

Week 20

5/10/11

James: What a joy -- what a joy to join with you. Thank you for giving us this opportunity. I'm James Robison; Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. About 17 years ago I walked into a situation in Los Angeles where right on the concrete steps that I was standing on there had been a shooting -- somebody was shot down right there. I was talking to a young man, I'm talking about to me is a kid -- to me, he is still a kid and it is 17 years later, but to me he is still a kid. I'm standing here with this guy - - Betty, I'm standing with Tommy Barnett's son, Matthew and he is telling me that he is going to come out here and begin to minister in the inner city to all these gang members, all these junkies, all these people that are really in trouble, shooting and killing each other and he's standing there like I'm here for good. I'm thinking, can this be for real? And they wanted us to help literally refurbish the old City of Angels Hospital, just turn it into a place that is like a rehab center. Well, he stuck it out and he's got a book that's absolutely fabulous because it is the story of what God can do that people say cannot be done, that the government has wished they could do and don't we wish they knew how and don't we long to help everybody learn how to do something more effectively? Well, Matthew Barnett understands The Cause Within You and what is happening in Los Angeles is awesome. Would you welcome Matthew Barnett to have *LIFE Today*?

Matthew: Thank you! Thank you!

James: Hey, man, I've got to be honest with you. I know I've preached out there. You had some great things happen but I'm thinking, boy, this is tough. I just thought, is he going to stick? And man, you have never wavered! You're there. You act like you're being carried by some kind of wave of God's glory. It is amazing to me.

Matthew: Well, when I came to Los Angeles -- as a matter of fact, you're the first pastor that said, "Go for it!" I don't know if you had full faith but you certainly had enough to put your money behind it and all your viewers to say, "I believe that something great can be borne out of Los Angeles." I went as 20 years of age, full of fear, scared of my own shadow. I'm the only white guy within ten miles any direction. Everybody thought I was a Mormon when I rode a bicycle in the neighborhood. It was so tough back then but you and your wonderful viewers came alongside and said, "I believe something great can be borne out of here." Now we're there 17 years later. I learned something very quick and that is perfect love cast out all fear. What you love

at some point, you won't fear anymore. I feared it at first but love overcame all that fear. Now we're there 17 years and seen a dramatic change in the neighborhood.

James: I want you to tell everybody what happened when we did refurbish -- I mean we're there, your dad, Tommy Barnett, he is the great First Assembly church in Phoenix, Arizona. We dedicated that building years ago and I'm sure you were just a kid then but it is a tremendous outreach. Tommy had loved us. I'm a Baptist evangelist and he is a Pentecostal and he is admiring the reaping and the outreach and said we inspired him. Lo and behold he go out there and help him as he dedicated that building. Then we end up out in Los Angeles and Tommy and I stood up on top of that hospital. We prayed over it. We began feeding -- we started doing feeding years ago and we have never stopped in 17 years; every month, our viewers, we have sent support to help you.

Matthew: You know what? Hundreds of thousands of dollars, as a matter of fact, they have given to our ministry and now we're able to feed -- listen to this -- 2,000 hot meals every single day, 40,000 people every single week now are being fed right there in the streets of Los Angeles all because the first ministry that ever came behind us -- major ministry -- was you guys in the beginning. To be honest with you, my dad and I were talking the other day and my dad said -- I was talking about being on the show and he said, "I can't believe James believed in us back then. There was nothing!" But a 20 year old kid, afraid of his shadow, scared to death in the middle of one of the biggest gang ravished communities of Los Angeles saying we want to build a rehab center. I've never tried drugs or alcohol my entire life and now my whole ministry is working with 700-800 homeless people, families, hurting people, that's my whole ministry now. And God just began to speak to me. When I came to L.A. I thought I had to be relevant to reach the people and act like them and look like them and talk like them. God said, "No, I didn't call you to Los Angeles to be relevant, I've called you to be revolutionary." And there is a big difference. Relevant tries to fit in, revolutionary tries to change the dynamics of the community. We've seen crime drop 73%, in this recession, we're taking in hundreds of families that are homeless, run-away street kids. The judges are now pounding the gavel and telling teenagers that they're not going to juvenile hall, they're sentencing teenagers into the house of God where they're being raised up every single day instead of sent to juvenile hall. That all began 17 years ago when you guys said, "I believe something great can be borne." And this is kind of an interesting story of me coming back here. I feel like I'm coming back to where it all began. I remember some old pictures of you praying with gang members when we first came in. James, you were one of the only ministers that ever came to the Dream Center back when it was in the little old gym that had the big old rise in the floor

