

Week 12

3/17/11

James: I want to welcome you to this special series of programs that you'll be hearing actually for the next several weeks. I'm going to be talking to you, along with our guests, and Betty and I, during this program on "The Basics of Life" fulfilling God's kingdom agenda, what does that really look like? I think if I had to narrow the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven that Jesus said is at hand down to a single succinct statement I believe I would simply reference it in this manner, living in his presence in the present... right now. Jesus the center of everything. I'm going to be communicating very directly with you, with our television audience, I believe the very heart of God. If you give earnest attention I think you're going to be finding that your whole world is going to be turned right-side up.

[Applause]

James: Betty and I are just so grateful to be able to share with you. We've got -- a lot of times I find myself closing a program, asking you to help others and be involved in that and sometimes my heart gets broken and I've gotten to where now I pretty well live with a broken heart, not without hope but with a broken heart. Jeremiah said that he was weeping over the people. And Paul said, "I see the truth in Christ. I lie not, my conscious bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart for I could wish myself separated from God from my brethren, my kinsmen, according to the law. I want them to know the Lord and I'm weeping." Jesus wept. Many times people wonder why Jesus wept, Betty, at the grave side of Lazarus when he knew he was going to raise him. Why would he weep? I know why. It is the shortest verse in the Bible. If you have difficulty memorizing some, surely you could do that one, Jesus wept. Why did he weep? Because they were weeping. He really cares about what's on your heart. And somehow Betty and I have gotten what's on his heart on our heart, and you are. Betty and are I going to be sharing, I think probably for the rest of our life and with every guest we bring in "The Basics of Life" and how we together fulfill God's kingdom agenda. You've heard me in the last year say several times that I have a great concern for the nations of the free world because I want freedom to be available and with freedom comes responsibility and you don't know how to be responsible unless you're under the direction of a sovereign providential power and a reliable foundation upon which to build a sound life, a house that's built on a rock. I really have been praying and praying for this -- for the will of God to be done on earth. But I'd really been overlooking, even when I met with the church leaders and pastors, Betty, I would say, if Jesus taught us to pray thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, then that means it is possible, and it is

important. But I had overlooked that preceding phrase in the model prayer, thy kingdom come -- thy kingdom come thy will be done. That's where Jesus is Lord of all and ruler. Let me just share with you what's been happening in my life. You know, Betty, we started giving away these little journals and by the way, if you didn't get one, I treasure this because when I seek the treasure and if you're listening to Betty and me, we're not on a scavenger hunt, we're on a treasure hunt, we invite you to join us on the treasure hunt and recognize you are a treasure to God and he is the greatest treasure and he must be Lord of Lords and king of kings in your life, his kingdom in you. Don't live your life -- don't live your life trying to get out of here. Oh, he is going to come get you but he wants to come get a church, a people, a family adorned, dressed in his glory in the weight of his manifest presence. People who give God glory but who allow his glory and his presence to literally carry us, to lift us about the circumstances and pressures and pains and the problems that we think are insurmountable, and to open our eyes and let us have a light that illuminates the way and even says you be light that pierces the darkness, and you be my family that comes together like living stones and upon these stones coming together, that's the rock, it's not simply a person. It is not just a revelation of God but it is the rocks, plural, of the rocks coming together. Living stones fit together and upon those living stones I build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail. The gates of bondage and destruction and deception will not prevail against my church built upon my family coming together, every member, every part fitting together. Member to member, each member of this body, the heavenly body, the church as well as this body supplying what this part needs, what this part needs by divine connections, and functioning in a healthy fashion. This is what God is inviting us to. This is a kingdom, this is the church. We have got to stop just going to church and be the church. We've got to let the light shine, get it out from under the covering of racism, of nationalism, of partisan ship, of sectarianism. Don't be covered by Catholicism, Protestantism, Baptists, charismatic, Pentecostal, receive the fullness of all God is in whatever circle you're in; just don't get covered by the circle you're in. Don't get covered by the family on earth and fail to be a part of the family of God. And the body of Christ because it takes his body, not just a somebody and a few individuals who do it all alone but it is when we together stand like a family with a heavenly father that his kingdom is revealed first to us and then through us. This is what God is calling us to. Well, I've been taking this little journal and in my journey, I've been journaling. You know where I got this journal. I remember when I got it because I was very ill, and it was over a year ago and Betty is trying to put up Christmas decorations. She thinks that is so fun. I said, "Why don't you just leave them up all year? Just leave them up. Turn them on." She said, "Well, I don't care. It is pretty. They're little bitty lights. Not a big deal!" But she puts them up and then we take them down.

