

Week 5

1/25/11

James: Thank you so much! Hey, appreciate it. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I have written a book that is in the bookstores; it's called "Living in Love." I have a couple that we have invited to be our guest today that really have had such a tremendous impact that I actually considered them -- in light of considering them, really discuss not writing a book because I said these people have spent their life counseling with married couples and they're awesome. I'm talking about Jimmy and Karen Evans, Marriage Today. They talk about marriage and family as effectively -- as a matter of fact, it's really... the only way I know how to put it, it's a very special touch of God because they actually invite you in. Jimmy said he really was a jerk. He wasn't just being accused of being a jerk; he was a first class, world class, award-winning jerk. He tells you what the journey was like as they really went through what was impossible reconciliation. They reached a point that they really did think they would divorce but God miraculously changed them and he took them on a journey. So when Betty and I were asked to write "Living in Love" and I'll tell you why we wrote it, because so many viewers said, "Would you please write it?" Then everybody that came through *LIFE Today* television would say, "You all have been a blessing to us, would you tell your story?" Here's how the publisher, which happened to be the largest publisher in the world, they came to us and said, "Would you please..." and they did publish it under a branch called WaterBrook, which is one of their inspirational branches, here's what they said to us. They said, "We want you to let people go on your journey because they've seen some that works." Here's what other marriage overseers have said. "It's not just a how-to book, it is how it did happen 47 years and you all are really in love with each other and really excited, really enjoy the relationship." I can't look at you and I love you to smile! I can't look at her and just not want to tell her how beautiful she is, how cute she is, how fun she is because it is the real deal. This isn't like show time. If you saw show time, you would think we're downplaying it out here. We're crazy about each other.

[Laughter]

There is a reason that we were able to really get through all of the challenges and arrive at a place of incredible joy after being together and in love 50 years -- really in love -- here's the deal, we're not supposed to be the odd couple. This is what God wants for you. Well, we want to help you. "Living In Love" is what God wants us to do. We've asked Jimmy and Karen who we really believe to be experts and by the way,

they're glad we wrote the book too, we hope you are, but we didn't consider ourselves experts, we believe we experience life and want to share it. Would you welcome Jimmy and Karen Evans to *LIFE Today*? Jimmy and Karen, we welcome you. I really hope you understand what I'm saying, I mean it in the truest sense of the word because we've had a lot of great counselors and I've never -- a lot of them are great and we bring any of them in that can help marriages because we love people, but you all really have a gift. But we felt like who are we?

Jimmy: Well, Karen read the book first and she was walking through the house one day and she said, "You're going to love James and Betty's book." She said, "It is fantastic." She loved the way that it read from a woman's perspective. Both of you guys playing off of each other and all that you do in the book is fantastic. The thing I loved about it is it is so real. You guys, you're like us, you shouldn't have made it really with your backgrounds... you were so different. And both came from a really kind of a -- especially you, James, a destructive background, and you Betty, you had low self-esteem and all of the things you were going through. I absolutely love the honesty of the book and every person can relate to this. When I was reading I just got blessed. It really helped me because when I was reading it, I thought, everyone goes through that but so few people talk about it. You're so transparent. But you talk about money, you talk about sex, you talk about communication, you talk about commitment, you talk about trust; and the way I feel about it is that just any person, whether you are married or divorced or struggling or wherever you are, reading that book just gives you a picture of a couple that's been married 47 years. You've just been through everything. Rather than letting it cause you to give up or to harm each other, you just hung in there, you were committed to God, you were committed to each other. And it's a story of commitment and what God can do with anyone who hangs in there and does things right. I just congratulate you on the book but Karen loved it then I read it and I just loved it too.

Karen: I loved it because it is personal. It is not clinical; it is not step two, three, four, five. It is very personal. You're very honest. I love the way you're open and honest about your stories. I found out things about you that I would never have known.

James: You may not know it but she's looking at Betty.

[Laughter]

Here's the deal, you are hearing Betty and a lot of you are saying, "I wish she would talk a lot on television." She's telling me, "I don't want to. Don't ask me to. I'm not." But in the book, she is all the way through it -- that's what you're saying.

Betty: Well, the title "Living In Love" didn't by any means mean that we had it all together, we had it all figured out. It wasn't perfect. We didn't start off that way. We had to learn how to live together because you have two different personalities. But "Living In Love" was... we chose that title because we were able to still be in love and work through all of the journey, the challenges that came because I brought baggage into the relationship, he brought baggage into the relationship --

Jimmy: Yeah, y'all brought massive baggage.

