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Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Dr. Michael Brown #2

In the studio

JAMES: Isn't it a joy to -- I know it is hard for you. You're just not comfortable running up here and doing TV, right? Is that something you would have just volunteered --

BETTY: That's not something I probably would have thought of.

JAMES: Are you glad that you've been doing it?

BETTY: I get amazed every time we do it. That God just shows up because if he doesn't, I'm sunk. I just thank you for your encouragement and your prayers for both of us.

JAMES: But they love you. They do dearly love you. And I think really, many of you listen to me because she's sitting here and you want to know if she's going to say something, and you wish I'd hush. But now, please let them know that I'm oftentimes shaking your leg trying to get you into the conversation. I'd just as soon you just talk the whole time. Do you like our guest today, Dr. Michael Brown?

BETTY: I love him. I think he is such a man of God and God has given him such wisdom and insight into his truth and word.

JAMES: Well, we've got him back. Earlier in the week, when I introduced him, I talked about how much I admire him. I said that in this book, *The Political Seduction of the Church*, there was a chapter when I read it, and he said I called him two or three times commenting on it, because a lot of times he says, "You always challenge me."

Sometimes I say, "Well, you're like corrector and chief so sometimes you need a little correction." And I go for it and he takes it. He's so great. We have just an unbelievable relationship. But when I read this, "Is the church called to take over society?" Which is what we'll be accused of doing, and it's the last thing in the world, I mean the one thing we don't want to be is the takeover group. We're not trying to run things, that ruins things.

But we do believe we ought to be a light influence and a salt effect to preserve the precious and to add life to everything in life to enhance it. So I said I want everybody to have it. So I'm going to tell you this, it is going to be on The Stream, and it is a long chapter, not a short chapter, every word of it, and it is going to stay there where you can go and find it and pass it on. But I would like the whole church to read this.

Dr. Brown, Michael, you let me call you, and you're my buddy, and we do talk. And I usually talk for an hour, and you'll talk for ten minutes.

MICHAEL: Not ten minutes, two minutes.

JAMES: Why do you listen to me?

MICHAEL: I listen to you because God put you in my life and because you have something to say. Over the years, God's connected me at key times with senior leaders. I'm 67 but you're an elder to me, both in experience and in life. I recognize these are divine appointments. These are relationships that matter. And there is something you have I'm supposed to receive.

Obviously, you want me to sift it. There have been times you'll talk to me for an hour and then if something didn't sit right, I wrote you a letter several pages long and you said, "I agree with every word of your letter." That was our dialogue.

JAMES: And I'm repenting. Really, you'll show me things where I need to adjust. I will tell you that.

MICHAEL: And you've asked me, "Hey, give me input on this." But 90 plus percent of it, I know the things in you that God wants me to get, and if I get them, I can be more effective in doing what God called me to do. So I recognize the relationship. It's not just a put-on thing, the esteem and respect are real.

It's always a bigger picture. I can want to fix this, but you said, "Michael, if you can see God's heart do this. If you can get the person up here." So it is always this call. Many times I don't get it. Literally, I'll say to the Lord, I don't get this. I'll go away on a prayer retreat, and say, Lord, James just took an hour to talk to me and I don't get it. What am I supposed to see here? And that's what's challenging me because it is not in me.

JAMES: Does he ever tell you?

MICHAEL: Oh yeah. I get it. It takes me a while. I told my wife the other day, I said it takes me, I think, three times when she'll tell me, "Remember, don't put this in this cabinet it belongs in this." I said, "The third time it normally sinks in." With you, it's sometimes, I don't get it, and then aah! That's it. And it's normally something very simple. It's the simple stuff I miss. So I know the Lord brought us together.

We were dialoguing about something, and I thought, I hope James agrees with me on this because I'm writing this book on the political seduction of the church and the danger of confusing politics with the gospel.

Of course, of course, of course, we're involved. If we're not involved, the whole country is going to collapse. But politics doesn't do what only the gospel can do. Politics will never save a single soul in a million years. Or drive a demon out of a single person. Or set a captive free. But it's going to have a massive effect on where a country goes, we understand that.

