

Week 7

2/8/11

James: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: And we're talking about lust and fear and insecurity and jealousy, and we talk about it openly in "Living in Love." I really -- [Chuckling] I don't know what you say to help people to understand how serious you are about it but I wish every couple in America would read the book. This isn't just a journey that we had. It is in many ways part of our life story but it is our life together, and the journey continues. It is how it can work, how it is working, and it is all the things that can tear a relationship apart. I feel like the enemy threw every curve ball, every fast ball, everything he could throw at us to tear us up. And he really hates -- let me tell you something, the enemy hates the purpose of God in your life and God's purpose in your life is for you to be full of life. He's given you everything pertaining to life and godliness. And we don't have life without godliness, and if we have godliness we have sensitivity and understanding. But as we walk in godliness, needing to wear the whole armor of God because we're warring against principalities and powers of darkness in the hidden invisible realm, affecting everything in the visible realm, we're in a battle so why would you need to wear armor? Why would you need the breastplate and the helmet? Why would we need something to help us take thoughts captive and know that the weapons of our warfare are not merely fleshly and physical enabling or intellect but we need divine power, supernatural enabling to deal with very real natural appetites and problems. If we've got to have this power, that must mean this enemy is huge! And so we talk about the real conflict. We also talk about the invisible force. Dr. Emerson Eggerichs is with us. He is the head of Love and Respect Ministry. This is the new book on marriage about love and respect. It is absolutely beautiful. It is in many ways like a gift book but it is just filled with great statements and truths. Fantastic! And he spends his life, he and his wife, working with couples, understanding love and respect and what that really means. He was so... I think he said "moved" by the openness in our relationship as highly visible quote "ministry people" and "Christian people" that we would open up. He saw it as something as so necessary he wanted to talk to us. In the last program we were talking about lust and fear and jealousy. And I'm telling you, had God not showed us what to do and who to go to and how to deal with it, finished, curtains. Listen, I want to tell you something, there is nothing too big for God: No

challenge -- no problem! Emerson wanted to talk to us some more about it. We're going to continue the discussion. Welcome Emerson Eggerichs back to *LIFE Today*. Good to see you Emerson.

Emerson: James, you too!

James: When I got ready to open I said we're cutting to the chase, you handed the book back to me and you've referenced it but we were, in the last program, talking about how a woman feels when she finds out her husband is distracted or unduly, unhealthily attracted to something, it is hard for women to understand just how totally awesome you are. You've got the goods! You know what I mean?

[Laughter]

Excuse me! The deal is, you all are the coolest thing to us God ever made. And I know a lot of it is on display, sex is real. We're very visual, we notice. I know you're sensitive. I rub Betty's feet at night. She goes, "I just love the attention!" Then she goes to sleep. Then I say well, I'm over here loving her and she -- I just put myself right out the business. See, you need to understand that this deal is real and for men this thing is real. You could see it. I didn't have to just tell you I had an unhealthy attraction in the wrong way.

Betty: No, I could see it. I could feel it. I don't know anything else to say, it was a spirit. Just like my fear was, a spirit of fear. But I think -- well, I know one thing that helped us was when we came to a point that we realized, both of us, his problem was - it wasn't his problem, it was our problem; my problem was our problem. And not let the enemy pit us against one another. We had a challenge here as a couple that we could allow God to work in our lives together and work through this and make a richer, more loving relationship.

James: You've been saying a lot since the show opened, Emerson.

[Laughter]

What we're actually doing is we're bringing all the viewers up to speed where we were when we left the last program. You could always go online and backtrack and say, "What were you talking about yesterday?" But this basically is pretty well where we left off.

Emerson: Yes, and it is a significant issue. As we pointed out, the fear that a woman feels in this, because she feels powerless; she doesn't know what to do. He is seeking to be honest, a godly man, to reveal something which in many cases for men is more on the surface. He doesn't necessarily have to be addicted. Like the first year of marriage he comes home to his wife and she wants him to go to the mall. He says, "I don't know if I really want to go to the mall. That Victoria Secret is there and the displays and the different things." "What? Are you lusting for women? Is there a problem? Is there something wrong with you?" And suddenly --

James: Yes!