[Laughter]

Really... I was shocked. I've known you guys for a long time, I was reading that book, I was just shocked. This is the book -- if you want to be inspired. Like Karen said it is not a how-to, one two, three, four. It's just the expose of a couple who loves God, who is committed to each other but has been in the trenches of reality in every aspect. And it is inspirational because it is like a "Rocky" story. Yeah, y'all are underdogs. James, your background alone was so unbelievably bad that for you to --

James: It's typical of a lot of people today. The sad thing is a lot of people come from a dysfunctional family or an addictive family or a missing father and that is precisely the case. I really do believe that as I said, we're not supposed to be the odd couple or the exception to the rule, I believe we are the typical, like God story, that God can have a total affect in your life, a transforming affect. That's what we're trying to encourage you to go on that journey with us. Karen, you were talking about Betty a moment ago and I want to come back to that because so many of our viewers and so many people say, "I wish we could hear your heart more." You all know from the time you began your ministry to families, you're an encourager and we've done everything we could to help you. I don't talk freely about books we've written, and I've written a number of books, I talk about other people's books. This book I can talk about freely and openly because the great -- let's say a great portion of it, half of the book is Betty and it's Betty expressing herself. Like our viewers say, "I wish we could hear Betty's heart. I wish we knew what her feelings are. I wish we knew what she was going through." And women identify with her. Do you agree that's coming out? That the wish people have is coming out in book?

Karen: Honestly, no offense to you, that's what I got most out of the book is hearing her side. Because I'll hear that at seminars; we'll do seminars and I don't speak because I'm not a speaker and they'll say, "We want to hear Karen." It's like, no, trust me, you don't want to hear me because I'll go off in a million trails. But it's like, we all have a heart and we all have things in our past, we have all suffered, we all have pain, and just to hear another woman express the same thing that most everybody in this audience has gone through and in real terms. It is not on stage. It's not before a camera. It's this is my home, this is how I live, this is the fights we have, this is how we work through those fights. It is just so personal, the most practical, personal way of expressing a woman's heart in a marriage and to another woman. So I highly recommend it.

Betty: Well, Jimmy, you mentioned the word "commitment" earlier and I think that is truly one of the most important things that our marriage has been based upon; just has young as we were when we got married, I never -- and the disagreements -- well I call them disagreements, they were real arguments, fights.

[Laughter]

Because when we married it was for life, we really had that in our hearts and believed that. And even though we had these challenges -- big challenges as you said earlier -- these hurdles to jump over and everything, I never felt threatened that we were going to divorce or leave one another. I trusted his love for me enough that I knew we could get through whatever disagreement it was and that makes a big difference. I feel like he felt the same way.

Jimmy: That's what you guys are such a great example of. A lot of people have the misconception that if they marry their soul mate that it's just happily ever after and you wake up every morning look at each other and say, "Hallelujah!" It's just happening because of the chemistry. It's not that way. If you marry your perfect soul mate, you have to work at the relationship, you're going to go through tough times and great marriages are not soul mate perfect relationships based on chemistry, they are two people in the trenches of life that stay there together long enough that one day you wake up and say, "You could have left 100 times and you didn't! You're my friend." That's when you bond.

Betty: The love really does grow in those times.

Jimmy: Absolutely! So the picture that you guys are giving is 47 years of reality, of just living life together and all the things that come through life. Karen said it right, it is just so honest and it is so vulnerable and that's what people need. Your commitment to me, like James says, you shouldn't be the exception. America and the world needs to go back to a covenant based marriage. You talk about that in your book very well.

James: I actually use your teaching and Robert's teaching. We talk about the difference in a covenant and a contract and it is one of the most incredible things, where you're not just trying to protect your rights but you're actually laying them down and picking up your responsibilities. The whole country knows nothing about picking up responsibility, that's why we're about to lose freedom. That's why the church is less effective, not willing to take on the responsibility of living the Christ light. One of the things I think is important, we talk about in the book, that I want to throw this in, Betty, this is going to catch her a little off guard maybe, but we talk about confronting issues and dealing with conflict. You use the reference a while ago that we hang in there and I know what you meant because you mean we hang in but we're committed to what you're doing but a lot of people hanging in there and letting the rough end drag. They're just hanging in. What I have found is if you hang onto him and hang onto truth and hang onto one another, you don't have to hang in there, you can go somewhere. Here's what I'm saying, Betty, your natural response to correction is to hear it as criticism. Am I right about that?

Betty: You're right!

James: So you had to brace yourself for just a second. But here's what you needed to include, that beautiful smile that came because what that was was a confession of reality. But here's where the supernatural kicks in, if she has that tendency when you speak a word, however encouraging, I could come in and drape myself in flowers and say, "I want to say something to you."