So I said, boy, I'm writing this book, I hope James agrees with me. So I sent it to one of

your trusted coworkers to print out for you. And it was three straight nights as you were reading it, you called, and you were just saying you hadn't read anything like this and it was inspired. You wanted hundreds of thousands or millions of your viewers to read it.

I thought, whoa! That's encouraging. I was concerned because I value your input. But I knew I had something here that needed to be said. Because I end the book, and I'll talk about that chapter in a minute, talking about William Wilberforce and Charles Spurgeon. So Wilberforce, a convert of Wesley, wanted to do among the rich what Wesley had done among the poor. And he had this lifelong burden for the abolition of slavery and reformation of morals in the country. And the slave trade supported the whole British empire! You don't just get rid of that. Right? But he worked tirelessly, he was in the Parliament, endlessly, defeat after defeat after defeat. And then the change came and ultimately change came to America as well, and that evil system was destroyed.

So Spurgeon says there are many good people, philanthropists, people with good hearts that tried to fight abolition, but they couldn't succeed. It's when the church rose up, the healthy church is what will bring a life-giving effect to society.

So we've got basically three things I deal with in this chapter. There is the wrong view of the church that we are called to take dominion; that the church is the governing authority that takes dominion over the society and that somehow it is up to us to kind of conquer spiritually and impose. That's the one error.

There's the lie that the world says, that the left-wing media says, that anything we do for the gospel, or the moment we get involved politically, we're dominionists, we're trying to take over, we're Christian nationalists. We're trying to impose a theocracy.

So there is the lie from the left, and there is what we are called to do. And what we are called to do is transformation by changing hearts and changing values. It is transformation by the light shining in the dark places. There is transformation by the lost being saved and believers living as believers. It is transformation by good works on the

ground.

Look, how is it that you are winning so many people in Africa? Because they see the good deeds and want to know why these people love us. They don't even know us. It's because of Jesus. And you hear the rest of the message. You can have a church that's been in the community for 20-30 years and the media attacks that church and the people in the community say, no, no, we know them. That's where we go for our addiction programs and our marriage programs. When we have a storm, they're the ones that are there cleaning up and helping. So it is the church being the church that can transform society. And it is often from the bottom up. And if we want to see a gospel transformation of society, we want to see a reformation of society, it starts by the church awakening. That we repent of our sin.

I was telling students at a Bible School the other day, I said, "If Christians stopped watching porn it would hurt the porn industry." We're that much -- so if we cleaned up our act, we get revived, we start living differently, we start to now live out our values, we start to win the lost. The lost get saved. Major radicals with all kinds of ideas get born again, and their thinking changes. Now how do we vote? The vote changes. What kind of teaching do we have in our schools? That changes. What kind of laws do we have? That changes. And then as the larger changes come, people in society as a whole say these ways are actually better. That's how we bring about change. If we just think, if we get all of our candidates in, and get all of these laws through and get all our appointees to the courts without a revived church, what you'll have is people in greater rebellion, fighting back and resenting.

We don't want a theocracy. We're not trying to take over. The dominion we have is spiritual over sin in our lives. We don't have dominion over other people's lives. When we get this right, it is something the devil doesn't want us to hear. We go from one extreme to another. When we get this right, America can be shaken.

JAMES: To me, the political system is putting the best people in leadership because their

leadership determines how the rest of the country is affected, including the loss of our freedom, which is why you lose the second amendment, the first amendment is gone. The first amendment has already been assaulted so hard that they're going after all the amendments. They're going after our freedoms. Who are they? The people we allowed in office, or we put in office, or we tolerate in office.

Now am I hooting in the wind to say what I'm saying? Or does this make any sense even in light of this book?

MICHAEL: Yeah! It makes perfect sense. Point of fact, when the Supreme Court redefined marriage outrageously, and then the President lights up the White House in rainbow colors and celebrates it, that affected the culture.

JAMES: You redefined marriage, you redefined sex.

MICHAEL: That affected the way people think about it. That affected young people just thinking this is okay. So, of course, this is going to happen. The problem is when we look to politics to do what the gospel can do that's our error.