[Laughter]

And I'm telling you, you've got to be much of a man, or men to take our Christmas tree down and fold it up and get it in that sack, for heaven's sake! But a year ago I was too sick to help. And our daughter that had just won a battle with cancer, throat cancer, she came up to fill our house with life and joy and energy. She did in one day what we couldn't do in a week. I sat there in my recliner; I was still too weak to get around, recovering from hip replacement surgery and staph infection. I'm saying, "Robin, this house, it's just full of energy. It's so great!" I began to ask her to pray for her dad that I would be as strong in my battle as she was. During that visit she handed me this journal. It's just blank pages in a nice leather binder. Within a week I called her as she got back to Oklahoma. I said, "Robin, I'd just been writing down the things that God impresses on my heart when I'm praying and reading. It's just really, really exciting." He called my attention and I just jotted it down. To this group of New Testament Christians -- Betty, I think it is just amazing. Do all of you here remember the group of Christians that were referenced? It is in the 17th chapter of Acts. It says these are the ones that have come to our city, the ones who have turned the world upside down. They've come to trouble us. By the way, they questioned them a little bit and then they basically ran them out of town and they went to another area. That was Thessalonica and they went to Berea. They said the people in the Berea were more noble than the ones in Thessalonica because they searched the scriptures whether those things were so. See, they were telling them about the reason the world was turned not upside down, the fact is an upside down world had suddenly been turned right side up. That's what the Kingdom of God does; that's what we're supposed to do as believers. We turn an upside down life right side up by receiving the fullness of God's life and his kingdom. We as believers can turn it upside down and an inverted world right side up. I wrote that down in the journal, those passages. And God began to talk to me about these people in Acts 17 that had actually turned the world right side up. Now if you're flying inverted -- you know what causes people to fly upside down? They've got an inverted worldview. They have got a despicable worldview. They're deceived and they actually have a deadly destructive worldview because if you're flying -- you know Betty, I'm a pilot. You remember years ago even when I was a college student I would make model airplanes and make them on the kitchen table?

Betty: Yes, definitely.

James: And I would use my little razor knife and cut the wood and you would say, "Look at that scratch on the table!"

Betty: All the glue!

James: I was awful! I told y'all on an earlier program I was terrible. God just let me walk in her grace. But I would make those airplanes and they were radio controlled and I would go as a hobby and I would fly them. You'd turn them upside down. You get really good with turning that plane upside down and you could come right down over the runway and you flip it back up and go off. You do that -- fighter pilots do that. But there was a fighter pilot not long ago who pulled up on the controls to ascend and flew straight into the ground. Why? Unknowingly they were flying upside down. If you're flying inverted, you're upside down, up is down, down is up. Here's the point. This is what God drove into my heart. He said when you draw your influence from below -- this goes for you, this is not just in Washington, this is not just national leaders -- when you draw your influence from the world rather than from above because wisdom comes from above, the beginning of wisdom is the reverential sphere of God. He is above all. He is all-seeing, all-knowing and anxious to direct our steps. But when you draw your influence from below from mere men, from the academic or intellectual community that think they know and prove themselves to be fools, while professing to be wise, every decision you make, when you don't understand -- Betty, it is like sailing the Titanic and making a course correction that is inappropriate because the captain and the crew are clueless. And you may delay the crash but you won't alter the crash and the catastrophic consequences. You've got to know where to set the compass. You've got to know where safe harbor is. You've got to know what the standard is that you plow your life and your life's journey toward. You've got to right the ship so that we draw wisdom from above. This goes for everyone in leadership, and this goes for everyone in the community. You want the family straightened out? It starts with you being straightened out. If starts with you. You may say, I don't know about my husband or my wife or my children -- you get your life in the center of the will of God so that you can begin to more effectively pray for and have a positive effect and influence on them. Turn the ship upright. Betty, God said that the gates of hell would not prevail against the church. You remember a few years ago when Katrina hit the gulf coast? Isn't that what storms do? They destroy. Did you know Katrina continued on its destructive way? -- Right through New Orleans, right past the gulf coast. That's what storms do, they destroy. Katrina did what storms do. That's not why New Orleans flooded. New Orleans flooded because the levy walls broke and the city flooded. Our nation is in trouble not merely because there is a spirit of deception and the storms of destruction but the wall, the hedge is down. Ask Job what it's like when the hedge comes down. If Jesus said, "The gates of hell and destruction will not prevail against my church" and if the enemy and deception and destruction and division and depression, if that's prevailing what happens to the walls? See God calls people to stand in the gap and build up the hedge. That's what he calls people to do. That's what