[Laughter]

But you see, that ain't going to help if you're going to take whatever comes as criticism. You have to know you need to get past that. Here's what it takes -- now listen to me. You say, "Betty just needs to get over that." No, I need to understand that. That's called the wisdom that comes from above. Way beyond me, I'm not that smart. I neither that smart nor sensitive enough to realize what is happening. She feels that she has disappointed because she so wanted to do it right. Now she has failed in what is her heart's desire and to please and to help and now she has failed and she hears that. I have to learn, no wait a minute, honey, we just need to look at something. If I don't

come with supernatural enabling and then she doesn't have the ability to catch herself because her first response is to storm out of the room or often pout --

Betty: Pout -- a good pouter!

James: You said it, professional, like he had the degree on jerk, you had the degree on pout.

Jimmy: He keeps going back to it, Betty! He won't let it go!

[Laughter]

Betty: Well, I'm the one that made the list of his sins because I couldn't think of any of mine!

[Laughter]

James: She wrote them down and she asked if they had a bigger legal pad.

[Laughter]

Here's the thing, what I'm saying to you is that this ability for me to see how I needed to approach it. I talk about confrontation, Jimmy, and I'm grateful to say in the later years of my life I've become a compassionate confronter instead of an abrasive confronter which you see a lot of that. And we really talk about resolution of the conflict so we get to a harmonious place. I want to say to all of you out here, for those of you who had the partner and lost it, you didn't lose hope. A whole lot of the book is talking about hope. See God hates divorce because he hates what happened that led to the divorce. The divorce certificate or going to the courthouse, that's not the issue, it's what happened in the relationship, it's tearing at the relationship that God hates. He doesn't want you to be there. See, I love you. I want you to have relationship. I want you to have relationship I never had when I was a kid without a home, and I don't see many people with it and I want it for all of you. So if your relationship is broken or your heart is broken or it is strained, I want you to know it can be better than you ever dreamed. It can be beyond anything you ever imagined. It is not the unreachable star. It is really the possibility that he lifts and enables us to, to two of us, like Jimmy and Karen said, the impossible to have the possible because with God there is nothing impossible. We want you to get the book. Which if you will simply help us literally give water to those who are in desperate need and you're going to see that need. As a matter of fact, you're going to hear Tammy Trent who lost her husband drowning in

water and it was his hobby, water took his life. You're going to hear Tammy talking about what water can do, how that which took the love of her life, how that water gives life, is essential for life all over the world. I don't know if I've ever seen anyone go to the mission field with greater compassion and passion for the purpose of literally rescuing those who are perishing. We want to help you in your relationship. We want you to have a meaningful relationship with God and with those you love and with your spouse and if your life has been impacted and your relationships hurting in a negative way, even lost a marriage, you've not lost life! That's the reason why we want to bless you and help you live in love but we also want to encourage you to release the love of God, that's really part of the healing process. It's really a part of the joy in life. I think you'll see what I'm talking about. Watch this.

On the mission field:

Kathy: I'm here in this tiny village in India and this is what is available to them. These ladies, these young ladies, these mothers, these children, dug holes just to get to some drinking water. This water is full of disease and sometimes death.

Tammy: I'm about to go visit with this family down here by the stream but I want to point something out to you as I was walking down. Can you see this? This is the water source right here and that is cow manure. That is in their water source. Do they have any options? Do they have any choice? No, this is it.

Betty: This is the kind of water they're drinking; the only water they have to fill their thirst. But as they're filling their thirst they're putting disease into their little bodies.

Lisa: We have seen the graves of children that have died just a week after they were done nursing because they drank from this river. This river is toxic.

Jeanne: When we came out to this grave, I watched the mother walk up to it and kneel down and start weeping immediately. The pain of losing a child is not quickly forgotten. This grave still feels fresh and I can't imagine what it's like to just lose a child to unclean water. We can stop this kind of pain these families suffer when they lose their children so quickly, so easily simply because they don't have clean water. We can drill a well here and change the situation for them. No more waterborne illnesses killing them. Won't you help us? Help us drill a well.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I don't know how anyone could make it any clearer. Tammy, I know you watch *LIFE Today*. You not only represent life in mission outreaches all over the world but you watch us. I want to tell you that you... you really do reveal in the clearest way the heart of God. Thank you. And to all of you who are watching, can I just tell you what our missionaries have told us? Those of who support the mission outreaches, you're the greatest people on the planet. You have never met many of the mission workers and relief workers who have planted their lives in the midst of pain and suffering but you have connected with them supernaturally, it is a supernatural thing where you literally give them the ability to put arms of love around the suffering and give them life! It is not just a feeble gesture. You talk about coming with a cup of clean water, you watch these little children, they go and they dip up this dirty water in every kind of container they can get. A lot of them just get it in their hand and it is like a dog but you wouldn't want your pet to drink that stuff -- you couldn't! You couldn't accept anybody in your family drinking it. Well, this is people God loves! See, it is not just we wish we could do something about it, we know we can. And that's why we have located 415 areas where the missionaries have already taken the love of God in word and they've done much to alleviate suffering in some of these areas where we've been feeding. But we know the contaminated water is killing them. So we're asking you, please make the best gift you can to help us drill water wells. If you could possibly cover the cost of a well, it is \$4800. Would you do that? It is something that people have found such joy doing that it becomes one of their annual goals. Every year we've got people who do what Betty and I do and they say, every time we emphasize it in water for life, we're going to drill a well. And we asked God to enable us to do that and he did it! Would you drill a well or give \$1200 and pray three people join you or \$2400 and say God give me another person to join? Keep in mind however, because I know some of you say, James, you always ask for the whole thing. You always ask for big -- I don't think people need help thinking small. I want you to think big. \$48, however, ten people water for the rest of their life. So that \$48 is huge to those three people. \$144, 30 people water for life. We're going to send you "Living in Love." Betty and I found some keys and secrets. We've been sharing those. We want you to know. We believe the book -- many of you have told us how it's blessed you -- you may want to pass this one onto a friend. "Praying God's Word" -- we'll send you both books for any gift because you're literally giving life and love and "Praying God's Word" is critical for those of you who face whatever challenges in life. When I was recovering from staph infection I was actually in the heat of the battle, Robin our daughter who had just won an incredible battle with cancer, she came to our home to her dad while I was still very weak, she gave me this leather journal and she said and I told her, it was

