Christmas tree. Betty has even got a little tree just for the little shoes. I want you to get these.

Let me just say this to you as personally as I can. You have helped us bless so many people's lives. Do you know what we're doing along with the shoes? And boy, do our viewers love this! We're giving little children a smile who never had one.

Did you know that we've seen children when they see their face in a reflection, like sometimes in the side of a vehicle where they can see the reflection in the window looking in because it is dark on the inside and they get a reflection, and they pull back because they see their little face? Some of them have never seen clear mirrors. And sometimes we've played back video footage on a monitor. And we saw one little boy see his face and he just pulled back. He couldn't stand the way he looked.

That makes me so sad. We've got doctors who will go to the mission field and for an average of \$500, we can give them a smile. And that's a very expensive surgery but you can pay for it. Think about it, \$1,000 two children smile. And many of you are able to do that.

Betty, our viewers who are blessed by God, many of them are older people like us who may have some reserves that they can go into, that's how we get so many shoes. We just

don't stop giving. We give water wells every time we say now a well. It's because we said God let us do it. If you're able to do it, you'll do it.

Could you give smiles? Would you give shoes? Could you give the \$180? Could you give the \$36, please? We're going to send you these gifts and the gifts we offer to bless you. But you are giving the greatest gift, you're sharing the love of God. Thank you so much!

Go online right now or dial that number, take your bank card, and use it like a check. Please do that. If you write a check, make it to LIFE but call us, let us know today what you're sending. We need to hear from you. 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 of 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 pairs of 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 help 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 beautiful crafted red crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to display each Christmas. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request this keepsake boxed set featuring four of *LIFE*'s crystal Christmas shoe ornaments.

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 a beautiful bronze sculpture, "Let the Children Come!" Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: You know, Betty, I had the Rwandan orphans crawl up in my lap a little bit like this and it became my favorite picture. Thank you for letting children get in your arms.

We are sending this for gifts of over \$1,000. I know some of you can do more than that even. But you're putting Jesus' arms around the children. Yes, even when you give them shoes or smiles. Thank you so much for doing it. We love you.

By the way, get Pete's book, the *Battle For the American Mind*. It is great because we're in a battle and we're going to win. To God be the glory. Thanks for watching!