I'm seeking to do. To rebuild the hedge, to get the Word of God back in our hearts, not just carry it in a leather binder but get it down in our lives. I'm trying to get believers to come together heart to heart, shoulder to shoulder and to release the love and the power of God all over the earth and we can do it, and it starts with you. It starts with every individual saying, "I give God my life. I want him to be my king. I want to turn the world right side up by allowing God to turn my world right side up." Betty, some time ago when we were praying early in the morning, I thought you made a very strong statement about this house.

Betty: I really feel that this house right here is where we have to start before we can affect his house and be effective in a daily basis in our lives to affect people for the love of Jesus. And I have to start right here, James. Ask God, clean out this house first, make it right, and make it in your will. So then I can be a vessel that's more effective for your kingdom.

James: I can't help but believe you've been blessed. I've got to be real honest with you, I get so blessed by Betty. I think you do too and some of you take the time to communicate with us as a couple how much she blesses you. I think you identify with her, many of you, because you think, well, she is not a preacher, she's a homemaker. She is shy but boy, I sure see Jesus in her. I do too. Here's the thing I pray you understand because you talk about the revelation of the real basics of life and real kingdom life is where Jesus is the center, where it is his will and where your whole life is just wrapped up in him. He's the center. It's king Jesus... king now. It is not just thinking about get out of dodge or get out of trouble but bring the kingdom, the presence of Jesus into this very real world in a very real way. These are the life basics, "The Basics of Life" that Jesus spent his three year public ministry trying to impart to his disciples. They finally got it when they were filled with the other person, the Holy Spirit, king Jesus living in us in fullness, and releasing his life. By the way, that's what we ask you to do -- no, wait a minute, not us asking -- it is what he asks us all to do, and that's release his love and his life toward people who are helpless. That's just turning the river loose. When you release that river because you really have received his forgiveness, his love, his help, and his encouragement and when you release it to others, it transforms everything. You have an opportunity right now to give hope to those who are considered hopeless. I want to ask every one of you listening to me right now to just say, I'm going to reach out and touch someone. I'm going to let king Jesus touch someone through me today and lift them out of the pit of despair.

Announcer: Human traffickers target innocent children who then become enslaved in a multibillion dollar a year industry called the sex slave trade.

>> Imagine this, one girl taken from her family, whether she is kidnapped or tricked. She is sexually abused over and over again, maybe eight to ten customers that she may have to service in one day.

>> We're fighting for children that can't fight for themselves, children that would be otherwise used in the sex trade or be bought and sold like animals for monetary gain. It is not right!

>> It is kids just like these that right now they're begging but they are also bait for predators. If we don't get them off the street they will be the next trafficked victims.

Announcer: And when these children become enslaved and don't comply, horrible things are done to them by the human traffickers.

>> It is tragic what is happening to children, innocent children and it is not right. Our hearts are burdened by all the children that are crying out for help today, this moment, that need intervention, that need help, that are waiting for someone to hear their cries and we can only do it with your help.

