

Week 5

1/27/11

James: It is a joy to come into your home. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I believe right now that we're facing one of the important moments in human history as far as freedom is concerned. I want you to hear what I'm saying. All over the world there is a shaking. There is an economic shaking; there is a lot of insecurity and instability. Now hear me, I am convinced that faith, family, and freedom in the purest understanding of those terms is under fierce assault. I'm holding the book that is not only recommended reading but is required reading for all who believe in the importance of faith, family, and freedom and have any understanding of freedom from personal to national. There is another book I'd like to encourage you to read and it is a book Betty and I have written. The title is "Living in Love." The reason I recommend it is because our marriage and our lives have been challenged about every way you can challenge them and we're not just holding on and trying to endure, we're "Living In Love" because of what God not only has done in our lives but what he has enabled us to understand, to see, and to share. So at the request of viewers and publishers and people all over the world, and people who know us and work with us, "Share with us some of the insight from your story." I think if you understand the emphasis I gave when I opened the program about the importance of faith and family and freedom, without faith in God and without a trust that's developed and enhanced and strengthened and when disappointment comes it is dealt with, without that faith and without a strong family, which is relationship, freedom will be short lived. I want to welcome to the program two people that many people would say they are experts in marriage because they have taught so many people effectively with the Marriage Today, with their Marriage and Family, literal seminars, all over the country and touching people all over the world. Jimmy Evans and his wife Karen have really impacted marriages and we consider it an honor to have them on *LIFE Today*. They've been guests here many times and I want you to welcome if you would, Jimmy and Karen.

[Applause]

I talked to you in an earlier program about how your effectiveness really made it easy for me to say we're really not qualified. But because people sincerely say, "We see something" -- and you all have said it to us -- when you come, hey, we shared and now you all have been a great encourager to us to tell us that it blessed you. We basically divided the book into open, honest communication. We began with commitment to

God but then leading into communication, and we really talked about the factors of trust and relationship. But we talked about some specific things like the importance of confession, even the importance of counseling, getting outside help. And we talked about conflict resolution, not insulation. We talked about the importance of confronting issues. How important are those things?

Jimmy: Well, they're the essentials of marriage. The thing I love about your book is that it talks about things that every single person will experience. There is not one thing in your book, in my opinion, that you would read and say, "Well, that's not us. We would never go through that." Money, sex, communication, conflict resolution --

James: Why do you say "sex" kind of fast? I mean Betty really --

Jimmy: Sex.

James: Betty wanted to just dwell on that chapter. [Betty snaps her fingers.] Do y'all remember the program when we talked about sex and she wore a sack over her head and had two little holes in it when she came out here? But we were pretty thorough because it is not only a big issue, it is important.

Jimmy: I love it because you both talk in the book, you'll say something, Betty will say something, you'll say something and you're very, very real. That's what people need, not to hear some preacher talk in preacher language about something that you're really not experiencing but you're just talking as everyday people. Behind the scenes, this is what we're gone through... and very, very difficult things. Your story, I was shocked. I've known you guys for a long, long time. I found things about you James, and you Betty, that I didn't know. You're together by the grace of God. It is an act of God. And if you can make it, anybody can make it. The secrets of how a couple can go through everything and not just go through it, but really to overcome in the midst of the worst adversity you guys have been through. 47 years you've been married, you have authority to write on marriage, you have authority because you've been through it but you've also overcome. I think you do just a great job in your book about telling the reality of marriage and how to overcome every day issues.

James: We talk about confrontation and I reference it -- and you're a counselor -- how important is it for people to go ahead and confront even the difficult areas rather than just letting them rest? And we use the reference to not let the sun go down on your wrath. The Bible says, "Be angry and sin not." I see confrontation leading to resolution, not just tolerate it and separate it and endure that, I see us going somewhere. Does that make sense?