because of the water problems in there, and little old chairs. And I mean in our church we've got ex-drug addicts, murderers, and criminals and convicts... and that's just the pastoral staff. That's not including all the other people we have!

[Laughter]

I have convicts as ushers, skid row junkies and there you are preaching to those people like they're the most important people in the world. I will never forget that. We've actually got footage of you putting your hands in the center of a circle with gang members and praying together and believing God for amazing things. One of the most touching photos. Hopefully, they'll even have them to show today of that wonderful picture of that day.

James: Betty, what do you think about all this?

Betty: I think it is amazing! I really do. I think it is just awesome. And in your book, *The Cause Within You*, isn't that what you're talking about is the individual finding the purpose of God in their life and to be able to boldly go out and share Christ?

Matthew: It reminds me so much of your story, our story, all of us. I talk about in the book, people say, "How do I find my one great cause?" My answer is very simple to a complicated question, it is simple -- it is just this: You spend your life valuing what God has put in your hand and saying what I have in my hand is important. And you use whatever you have in your hand without any limitations, use it with all your heart and you'll never have to look for your cause ever again because your cause will find you. I never knew that I would be working with homeless families, human trafficking victims that we're taking in, that they bring to us when the girls are in need, what they're in these brothels and places in America, that are in trouble, I never knew any of this was my cause. But as a young kid back then when I first started with four food bags and desk that I moved outside of the church every single day, that's where it all began. I thought that those four bags were so important. That's why people when they give to this show, they've got to understand, when they're giving they found their cause. The moment you give you have found their cause. And people say, "You know I just lost myself in serving and I never had to worry about that question ever again." The book is really about stories of people who found their cause: 15 year old kid from juvenile hall sentenced to our place, whole family is in gangs. He came into our program; he brought drugs into the program. We found them and so we had to discipline him for 24 hours because we found the drugs in his room. He had an extra stash we didn't know and this kid found a Bible, it's the only book he had, he ripped -- now this is a bad story but it has a good ending. He ripped the pages of the Bible out

and he rolled them into a joint and used a toaster and starting smoking the pages of the Bible. He was literally smoking the Holy Ghost, if you know what I'm talking about!

[Laughter]

So this kid that was smoking the pages of the Bible, 15 years of age, a juvenile delinquent ended up reading the pages of the Bible he was rolling up, ends up getting saved and born again. And now he is 21 years of age, he found his cause. He works with 700 teenagers that give their Saturdays to pick up the trash in the neighborhood, paint out graffiti and they're a part of that 73% transformation that the government is shaking their heads. They're saying, "How in the world has a group of 800 people that are living in that building every single day, that are going out giving free medical care, visiting 32,000 people, cleaning the streets." But what you begin to realize is when you begin to serve you start changing the atmosphere of the community. The peer pressure in the neighborhood now is to do right not to do wrong. We've changed the dynamics by serving so much for 17 years because of the help of people like yourself and your wonderful viewers to where now we have put permanent roots in the neighborhood. We have outlasted the liquor stores, we've outlasted the pimps, we've outlasted -- longevity always wins the game in the end and you've allowed us to do that.

James: Love never fails! Don't you love this story! It really is -- it is his story but it is his story and his glory revealed through yielded people. The thing you really need to understand that Matthew has pointed out is that you have a cause. Here's what have our viewers are looking for. They're looking for someone who has put their hand to the plow, looking to Jesus, plowing deeply and bringing forth fruit. That's what you're doing. That's what our viewers want to support. I frankly believe our government and the people even in political circles, they look at problems and they think we need to solve them and they think meeting a need is just enabling or making them entitled to receive a benefit or a check without ever any influence and no compassion. Now tell me how much money you save the taxpayer when you rescue a family or you get some kid that is headed for jail and you get their life totally restructured.

