

Week 28

7/4/11

Excerpt from "The Great Omission from the Great Commission"

James: I can't tell you how excited I am that we have this opportunity to spend with you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. We're going to be sharing with you all week the great omission from the great commission. If I could reach out, and I've often wished that I could, some of you think it would be a frightening moment because you say you don't know what I look like where I'm sitting here in my family room or in the kitchen or in the bedroom or maybe you're in some hotel or motel and you happen to be watching. I wish I could reach out and take your hand. I wish, Betty, we could be in the room like we are here in the family room or we're just seated together around a table and I could somehow communicate just how important it is that we have the relationship and friendship that we have enjoyed with the *LIFE Today* television program and for you perhaps, it may be the first time you've ever watched but I want you to know it is not an accident. You have a divine appointment. I really do believe all of you who are watching have a divine appointment, all of us together do. And it is my prayer that somehow we will be able to share with you how important you are to God Almighty, to the father in heaven. And just how much he values you and treasures you. Betty, this week we're going to be talking about the great omission from the great commission. You know the great commission of Christ in the last chapter of Matthew is to go into the world and make disciples of the nations and teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and I've paraphrased, I've kind of bunched up the entire paragraph there and those verses. But here's the thing, we have omitted the most important part, we have not made disciples of Christ. We have, at best, made like kind, we've made church members rather than members of the body of Christ. We have people who have religion without relationship. They have a membership without a relationship with God and with his family. This is absolutely tragic. We do not seem to understand and this is what breaks my heart, we don't understand what Jesus meant when he taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come thy will be done." When he came out preaching and announced the kingdom of heaven is at hand he was saying to you that the presence of God, the God of the heavenlies and the God of the heavens, the God over everything, his presence and his power is here and we can abide in it and live in that presence, oftentimes referred to as the shelter or the shadow of the almighty. We're to live there. Betty, Jesus said that he sends us as sheep in the midst of wolves. But a sheep is not afraid when there are wolves when their shepherd is nearby. But without the presence of the shepherd we're in trouble. You've been reading now for some time out of this

little devotional book, *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young. I'd like you to read what you read from this beautiful devotional book. By the way, it is in the bookstores. Millions of people are reading Sarah Young's devotion. She and her husband were church planters for years, are now serving in another country basically as missionaries. She served for a period of time under the great philosopher Francis Schaeffer who impacted the world, along with Solzhenitsyn and Pope John Paul and some other leaders, it impacted direction of the whole world. She was with Francis Schaeffer and yet said this while she was serving, "I never really began to experience kingdom presence and power." Let me read the subheading on this book, "Enjoying peace in his presence." That's what he invites us all into. Peace in his presence, even in the face of problems. Read what you read this morning even before we left to come up here.

Betty: Because I normally get up a little bit before you do, James, I can't wait. I go ahead and read it and then I follow you around in the morning and I say, "Hey, are you ready for the devotional," because I'm always so excited about it. But today's was, "I am the potter, you are the clay. I designed you before the foundation of the world. I arranged the events of each day to form you into his preconceived pattern. My everlasting love is at work in every event of your life. On some days your will and mine flow smoothly together. You tend to feel in control of your life when our wills are in harmony. On other days you feel as if you are swimming upstream against the current of my purposes. When that happens, stop and seek my face. The opposition you feel may be from me or it may be from the evil one. Talk with me about what you are experiencing. Let my spirit guide you through the treacherous waters as you move through the turbulent stream with me let circumstances mold you into the one I desire you to be. Say "yes" to your potter as you go through this day. "

James: You know we try to impress upon you as you watch and if you continue to watch the importance of being clay in the potter's hand. It is the safest place you'll ever be but it is also a place of shaping. You need to understand that in shaping clay you're going to feel pressure. And if you understand the purpose of the pressure when you're yielding to God is literally to shape Christ-likeness in us, to be conformed not by the power and influence of the world but transformed by the renewing of our mind and also to allow the pressures of all that comes to us in life, including pain so many times, to shape Christ-likeness in us. I wrote an article not long ago where I included this thought and this phrase. "Many times when we ask God for healing," and I referenced the healing of the withered hand, "we may have a withered hand heal but live with a withered life." God wants to not only heal diseases but he wants to make us whole, he wants to heal us. That's what kingdom life does. When Jesus said we were to go into the world and preach the gospel, that we were to make disciples of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and the son and the holy spirit, but teach