I got saved in 1971. You know my story, 16 years old, long-haired hippie, Jewish kid, drum player, heroin-shooting, LSD-using rebel. I get radically saved. A whole bunch of us got radically saved at that time; out of the counterculture movement, we got saved in the Jesus movement. You saw it all unfold. We were told Jesus is coming any minute. He's out of here. And look at what's happening. Look at all the rebellion. Look at the sexual revolution -- sex, drugs, rock and roll, eastern religion, radical feminism, and gay activism. This is the final rebellion, we're out of here. Well, we're all here. It was over 50 years later. We're all here.

JAMES: To be light and salt in a dark world.

MICHAEL: And look at the agendas that the others had. Look at the agendas of radical

feminists. Jesus died for them. We want to see them saved, right? But look at the agendas of radical feminists and gay activists. All their agendas came to pass because they didn't think they were going anywhere. They thought we're staying here, let's change the world. And they did. We thought, we're out of here and we let others do it. So, of course, we have to maintain our place. Of course, we have to maintain our role but even when we're voting for certain candidates, we can't be seduced by the power of we got our man in. Okay, thank God for that but that's politics. Pray for them to do what they do and then we have to do what only we can do.

JAMES: That man has got to get godly principles in place. There is one god and when you move him and then you begin to ignore His Word and change His Word into a lie, you will be given over to the inability to think straight; it is called a reprobate mind in Romans one. And the last verse of Romans one is they not only do them, they give hearty approval to it. That means they'll even pass laws approving it. We're watching this, Dr. Brown.

MICHAEL: It's insanity!

JAMES: I'm not going to sit back and let somebody take this country straight to hell. If I can stand against the gates of hell, I'm going to push back against their effect and I'm not going to let the gates of hell prevail on my watch. Does that make sense?

MICHAEL: Yeah. We got involved where I live, near Charlotte, North Carolina, because of radical transgender ideology in the schools; and you share bathrooms and all these things.

JAMES: And you've had some positive changes by the way in your state that needed to take place.

MICHAEL: Thank God! The county where Charlotte is is a much more liberal county. So we had, it was 150-plus people testifying before the school board. I was one, we

talked for two or three minutes. I held up, and said, "This is actually the curriculum being taught. I know it for a fact." "No, we don't believe it."

JAMES: But they proved it.

MICHAEL: So here's what happened. Now they realize what we're saying was true. But at the end of the day, the school board was slanted six-three to the left. It didn't matter what we said. So we've got to replace the members of the school boards.

JAMES: You've got to get rid of the ones that don't know what good looks like, what principles look like. That is not a takeover, that is exercising the freedom somebody birthed when they came together in great diversity and wrote a document greater than all of them put together. It had to happen that way. But it gave us something that if we don't protect -- and many people died for it, died for the freedoms we have. And we can't just let them drift away because we're all going to get out of here. He left us here to get him in here in the fullness of his power. Now I'm preaching to Dr. Brown the way I'll preach to Dr. Brown and the president, whoever, because it's the truth. Do you agree with what I'm saying?

MICHAEL: Jesus prayed for his disciples, "Father, I do not pray that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one." So look, the way I'm going to look at it when we had President Trump in, we had, with his flaws, but thank God for the good he did. It was like a stop at the door. The door was slamming, and you got this guy with a forehead of steel, okay, he's going to make his mistakes but he held the door for the church to now do what it can do.

JAMES: Like one of the kings did what Daniel said on occasion and the whole country was blessed for it. Every time you listen to God and respond, people are blessed. So that's why we speak the truth, we live the truth, but if you've been given an opportunity to vote for the truth and vote for principles, not personalities, not parties, principles, that's what the church stands for.

MICHAEL: So here with all the criticism about voting for Trump, and you and I had massive issues during the primaries --

JAMES: But Trump just isn't the issue. The issue is the principles of Almighty God. He did get moved by some of them.

MICHAEL: So you think Roe V Wade was directly overturned as a result of his presidency and the three appointees? Now, we still have to work on changing people's hearts and getting a pro-life mentality in the country, but these things have consequences, world consequences. The world is ready to fall apart now, and if there had been a different leader in the White House things might be different right now, and the whole world. So these are big issues. The key thing is just have it in its right category, that politics does what politics does and we do our best to impact in a positive way. And then the gospel does what the gospel can do. I often find as we pray like crazy when we have somebody in office we don't like, oh God! Oh, send revival! Wake us up! And then we get our man or our woman in and we kind of coast. No, no, no. Thank God for getting the right person in, and now turn it up, turn up our gospel activity. If we could give ourselves to prayer, to repentance, to the great commission, to making disciples, to living out our values, and to being involved in every sphere of life, it is the only hope for America.