Jimmy: Research proves that couples who don't fight have worst marriages. Actually, you want some conflict in your relationship. It is not -- good marriages are not marriages where you don't fight. Good marriages are marriages where you can resolve your conflicts. So what you guys do such a great job of in your book is showing the reality of the arguments that you guys have gotten into it, just the real things that people fight about, but how to work through those things. When people don't fight it affects your sex life, it affects your intimacy, it affects your trust. Because what's happening is things are happening, your bothering each other, you're making each other mad, you've got conflict, but you're stuffing it. You're talking about going to bed on your anger; you go to bed on your anger and you go to bed on your anger and then you end up being two people living in the same home having different lives, thinking different thoughts. There is no intimacy whatsoever. When you're confronting in marriage you're fighting for the integrity of the relationship, making sure when I look at you and I tell you I love you, I really mean that I love you. If I feel something, I'm going to say it. One of the most important things and you guys talk about this in your book, allowing your spouse the right to do that. Betty, you said something in the book that I thought was so profound. You talked about letting James come to you and confess. Allowing your husband to come and confess is one of the wisest things I've ever seen.

Betty: There is a right way for communication. The wrong way is I'm going to tell you off and put you in your place. That's not really communication in the right way. I feel like if we can have forgiving hearts in the first place and have listening hearts, it's not wait until she gets through sharing so I can tell her what I think. It is, "Oh, honey, I want to know your opinion of this. Why are we having this disagreement? Share your heart." -- And for each one to feel safe to do that.

Jimmy: How can I please you? Like with Karen, I'm not a woman. I don't understand women but I want to please you. How can I please you if I don't listen? Because she is going to tell me from her perspective what I need to do to please her. So allowing your spouse the right to complain is the secret of a happy marriage. Two servants in love is the perfect marriage. Two masters in love is the worst marriage. When you're both trying to master each other and dominate each other and you're not loving -- you're talking about "Living in Love" -- when you won't allow your spouse to complain basically you're trying to dominate the relationship. When you let your spouse complain, what you're saying is, I want to live in a harmonious relationship with you that is a win/win deal. That's what your book is about, a man and a woman who are both getting their needs met who have an equal place in the relationship and the opportunity to say how they feel. That is what a healthy marriage is about.

James: I think it is important that Betty shared -- half the book is Betty talking. Everybody is saying, "I want to hear Betty." So she unloads. Karen, you told me, because I've heard you say, he is talking to Betty about all you've heard Betty saying because it was like hey, I'm really interested in hearing this, I haven't heard it. Do you think that's probably one of the most important aspects of the book is people are actually hearing Betty open up and telling part of her journey that is important?

Karen: The way it was written is so powerful because you're very vocal and you say what -- it is very obvious what you have to say. But yet to hear from her, her perspective could be totally opposite yet it connects. It's the perfect marriage of his personality, her personality, how she dealt with it, how he dealt with it, yet you came together for a common reason -- it's your love -- it's your love for each other, it's your love for family, for God. And honestly, to me, that sets a person free. To have a marriage like that is freedom. You're not in that bondage of I have to play the game or like you're saying, go to bed on your anger. That is bondage. To be stuck in a marriage where you're constantly in a situation you can't get out of it. You don't see any hope. That's what I was going to say even from the last show, is that your book to me offers such hope to other couples. It's like no matter who you are and what you're going through, it's again somebody saying like Jimmy and I have said you can do this. You really can do this.

James: I feel like that hope is there. We have a great pastor and his wife out here that is so amazing. They've got a church -- Jimmy, you're a pastor of a great church of 10,000 people, that's a big church! And here's a relatively young church now that is the second largest church in America at 26,000 now and probably by the time I'm talking maybe, it is 30,000. It is just amazing. They say oh, now it is the biggest church. But the thing is the explosive growth and it is called Life Church because we like the name Life, obviously, *LIFE Today*, so we like to think we inspired *LIFE* church. Who knows. The thing is, they've got a tremendous church and they've known us for a long time and watched us. Craig Groeschel and his wife Amy is out here and you're pastoring and you're communicating. And by the way, I'm having them put your web site up so people can access because you've got so much going on all over the world. We've got people watching us in India and we've got people watching us all over the world. Well, there is your web site and they can actually click in and you interact with them. Tell me about "Living in Love." And Craig, you pastor so many people; what do you see in us? ...This cute little couple sitting up here? What do you see that you think we might have to offer to all of the people you love because you tell us you've loved us a long time?

Craig: Well, I just want to tell you, James and Betty, first of all thank you for writing the book. It's -- we love you because of your integrity, because you've been faithful for so many years. And in ministry circles, there is so many people who have known you intimately for 20 or 30 years and speak so highly of you. You're transparent. You've obviously worked through a lot and you're standing on the other side of it with a tremendous covenant of love. We're honored to just pray for you all. We're honored to support your ministry financially. And I just want to say thank you for investing in our generation and investing in our marriage with your book.