Matthew: Social services gave us seven children that were homeless with their families to take care of these kids at the Dream Center where we take them in free of charge. And of course with 12.7% unemployment in the city of Los Angeles, we have eight to ten showing up a day now, they have nowhere to go. So they sent us a letter thanking us saying that by taking care of seven children that were homeless children that had nowhere to go, we saved the government \$483,000 in one year. Now multiply

that times 140 people that are living in our place and it is millions of dollars who have been impacted. The reason why is this, you can minister to people's need but we must get to the place where we get beyond their need and we get to the potential of man. We have people in our families that have been living on government support for three generations, have come off of government support in six months because the body of Christ not only takes care of their need, we've got into their potential, we've gotten into their future, we've gotten to what they could possibly be. And only the gospel of Jesus Christ, where we minister to the need and we go beyond that can get to the root of people's life and challenge them to be more than they ever dreamed that they could become. And that's what we're seeing take place on an everyday basis that's got people baffled at how God's people can turn things around so quick.

James: That's why you wrote the book. I think it's important to know he is in one of the most challenged areas in one of the most challenged states. To be quite frank with you, California, and I'm not scolding, I'm trying to love you appropriately and really help you readjust the compass to true north, you have inappropriately addressed a lot of very critical problems and you have made critical errors in an attempt to address them. Really and truly, in this very challenging area, they're seeing incredible things happen. The book that he has written has a picture of Matthew standing here with a lot of different people around you. And these are actual people that have been ministered to through the Dream Center and the Angeles Temple, which you have literally taken over as the church meeting house, which was a great famous place for mighty visitations of the spirit of God and miracles occurred, and now even greater miracles are occurring. But you wrote the book and you pictured these people as illustrations to inspire churches and communities everywhere to know that they can release the kingdom imprint and the impact that God's love can make in their own community. Right?

Matthew: These are all pictures of people that live at the Dream Center who have come off of drug addiction, homelessness. People have given their life to serve forever and live in a hospital building. One of the guys in this story is funny, his name is Cory. He is a young guy. One day I was walking into the program and he was doing a Bible study. He was a gangster from the hard core elements of the streets of south central. And he was in there preaching to people, but he preached in a very unconventional way. He was kind of preaching street preaching like, "Yo-yo, turn your Bible over here to John 3:16." He was hilarious. It was very unusual. So I said, "Man, you've got to preach for me on Sunday morning. I only have 15 minutes left to preach. Can you please preach for me?" He said, "Yo man, I don't preach. I don't do that." He was up there kind of -- and I said, "Come on! 15 minutes! Just be exactly who you are. I want you to preach it the way you do it in chapel." He got up there and he preached 15

minutes and the crowd was jumping up and down. This is a guy that bullet holes were in his house every single day from his gang activity. He is preaching on Sunday morning, 3,000 people in the auditorium. Then when he was done he said, "I'm so sorry, church. Thank you for being so good to me and cheering for me." He said, "But please forgive me. I got so busy in my sermon I forgot to ask you to pray that God would forgive all my warrants out for my arrest." I said, "Only at the Dream Center would you get a guy preach on Sunday morning and ask God to heal some of those warrants in his life!" That guy found his cause! He is ministering to hundreds of men every single day. And on graduation he apologized to his mom for the days that at their dinner table bullets were flying in their house. And now he is a man -- he said, "I used to jump people in the gangs and now I'm releasing men into their destiny and future." That's what I'm talking about. We go beyond the need of just giving them something -- we take them to their destiny, we take them to their future, we go beyond -- and that's what we do as the body of Christ. We don't just hand something out, we hold their hand. Government can't do that. They do the best they can but they can't hold people's hand and walk them through the debris of life and take them to a place that only God's potential can do.

James: I love you! Betty, what do you think about -- really, the inspiration that Matthew is literally pouring out, I feel like on the whole world.