JAMES: And you keep praying for the individuals in office even if the one you wanted for God to continue to shape his will, his ways, his truth, his principles into them. We don't ever stop that. And just so you know and you do know, I don't ever stop speaking the truth in unconditional, redemptive love to every person you've ever seen me with. Do you agree?

MICHAEL: Yes.

JAMES: And you will ever see me with. That's what we do. I believe that you are saying in this book, and it is brilliant, do not allow the church to be manipulated by any power

on this earth to our own demise. You be the force that influences. When Jesus prayed for the church to have a personal relationship with the Father like he does, not a religious affiliation, a relationship, this is John 17, sanctified by the word. That means shaped by it, not divided, bludgeoned, beat up, and amputated by it -- shaped by it. And then that we would come into supernatural unity, not perfect agreement. Betty and I have been married for 60 years. We've had heated discussions. There is no way you could look at this doll, how much we love each other. This relationship will stand against the forces of hell. Not because I'm perfect for sure. You say well, she might be close. No, she'd tell you, I'm not either. Listen, God brings together in unconditional love miraculous relationships, businesses, blessings, and futures. Yes, nations can be on an unshakeable rock, but we have to hold up the principles of Almighty God. And you don't throw out any of those ten Commandments. Once you get rid of who matters, what matters, the one who knows what matters, nothing matters and we're toast, freedom is gone. Stand.

Doc, I love everything you do. And I want God to use us together to be a force that inspires the church to be exactly what Jesus prayed we would be. In such supernatural unity, such relationship with him, the Word of God shaping us so that we literally shake the gates of hell and do not allow them to prevail. When Jesus said they can't prevail against my body, the church.

Father, that's what I pray for. Michael and I are going to have intense discussions as long as we're alive. For one reason, to see your will done on your earth, your kingdom that has come, your will done on your earth for your glory. And we believe we can witness it, and we pray for that day; in Jesus' name.

The book is available. We're going to publish the chapter I mentioned on The Stream and it's going to stay there. Okay? It's just going to stay there. Not on the front page where you can click it and just go to it. You help us feed some children and we'll gladly send it to you if you'd like to have it.

Michael Brown and I have intense discussions, you can already tell that. Both of us grow.

We respect each other the way you're supposed to respect one another, and we will grow together. I want you to watch something right now. I want you to watch and listen to a grandmother and then I want you to listen to the Father and how you can become the miracle this grandmother talks about needing. Watch prayerfully.

On the mission field

JOHN: James, Betty, as our trip here in Angola is coming to an end, and we have been with so many mothers and grandmothers this week who have lost their children and their grandchildren, and whose crops have failed, and there is no food in their villages to feed, and they and their husbands and sons and daughters are all working diligently trying to find a way to make just enough to survive.

But today I'm sitting here in a field, a very dry and barren field with a grandmother. This grandmother has dreams and hopes for her grandchildren. She had seven of them. But just six months ago, she lost one. She lost little Amelia and there are no words to express. And I'll be honest with you, after being here for two weeks and listening to more brokenhearted stories than I can imagine, I hardly have tears left in my body to cry.

If we don't help these villages, these families, the hopes and the dreams of being able to see a time that's better for their grandchildren than it was for them is almost impossible. And so I'm asking you right now, for every one of you that are watching *Life Today*, whatever way you give, I'm asking you do not delay one more minute. Please go now and make your very best gift.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: I want to tell you that as I close, and really just in the last moments we've just done nothing but pray for his will to be done on his earth, for his glory, and to benefit you he loves so much. That you will receive from him all he wants for you, and then you'll

release through you all he wants for others. You'll be a channel through which he flows his life, love, and truth. That's our prayer. Michael, Dr. Brown, I love you.

MICHAEL: Love you, man!

JAMES: I promise you, this book will bless you. Thanks for watching.