James: Thank you, Craig. Amy, you want to make a comment because you told us, you go way back to where you were pretty small and you began to kind of track us and watch us. And you've been gracious in saying how much you appreciated some of the influence we've been able to have. What are your impressions of what you've seen?

Amy: I tell you what, it is a thrill to be here and meet you guys in person today. Backstage we had the intimate time together to just get to know you and visit. It is true kinship in Christ when you're meeting brothers and sisters in Christ that I felt like I had known you from the show and you are the same... that integrity, you're the same back stage with the same passion and the same heart and the same conviction that you are on your show which is tremendous. Not that I expected anything different, but it says a lot. And it is sad to think about today that there are so many people that doubt ministers, especially ministers that might be on television; that we have that bad rap as ministers that are trying to present the gospel all around the world. Like Craig said, we're so honored to be here and to know you and to know your heart. And we'll always be great supporters in prayer loving you as brothers and sisters in Christ.

James: Thank you, Amy and Craig. How long have y'all been married?

Craig: We've been married 19 years as of --

Amy: Today!

James: Today is their anniversary!

[Applause]

This is their anniversary. So you know, we've got to feel pretty good that you would come here and share with us because you're "Living in Love." We want you to live in love. You were talking about how long you've kind of known us and you're so young. Jimmy, how long have you known Betty and me?

Jimmy: Twenty-five years?

James: Let me just this to you. All of you look right here real close, 30 years ago, burned out, worn out, doing the ministry of God and yet out of the will of God. I'd lost intimacy, I'd lost first love. Not love for my family, love for God but he wasn't first. I talk about the spiritual enemies, Betty and I do, about the invisible force of influence in your marriage that is trying to tear you apart. It nearly destroyed me. And Craig and Amy, if that incredible freedom hadn't come to me as a very effective ministry -- I didn't even want to live. You can despair of life in marriages, even as a Christian. I've got to be honest with you, now listen to me, most Christians and sadly, perhaps even the majority of ministers and this is not shame or scold, they live defeated, many of them trying to do the will of God. A lot of people get entangled. Sincere desires to help could have destroyed me. We tell you about our story. We want to help you. We want his story and his glory to be real in your life. It can be. You have no idea how much God loves you and how much he wants to hold you and he wants you to live in love. The book really... really, really not only details challenges and how we deal with them and keep communication open but listen to me, it talks about how this enemy is subtle and crafty, taking people captive and destroying relationships. We talk about how God can heal regardless of what's happened. I want you to give attention to an area where healing is desperately needed but the answer is absolutely clear. We know the answer and you are a part it. Watch.

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:

Marc: I look at these little kids right here and they represent children around the world. It doesn't matter if it's in China, it doesn't matter if it's in India, Africa or in America, children deserve a chance at life. That life today comes in a basic need that we call water. I don't know if you can see behind me, a cow is standing in the water. To the right of me, mothers are washing clothes and all of this is washing downstream. Kids are drinking from it and they're dying from it. Did you know that over 10,000 people die every single day? It doesn't mean much to you until you go into a hospital like I was and I watched two little girls where death is knocking at their doorstep. I want to lock that door. I want to come back, I want to shut the cisterns, I want to bring life to this country. I want to bring life around the world through water well projects and clean, fresh water. We can do that today if you'll join us. If you'll partner with us and give your best gift and go to the phone today we can make a difference. The missionaries are standing by. The rigs are here. We're ready to get to work. Won't you get involved today and join with Life Outreach International and James and Betty in providing water for life for children around the globe.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I want to thank you for your help. Please do dial until you get through if you ever get a busy because sometimes people are calling because their hearts are broken, maybe their marriage is strained, they need prayer. I do hope you'll get "Living In Love." I want you to live in love. "Dad to Teens," this is how you rear children according to the Word of God; it is very strong. It changed our children's lives, and our grandchildren. "Living in Love" is in the bookstores. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to you, to all of you here and I want to say a special thanks to

Craig and Amy, and I want to say thanks to Jimmy and Karen Evans. Would you say thank you to our guests?

[Applause]

Thank you for your prayers! Pray for an awakening. Pray for this nation.

Announcer: Connect with Life Today through your favorite social media sites. Just go to lifetoday.org and click connect.