Emerson: That's what you would say but most men suddenly realize whoa, it was an innocent comment because my best friend I wanted to know that I was affected by that but suddenly there is this response that he feels ashamed. And of course, she is not asking questions to shame him. She is insecure about that. She is a little fearful. So you have this huge misunderstanding. Then of course her fear is there, now he is afraid. So you've got two good-willed people who really want to do God's will now suddenly are having to deal with something that neither one of them really want to deal with. He is not the enemy, he is the victim of the enemy and yet there is suddenly this sense that they can't talk about the elephant in the room. But the two of you came to a point where you said, look, it is not just his issue, it is not just my issue, we're in this as a team. Talk to us more about how you did that because many couples are fearful right now. The man may say, "You know what? Emerson is right, James is right, I have this at moments but I feel if I were to broach that with you it would frighten you, it would scare you and we've tried this in the past, but I don't know where to go with this." And of course, she is going to feel overwhelmed because she feels powerless. Talk to that woman whose husband wants to maybe broach this subject but she is --

Betty: I think this is where a real sensitivity toward one another because like you said, the guy might say, "This is where I am... but I'm going to deal with it" or "we're going to deal with it and get over it." Well, that's easier said than done. A woman, I know myself, I wanted him to be sensitive to what this did to me: My hurts, my pains. So you have to find the place there and I think we can only do that if God's in the center.

James: I think it is hard for a man to understand how heavy it is for a woman to hear this and to know it is real. Why would you even notice? Why do you notice? I'm not lusting. Like you said in the last program, "I'm not lusting after men. Why do you have a problem being distracted?" I kind of spit it out a while ago, yes, something is wrong. Well, the fact is the notice, the attraction, the beauty of women that we do notice and are attracted to, that's not something wrong with us; this is the norm. I think that we've

got to understand that men are visually attracted, we notice beauty. But as I said in the last program, so do women. The problem of comparing starts with the woman and the man. It is really wrong; it is despicable for a man to ever let his wife believe for one moment he is comparing her to others because she is already fighting that battle. You can't keep up with all the world throws at you. And no one is going to be able to keep up with all the sexual images and all that the world throws at us to try to feed our appetites and to stir our sensual appetites and desires. That fire that burns, the love -- the only thing to overcome it is a real legitimate relationship where you really love one another and you really come together in true intimacy and true fulfillment. But man, the world is messing with this. Emerson, we've got to be able to open up and talk about it and we really need to go to a safe haven of the church family and to one another. I'm just telling you, Betty and I found safety in this relationship. I did convince her I wasn't some kind of freak. I said, "Don't tell me... don't give me a 'dirty old man syndrome.' I'm not a dirty old man, I'm a dirty young man."

[Laughter]

This is just natural. And the fact is, I'm not dirty. I'm distracted, I'm unhealthily attracted, and this thing is fed by the enemy. I said I don't like it. It became like a fire in my mind. I said, "Betty, I'm on fire. I want to deal with it." Now this is total honesty. Now if she is slamming the door on me, let me tell you what will happen. That jealousy, which she did have it, she could have slammed it, she was feeling threatened, it will drive you toward someone else that will say "I understand. Well, I'm just attracted to you." And let me tell you, stronger than sex is when a man knows he is being desired... being desired... being desired. And when you're a strong Christian, and you're a sensitive man and you appear to be a caring leader, that's attractive to many women who never had a caring, loving father in place; their own husband doesn't know how to express that. And that is why a lot of preachers and a lot of ministers get in trouble. They don't intend wrong, it is bigger than sex, it is more than that. So much begins to happen. Well, all these things could have totally destroyed our life. But for one thing, we're crying out to God. We're crying out to one another and together, I'm holding her hand. "Betty, pray for me, my brain is on fire. It is like a claw in my brain." And this precious wife did not beat me down or shame me. She prayed for me. As I found freedom, she realized she had a spirit of fear and a spirit of intimidation and insecurity, and I'm going to tell you, God did a great healing in our relationship. Does that mean the battle is over? No! But I'm telling you, this is the start. If everyone in this studio, if everyone listening to us could somehow... and I really don't know how you get the discussion started because see, a lot of times a man wants to confess.

Emerson: You get the discussion by getting the book because you set forth these principles and in these chapters you unpack the steps that you went through. The topic is very threatening. It creates intensity, some women in particular. But the solution here, so you don't feel powerless, is by going through this with your husband, talking through these issues as a couple, even getting a small group because you set it forth discreetly. It is not done poorly, it is very well written, very to the point but not descript and yet you set forth solutions; this whole idea of coming together as a team, the idea that you met with other people outside of the relationship. It is not like you came home every day --

James: We weren't shamers.

Emerson: That's right. Who weren't shamers. But once it was kind of revealed, it was not a topic that you continued to talk to her about. You had them in your life but it became something that you were aware of as a team. It was not like every day he is coming home --

Betty: The difference was that -- I realized he wasn't my enemy and I wasn't his enemy, that we were a couple. We were in a relationship together and we were a team. That's the way we've tried to do it in every aspect of our life, with parenting, with everything that comes into our relationship.

James: The finances --

Betty: The finances and everything.