James: Boy, I thank God for his heart expressed through Carol Hart and her husband Michael and the other missionaries, the missionary you saw riding and telling what's happening. Those precious people are in place because God put it on their heart to reach out and put arms of love around those who are held captive in this horrible sex trade and you enabled them to be effective. You enabled them to be able to rescue the children that they went over to find. Two of the children you saw there, the little boy and girl with Carol, those two children were orphaned and they now live in the House of Destiny, in the *LIFE* Center. And by the way, this is what kingdom life does. We are no longer orphaned. God adopts us as sons and daughters of the heavenly father and we can give those children that relationship with the family that loves them. Let me just tell you pointedly -- by the way, you are the ones, you viewers. I don't care where you are in the world, whether it is in Australia, the United Kingdom, or Canada or the U.S., it doesn't matter -- you told us that you wanted to rescue those children and you let us know we're going to help you do it. It takes \$128 to rescue one of the children;

that's the cost for taking care of them. To get them before they get them into the trade or get them out or find them when they are wandering the streets and literally adopt them into the arms of God. And just think about it, it is \$128 to rescue a child, \$1280. I don't just throw that out at random, I think about ten children and some of you could do that. You could say, "I'll take ten children." There are some of you who have been blessed where you say, "James, God has been so good to me. I could give several thousand dollars to help them." Please do that! But please keep this in mind, for every one of those precious children, just like the two with Carol, someone said, "I've got \$128." Another, "I've got \$128." Whatever it takes we're going to do it. Whatever you can give -- we can put gifts together and rescue a child. But I'm asking you right now and I can't help but believe you care so see, the real care, the real love of God, the real center of our life, Jesus, that care inspires a desire to share, to release the love, not just talk about it, not just defend the fact God loves us, demonstrate the love of God. Would you dial the number? Would you take your bankcard, use it like a check or you can go online LifeToday.org -- many of you can do that. Make that gift God has put on your heart. If you can give \$128 or \$1280, please do that. Give the very best gift you can because we're going to give those children a chance. We're going to literally rescue lives together and it takes all of us working together. If you should get a busy, be persistent, dial until you get through just as though I'm the one getting the life preserver, getting the life to that child. I'm going to be determined to do it. As determined as you would want someone to be to rescue you or one of your loved ones. Would you do it right now? Make that call. If you make a check, make it to *LIFE*, put it in the mail and please do that today. Thank you. We have some special gifts for you to bless you to say thank you for sharing an opportunity with those precious little ones.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's hard to believe it is happening! But at this very moment innocent children, many very young are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable and someone must save them! With your support of mission rescue life you can help rescue more than 5,000 children from the horrors of the sex trade in parts of Thailand, India, Cambodia and other targeted nations. Together we can reach vulnerable families and children by providing much needed food and relief. We can rescue those already ensnared by offering them a way out and we can restore their hearts, minds and bodies to enable them to enjoy life as God intended. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their life forever. And with gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your gifts with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of this lifestyle. As our way of saying thank you, please request "The Butterfly Effect," how your life matters. The story of this book reveals how you were specially created by God to make a difference and have the power to change the world. As a special challenge, please prayerfully

consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children. With your gift be sure to request "Heart of the Father," our beautiful new bronze sculpture that demonstrates God's fatherly love for us as his children. Call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

>> All around the world are little children who need someone to help them, to love them. Many of these little ones, mostly young girls are in danger of strangers taking them, abusing them, and making them do you terrible things.

Jeanne: She was 13 when she came to the city to look for a job. What happened when you came to the city? Blank.

>> Their lives are full of pain and despair. Their innocence stolen, their hopes and dreams shattered. But a good thing is there are safe places in the world built with kind people who care about these children. And *LIFE Outreach International* is there to love them and give them a safe place to live where hope and dreams are restored.

[Children singing]

>> But what makes me sad is there is still lots of children out there whose lives are in danger and they need our help.

[Children singing]

In the studio:

James: Just remember you make your gift. We're going to send you "The Butterfly Effect" and it really does illustrate clearly the power and the influence and the significance of one person. Then the "Heart of the Father," boy, I wish I'd had this when I was a boy. Listen, the father wants everyone to know, you're not an orphan... you're a child. We want to send this beautiful bronze, along with "The Butterfly Effect" to those of you who will help us rescue ten children or more if you can. Thank you so much for your gift! Thank you for helping us share in action "The Basics of Life," fulfilling God's kingdom agenda. If you would like to have the message on that subject

that you've been hearing, simply ask for it. We'll send it to you on CD as you make a gift to help us share an opportunity for these precious children.

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

Announcer: Tomorrow "The Basics of Life."

James: Literally, the invitation to wholeness and healing not only individually but nationally.