them to observe all things, not some things but all things. What we have done, Betty, and I don't think it is intentional, we have made the mistake of leading people to be like us: churches are full with people of like kind who are simply not Christ-like. We have not made disciples of Jesus. We have not taught people the importance of doing everything he said. That doesn't mean that we'll never miss the mark, it doesn't mean we will never fail. But it means we will begin by yielding to the purpose and will of God in our lives. I really would like to ask you all this week and when you are listening to have a notepad nearby and to have a Bible. I want you to look at the Sermon on the Mount. I want you to go to Matthew chapter five, if you would. Jesus, seeing the crowds, went up on the mountain. He gathered the 12 around him. There were times when I believe there were only 12 there. It was a setting like if we were sitting there in the family room with you. By the way, you remember when we started *LIFE Today* God had impressed me to help call the family into the family room to get to know the father. That's literally what we're seeking to do. So Jesus called the 12, he had that circle. But the fact is when you see the end of the sermon, the crowds were listening. In other words, while he sat in a circle with a small group everyone was listening. And they said, this man doesn't speak like the typical speakers, preachers, scribes, and Pharisees but he speaks with authority. When Jesus began with the Sermon on the Mount he started out talking about attitude. If you listen to us when we were sharing not long ago with Beth Moore, we shared a thought that Beth thought was one of the strongest things she heard. Jesus started talking about our attitude because attitude creates an atmosphere, atmosphere creates a climate, a climate creates a culture. Betty, a culture is what grows, whatever is in that environment effectively. I can remember when I had staph infection they took a culture of the various bacteria and that culture revealed, over a matter of days, a period of time, what was growing in that culture. Well, the culture we're supposed to be creating is a culture of Christ-likeness. We're supposed to live on this earth, literally leaving God's footprints everywhere we go. We're here to leave an imprint of kingdom reality and the presence of God. We are to impact the world. That's what it means to make disciples of the nations. We don't just go around making church members. We go around literally releasing and as Jesus says in the very next part of the fifth chapter of Matthew when he is talking in the Sermon on the Mount, he said you are salt and light. When salt is effective it effects what it touches, either preserving it or increasing or intensifying the flavor. If it loses its effect it is worthless. We have many people going to churches who have no effect on the community, no effect even on their own families and the day has come for us to begin leading kingdom imprint everywhere. This is the command of God to us. He also says we are light, light pierces the darkness. It not only exposes the error of present life and practices but the way in which we are to walk. Recently, you wrote, I believe, what you would consider a prayer in your early morning devotion time. I want you to listen to what God put on Betty's heart. I believe what she wrote as

a prayer is very prophetic. What does that mean? When Paul said, I wish that you would prophecy. Was he talking about predicting the future? I am convinced when he was discussing, I wish you all spoke in tongues but I'd rather you prophecy over in Corinthians, the 14th chapter, you are familiar with the passage, I'm sure sadly. A lot of people just argue about tongues, speaking or not speaking. It is so sad that, Betty, we get divided over the great unifier the Holy Spirit. But Betty is doing exactly what Paul, I believe, said when she wrote this. She might not have known it but I believe she was speaking words of life, that's what prophesying is. Read what God impressed you to write in the early hours.

Betty: James, first of all let me comment on what you just shared is that to allow God's kingdom to live in us here on this earth, we have to believe that we are significant to him. And I believe so many times Christians, we get to the point where we think, oh, they'll do it. They'll do it. He's a preacher, he can do it. No! God has a specific place in his plan and in his heart for you. This is why I think I came to write this. "I know in my spirit that God is eager and ready to express his kingdom in us. As I pray and listen I sense a lot of stirring in the heavenlies. The line is being drawn in the sand spiritually. Christians need to be aware and on alert, prepared to stand on the truths of God. Wake up, oh children of the most high God. We must first, with our own hearts allow God to cleanse us and fill us with love and understanding of our purposes in his kingdom; to be able to be prepared for the battle we must first walk in his footsteps as a little child stepping into their father's footsteps, wanting to be exactly like the father. Oh, God, help me to respond to your words and leading in my life that I may be an example of your wisdom, love and understanding as in Ephesians 3: 14-21, I fall on my knees completely in submission and your love which is so unlimited if we will only recognize it. Instead of seeing your correction or rebuke as a condemnation but as light to inspire us to go forth confidently walking in your love and in your power. Now is the time. The enemy is being exposed and as he crawls out from under the rock because God is allowing him to, we, the children of God are ready to put him under our feet, crushing his attempts to kill, steal, and destroy the purposes of God. Dear Jesus, in my weaknesses you are made strong. That in no way is an excuse to continue to allow those weaknesses to dictate and control our lives. It is simply recognizing that only God can take those weaknesses and use them to demonstrate his love and power to overcome. Through an overcoming life we can experience kingdom living."