really a treasure and later I called her and said, Robin, you have no idea what this means to me. Carried it around everywhere and God talks to me and says something, I write it down then I go back and study on what he put on my heart. She said, daddy, God told me to buy that journal. I saw that at a bookstore. Well, we've gotten them for you. I'd like to send one to you because it will bless you. You make a gift of \$100 or more and we'll send it. You'll help us toward that are water well with a \$1200 gift or more, we're going to send you the beautiful bronze along with the other gifts. Please, dial that number. Take your bankcard, use it like a check. You write a check, make it to *LIFE* or you can go online, LifeToday.org. This is an exciting time of the year to join together to share water. Please do your part today.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Water, without it life as you know it cannot exist. But for millions of children and families, their own available water is filled with disease and once ingested can lead to death. But one new water well can turn the most barren desert into an oasis of life! With your donation today Mission: Water For Life can drill 415 water wells this year in 15 nations! Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean uncontaminated water for 30 people for a lifetime. With your gift of any size we'll send you "Living in Love," James and Betty's new book that shares keys to an exciting and fulfilling marriage. You'll also receive Beth Moore's bestselling book, "Praying God's Word." With your gift of \$100 or more, you may also request this beautiful leather journal to record and reflect on your own personal times with God. And finally, with your gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well, be sure to request "Heart of the Father," our beautiful new bronze sculpture representing God's fatherly love for us as his children. Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

On the mission field:

James: I'm kneeling down here by what is a common water source for little village areas. This river meanders through this part of Central America. It's the water source. It's contaminated with animal waste. It is contaminated with human waste because they don't have any sewage. They have no running water. So they go to the bathroom out here in the bush and the brush and then it washes here. People get all kinds of

intestinal diseases. And clean water, fresh water, that's the answer. This is what they have now -- making them sick, killing a lot of them very young. But we can give them a fresh water well. You may be able to give one or give toward it or give a cup of water that adds up and becomes a well of water. But we need everyone's help. You make a life giving call today please.

In the studio:

James: I do want to remind you about the book for your children and your families or your grandchildren on really biblically and with wisdom, how you rear children. "Dad to Teens," I really wish every teenager in the world could hear this message. When God told me a little over a year ago, go back and deliver what you delivered to millions of teenagers and our teenage grandchildren were sitting there. And you know what they said? They said, "Papaw, we've never in our life heard anything like that. We've never watched kids listen like that." Then they began to show it in other churches and calls came in saying, "James, you won't believe what happened in an auditorium full of young people! They were transformed by the truth they heard." We want to send that to you to bless you so you ask for it and then consider playing it in your churches. Remember, in the bookstores, "Living in Love" because God wants us to live in love. Would you say thanks to Jimmy and Karen Evans?

[Applause]

Thank you, Jimmy! Thank you, Karen! Thanks for blessing marriages!

Karen: Thank you!

James: Thank all of you for watching *LIFE Today* and sharing *LIFE Today*!

Announcer: James and Betty Robison share their personal journey and keys to an exciting and fulfilling marriage in their brand-new book, "Living in Love." James and Betty reveal insights into communication, how to face challenges and overcome failure to enjoy marriage as God intended. "Living in Love" is available wherever books are sold or order today at [Living InLoveToday.com](http://LivingInLoveToday.com).

Announcer: Beth Moore... tomorrow!

Beth: I've had enough defeat in my life for all of us! So please learn this one off the page and not necessarily on the pavement.