Betty: He is! I think it's a good example of what, as individuals, as Christians we can do. We don't have to look very far, maybe next door, maybe going to the grocery store or somewhere very close to where we live every day to find someone -- and like you said, everybody has got hurts. If you can start there and minister to their hurt, their need, and then you can present Jesus to their hearts and show them the destination that God has for them.

Matthew: And most people don't find their cause because they fear that what they have in their hand is not enough to even get started. And that's the big lie of the enemy saying, "The little that you have to give, the little you have to support a ministry, like whether we supported today or anything, it is not just enough so why even bother getting started?" That's the battle always... in the cause, it is in the very beginning is realizing that all God needs is a slingshot. All God needs is someone that has a few loaves and fishes to do a miracle. But people just sometimes fear that they have to have a lot to get started in their cause but all God is looking for is that first step, that first time when you showed up and man, we're walking around those streets praying. And the only guys we had in our church were guys on skid row. We had like 80 people that night and about 70 of them were from skid row. So we're preaching to 10 congregation members versus 70 guys that were loaded up on drugs, nipping on

the berries before they even got into service. But you start with what you have, you step out. You've got to give God something to work with so he can multiply and do a miracle.

James: I just thank God for the privilege of not only praying for you as a minister of *LIFE Outreach* and like you said our viewers of being able to be a part of what God has called you to do. I was just thinking about how you touch people in your own neighborhood. We've got a boy that lives next door to us, a family that he's been so nice. His name is Patrick. One of the things Patrick did, this is when he was 10 years old or so, he just started noticing all the workers in the subdivision where we lived. They'd be working in the yards and working on various repairs or taking care of things and he would just begin to go and give them cold water, and then he got to where he would give them cold drinks and just go around and show an interest in them. And he said that he got an interest from just seeing us on television helping the people that had needs and he just looked around the neighborhood and began to help. He was a tremendous source of inspiration to me because I thought, you know sometimes, I overlook those people. Maybe I don't notice them just because they're out doing work. Maybe I just drive by them and don't care. If we'll just open our eyes you know what I think will happen? We'll start seeing through the eyes of Jesus. And we'll see needs and we can meet them. I want to thank you Matthew and thank God for what he is doing at the Dream Center, that we had a part in it. I pray you'll really consider getting the book; it is absolutely fabulous. Now I want to ask you this, if somebody wanted to go online, learn how they could perhaps do something similar, learn from you, they can obviously learn in the book but if they wanted to go online to just get insights from you and what you all are doing in the way of outreach, where would they go?

Matthew: They can go to DreamCenter.org and of course the book is on there as well, as ways to volunteer. You can come for a week and live there. You can come for a year and live there. You can come for one day and live there. You can come for one afternoon and do an outreach. So there is ways online, they can fill right out there. Come out to the Dream Center, spend a week going out to the places that they read about in the book.

James: And you will minister but you can also learn what you can take back home.

Matthew: Absolutely! You will catch it more than anything that you can ever possibly imagine by being out there.

James: Thank you. Would you join us telling Matthew how much you appreciate him? The Dream Center is just fabulous! I want to say to all of you that you make dreams come true. I really believe you fulfill the dream of God's heart and that's for his will to be done, for his love to be revealed and released on earth. That's his kingdom. I want you to look through his eyes. I want you to listen to the heart of God through a missionary who could have been a professional athlete that followed in the footsteps not only of his missionary father but the footsteps of Jesus. See if you don't hear the heart of God as Isak Pretorius points us where Jesus is looking.

On the mission field:

Isak: You can hear right now the dull cry, the dull moan of children who are dying. Just a dull moan that comes from a child that doesn't have enough energy to cry; in fact, he doesn't even have enough energy to live any longer. It's the sound that we've come to know as the sound of death. These children are calling you and I'm going to call on their behalf, and I'm going to make their cry a cry of a call of action that says please, open your hearts and act. Do whatever you can do because children are not supposed to die. Children are not supposed to find themselves battling life and death each and every day -- that's not what God intended and that's not what is right or what is fair. You can change it. If you would hear this call today and you would allow it to be a call to action that says, "I'm going to take an action that is going to save lives today. I'm going to give them that basic human need that they have, just a bowl of food a day! And through giving that bowl of food, I'm going to save their lives, and I'm going to end this cry. I'm going to end this cry of death and I'm going to turn it into a song, a celebration, a joy of life."