Emerson: The power of your example, this is just a great example. You didn't have to be revealing. You could have kept that quiet. And even if you'd shared with her, you don't have to share it with us. So I do believe that the Lord is wanting to speak through you to all the men and to the women. At the same time, you capture what every woman feels in this fear. For the two of you to do what you are doing right now is a great gift to us and gives us that hope, this has to be recognized in the church as you're pointing out, and what you're doing right now is powerful but the solution is as we talked even earlier, people are going to think, what do I do? The solutions are here in this book that you stepped through how to do this. Because there is a method and there is a wisdom because this thing can blow up in your face. What would you think to say to a person who might do this inappropriately? What are some land mines that they've got to avoid?

James: I think when you... early in the book we talk about the necessary act of confronting one another and conflict resolution, not insulation, where you just get comfort in your misery. You've got to be committed that we're not going to let the sun go down on our wrath. If we realize we're dealing with an issue, we're going to go to bed at night in our minds saying we're headed somewhere positive. We're going somewhere. Betty had a hope. Our hope is in the Lord. The Lord in us, Christ in us, the hope of glory. That's his manifest presence, that's his work. Now listen to me, I do not believe that you're going to make it through some of these challenges without God's help. We close the book talking about this invisible enemy. Betty had a hook in her jerking her around with insecurity, jerking her around with fear, telling her she was dumb, telling her she wasn't pretty, all these things just at her. I had something jerking on me, attracting me to where it burned, it burned in my mind how beautiful or what would that be like or what is she like? This is what kids think. And boys get in locker rooms and they talk about their experiences. Or boy, wouldn't you like to so-and-so with her? Wouldn't you like to do this and that? Wouldn't you like this? And girls can feel this and you should feel it. You shouldn't want it. You shouldn't want to put yourself on central display. You should want to be modest in your apparel. You don't have to dress in a sack. It is fine for people to know you have a figure but you don't go flaunting it. You don't go around like you're trying to call attention unduly. So don't do that. But men will notice those that do. When you see these things, the enemy gets a hook in your jaw, like a fish and jerks on you. Listen, we found out that all our thoughts were being fed by an enemy. The Bible says they become a fiery dart of the wicked. It only becomes a fiery dart -- a dart is not an arrow. It is a suggestion of the enemy. Well, you know what you could do? Well, wouldn't you like to do this? Don't you see that? I bet you could do this. You begin to think these things, and the enemy is so in those thoughts and once they lodge they begin to burn, just like your jealousy. You burned with jealousy. You burned with fear. It was a torment; right? And God showed us that we could break that. And Emerson, we had to come in agreement with God about who we were. Alcoholics Anonymous Teaches that; admit who you are, let's talk openly. Any good psychologist will even tell you, if you're not spiritual you're not going to get far without spiritual help. But when we got honest and then we got honest with others and someone came in agreement, I'm telling you, I'm in agreement with you. I'm coming in agreement with you that your marriage and your relationship can be healed. But you're not going to get healed if you become the main stone thrower throwing rocks and throwing arrows in concert with the accuser of the brethren, Satan himself, and you start accuse your spouse. We've got to come together and allow God to heal us and he can. I want to ask you this because you've seemed really concerned about this aspect. Now you speak to thousands, you spoke to over 4,000 people at Second Baptist Houston where Dr. Ed Young is, one of the men I respect and love, and a good friend. His son pastors near here, Ed Junior. But you were

just there in the church, but you go and teach. And by the way, that seminar is available, and Love&Respect.com, you can order that incredible teaching to these couples. You meet with couples, you talk to them, you hear them, is this typical? -- This lust, fear, insecurity, this conflict? Is this a big issue with couples, what we're talking about?

Emerson: Absolutely. That's why I was so encouraged and so intrigued by the book because you put out there on paper and articulated very well the issues that many couples deal with. It isn't everything everybody is dealing with but it is an issue. I think again, if the Lord is going to use us as a couple, we need to deal discerningly with what you're saying. There is after Ephesians five, which Paul unpacks dealing with marriage, he goes into Ephesians six, which is about the schemer, and about this attack of this invisible enemy that we talk about. And in some ways, what is so sad to me is that some couples love Christ deeply, each individual longs in their heart -- remember Jesus said, "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." And in their heart of hearts people long for God and yet this flesh, this carnal outside encases us and we get attacked and tempted. But the struggle, of course, is this is an issue that is different than the women's struggles. There may be an eating issue or P.M.S., pre murder syndrome.

[Laughter]

There is a chemical imbalance, the struggles that she deals with have been put under a psychological medical model. So she has a greater liberty to voice the things that she struggles with. The taboo topic is his struggle on the dark side which makes him appear sinister. So we all go quiet; we go silent. He doesn't know what to do with this. And we really have to talk about our sons, how do we want our future daughter-in-law's to treat our precious baby boys? Is there going to be a freedom as a team that you are to talk about this, both of us? Talking about her issues, as a team, I'm here for you, Betty, and you exemplify that. Well, I'm here for you, James. Instead of casting stones as you say and throwing rocks at one another, we are one, we are a team and we are going to get through this together rather than being freaked out and becoming insecure on the heels of another's struggle in this battle that we're in. And you set forth ways of doing that, which is so powerful in this book.