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I just thank God that when I saw the need and held the children, and when I walked by the mound after mound where hundreds and even thousands of little graves, most of them about like this, maybe some a little larger, that held little children's bodies, I'm glad I didn't turn away and walk away. I'm glad, Betty that I saw those children, surely as Jesus saw the one sheep, when 99 were safe and secure and he was out there. I'm so grateful that when Betty and I came back with a broken heart and shared it with our viewers like you that everyone didn't just change the channel and turn away. But people like you -- just like you -- and maybe you are one that has done it for years, you reached out and you touched someone with the love of God. And you said, "I care enough to share" and you wrote a check or you called the number and

used a bankcard, the most appropriate way you'll ever use it, to give life. So I'm asking you as we do twice a year from feeding programs, I'm asking you as we do twice a year from feeding programs, I'm asking you to help us feed the half million children like those Isak was pointing to and you can see the big pot of soup there -- likely they just sat that feeding center up but I'm asking you to help us keep all the feeding centers going. I'm asking you to give a gift if you could help us feed 100 children by giving \$1,000 for the next months or \$100 to feed ten; would do you it? \$50 will feed five, \$30 will feed three -- I don't know at what level you can help but to those three, five, or ten children, boy, it means a lot, and to the family and to the mother and that nutrition center. Betty, you know that old building, that brick building, and they had the little intravenous feeding and those little emaciated bodies, we helped set up those clinics, and we've helped put the sugar and oil and the little intravenous feeding for the ones that are very near death, you pay for that -- viewers do -- our viewers do!

Betty: Absolutely. And you know as I was listening to Isak talk and ask for your help and I heard the cries of those babies that are going to die if we don't help them, I'm so grateful that when our children were babies, I never heard a cry quite like that one. Because you see, every time our baby cried indicating they were hungry, they got fed. These babies don't have a chance without our help. I hope you will join with us and let's give these children a chance to turn their cries of death into laughter, joy in life.

James: You know as Isak pointed out, a lot of them are too weak to even cry where you can hear them... but I believe you heard. Would you dial that number please? Or go online LifeToday.org. You make a check, make it to *LIFE*. Take your bankcard, use it. Could you help us care for ten of those children... or five or three or perhaps even a 100? We have some gifts for you. God's Kingdom in You revealed through you in situations like this. We want to bless you while you bless others. Thank you for making that call. If you get a busy be determined for the sake of those precious children, you get through. You give them life.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment a child is drawing her last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help, many like her throughout Africa face death as well. Today you can make a difference. You can save a life! *LIFE's* mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of half a million children throughout remote areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. With previous food reserves gone and Southern Africa facing its worst conditions and food shortage in more than two decades, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for the feeding programs immediately!

Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months. With your gift we'll send you the God's Kingdom in You audio series and companion scripture guide. James and Betty Robison, along with Beth Moore, inspire you to live every day in the power and presence of God. With your gift of \$125 or more to help feed ten children you may request both the video DVD and audio series with scripture guide. As a bonus we will also send you Jim Hylton's new book, the supernatural skyline. Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help save the lives of 100 children and be sure to request the beautiful new "Heart of the Father" bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: We are really anxious to send you God's Kingdom in You: Living in his presence in the present, what God has revealed to me. I've been preaching nearly 50 years. What God has revealed to me about kingdom reality has been as transforming as any truth I've ever heard. And God brought Beth and Betty and me together to begin pouring this out to bless you. Jim Hylton's book will bless you. If you would help us today and you'd like to have The Cause Within You, we'd be glad just to send it to you, today, while Matthew is here and just to say look, you're part of a great cause. You may find some insight here that will be helpful. Matthew, thank you for joining us. Thank you for your help. Would you join us thanking Matthew? Appreciate you, buddy! Give my regards to your family, to your dad, Tommy. You've got a good boy there! Love you! Thank all of you for your help.

Beth: I want to say it again because I believe it with all of my heart, you can live with pain more than you can live with purposelessness.

Announcer: Beth Moore tomorrow!