James: Let me just say to all the viewers, the book is available. Of course, it is in the bookstores. Oftentimes I'll be talking about someone else's book and I'll say, "You need to leave now, run, hitchhike, get a bicycle, get in the car, go to the bookstores, get the book! You can run do that." We will send you the book if you'll just simply help us give a cup of water to a thirsty child. Literally -- just help us do that. And in addition

to that, in line with what Emerson said, Beth Moore's "Praying God's Word," listen to this subheading right here: It is breaking free from spiritual strongholds. This is all a part of this journey. Here is a woman who understands the torment of the enemy. If any woman understands breaking free and if any couple, Beth and Keith, understand the frictions that Betty and I share about and that's why she is at the very top. This is a great book written by somebody who knows what they're talking about. She's gotten to see our relationship up close and personal. She can contribute. We really believe that these materials are going to help you tremendously. Now here's what I'm asking you to do and I'm not going to be detracted from this. Just like I referenced the difference you can make, when Jesus says, I want you to think about this -- "If you'll just give a cup of water in my name, you won't lose your reward." What kind of reward is he talking about? -- Heaven's blessing, all that God has for you. By the way, that's on your marriage too. And Betty and I really did see that together and we see it. I want to ask you to consider giving a cup of water. Would you help us drill some fresh water wells and give children and their families fresh water? That's what we've been seeking to give you for your relationship. I want you to watch this and see if you can help.

James: Well, I can tell you what I want to do when I see that child holding the cup out, I want to put the clean water in that cup. How could you not have a vivid image of "If you give just a cup of water... just a cup of water in my name, you won't lose your reward." Let's leave the reward part up to the one who does the rewarding; let's leave it up to God. Let's leave the timing and the what up to God. I'm telling you, it is reward enough to me to know I did the will of God, I shared the love of God and I gave someone clean water. So what we're asking you to do, we come to you during a Water for Life emphasis, we're asking you to help us drill over 400 water wells -- 415, 15 nations. You say how do you locate the areas? The missionaries bring us the area of need. They find it. How do they find the area of need? They find people in need. They find children in need. They find where contaminated water has led to horrific deadly disease. Would you help us drill those wells? Simply dial the number that's there on the screen. Take your bankcard and use it like a check. If you can give a water well or you write a check, boy what a joy! Betty and I have the joy of doing this because we asked God to enable us to do it and we committed to do it before we knew we would be able to do it. We committed, God, we believe you want us to do it. He has met that need and he has blessed because we're giving not only a cup of water, but a well, \$4800! Write that or call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. Or call the number, take your bankcard and use it like a check or you can go, LifeToday.org and you can give online. Thank God many of you do that, it is immediate. But would you please

prayerfully consider what you can do and then do it. If you could give \$48 you'll give literally 10 people water for the rest of their life. \$144 you give 30 people water the rest of their life. Here's what we're doing for you just to say thank you, we're sending the book, "Living in Love" which is our marriage journey; 50 years in love and I'm telling you, it is more wonderful today than one could ever imagine. And Beth Moore's book, "Praying God's Word," that's for any gift. My daughter, Robin gave me this book when I was fighting staph infection. This is a journal, a leather journal. I began to carry it everywhere. I called her. I said, "Robin, you realize what that meant for me when I carry that now and I write what God writes on my heart?" She said, "Daddy, God told me to give you that." Well, God's impressed us to give it to you to say thanks if you'll simply make a gift of \$100 or more, we'll send you both books and the journal. Then remember, the beautiful, beautiful bronze, the "Heart of the Father." I'd love to send that to you if you'll just help us drill those wells. Father, I pray everyone watching will simply do what they can. I thank you for it. Will you make that call? Please do. You can give a cup of water or perhaps even a well of water, whatever you can do, we're asking you to share.

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

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I just say thank you and we will be sending "Living in Love." If you happen to have already gotten the book in one of the bookstores or bought it online, this may be one you want to give to a special couple. "Praying God's Word,"

Beth teaches so wonderfully on this fantastic, fantastic book. I want to thank Dr. Emerson Eggerichs for "Love & Respect" for a lifetime. That's what we talk about. He's going to be back with us. We're going to continue to talk about the subjects that are of interest to you and meaningful. Would you say thanks to Emerson for being with us? Emerson, thank you! Thank you so much for sharing. Thank you for watching! We really do appreciate your friendship and your help! Encourage other couples to watch the next program.

Beth: I want you to understand something with me, a stronghold gets broken down only one way...

Announcer: "Praying God's Word" tomorrow!