James: You know, I pray with all my heart you grasp what Betty was sharing. You know before we left this morning, you were sitting and you wanted to share something God put on your heart. I said, "Why don't you wait and share it with our television audience?" What was it God was putting on your heart at the house before we left?

Betty: James, I was in my own heart trying to see where God would lead us today and in my part in sharing and I thought about his kingdom. As I shared with you how significant I feel like God has shown me I am to him, it would be just like a mother and father to their child. They mean the whole world to them. We have some rose bushes out in our backyard and they're just now beginning to grow and they've got the green leaves on them and every day I go to the window there and I look out at them. I begin to see the buds coming up and each day for -- oh, James, probably a couple of weeks now I've watched them anxiously. I go and I look out and I give you a report on how they're doing and how they're growing. Just the other day I looked out and there was a beautiful rose in full bloom! As I was standing there this morning looking at them I see the other little roses coming along, maybe not quite as far as this one, it's really bloomed out! I thought, dear God, that's what you think about my life and every one of your children. You're watching -- I believe God is eager, James, to see us grow in his love and his forgiveness and in his power to be an expression of him. I believe if his angels are standing around he's saying, "Look, look! They're blooming! They're coming to maturity in the Lord. They're in me and it is just a beautiful thing to behold." I believe God watches us like that and so I want you to know the love of God and how much he wants you to grow and to be successful in his love.

James: Boy, I've been watching them too. Let me say this to you, you were put here to be fruitful, to be a blossom. To reveal the beauty of God, that's kingdom life. That's keeping in the great commission, becoming a disciple. Betty, those beautiful rose bushes, they don't have to strain. Let me tell you something, none of them are sitting out there going, ach! No, they just yield to the soil, respond to the light, receive the moisture, and bear fruit. He is the water of life. He is the light of the world. We are to be rooted and grounded in love... planted in him. We don't have to strain. See, I don't have to strain to forgive. I don't have to strain to love. I just yield. I'm going to love others. I'm going to care about others. I'm going to want to make a difference in somebody's life because he made a difference in my life -- that's kingdom life! That's living to become a disciple of Christ. Betty, one of the things God has led us to do and I've said this to our viewers many times, it is so true, you found it to be true, if you want your prayers answered, you seek to be an answer to someone's prayers. I want to take it one up. You really want your prayers answered? Join us seeking to be an answer to Jesus' prayer that we be one with the father. That's how you get rooted and grounded in love and become fruitful beyond anything you've ever imagined. Way beyond membership in a church. This is relationship with God the father and with the family. Betty, we have been seeking to bring church leaders together and to bring the family -- we've been inviting people here and bringing the leaders of the family of God together to do what Paul challenged us to do which an answer to the prayer of Jesus

when he prayed that we would be one with God and one with one another, perfected in unity. Paul said in Ephesians four, be diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in a bond of peace. And then he talks about the giftings to the church, in leadership as pastors and apostles, as teachers, as evangelists, all the various roles and then he says in Ephesians four that you are to equip and edify and build up the body of Christ. The family of believers into the fullness of the stature of Christ until the church begins to reveal Jesus in his glory because his glory is filling us in our personal lives and in a family of believers, like a city set on a hill, a light which cannot and will not be hid. This is the force, this is the love that never fails. This is how we overwhelm the gates of bondage and destruction and defeat by literally fulfilling the commission of Christ. By making disciples of the nations so that we're giving oversight to all God's put under our watch care and we are living and rooted and grounded in love in our weakness we allow him to be made strong, in our strengths and giftings we yield them up to him so that he uses them for his eternal purpose. Father, I pray for every person listening that they will hear you speaking to them even as Betty shared, from her heart, such a beautiful picture of what you work in my own wife's life every day. God, I pray that she will be able to see you in me as I see you in her and that with all of our viewers the world will behold your glory revealed in us, through us, in Jesus' name.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I'm asking you, to really commit to joining not just with me and Betty and being an answer to the prayer of Jesus, but pray that all the family of faith will come together in holy heart harmony to seek God with all of our hearts. One of the things that we have learned as we pursue him, we've learned to notice others, to live beyond the limits of our own world and our own interests, legitimate personal interest or needs and see a need and rejoice that we can meet it. Every viewer that has ever communicated with us over the years has said, "James, we really did begin to experience life fully when we began to release it to others -- when we noticed and we sought with all our heart to do our part however small or great someone may think it is, to do the will of God concerning a need and seek to meet it." I want you to watch. You can be an answer to this prayer and this need.

James: You can put fresh water in that cup for that little child. You live kingdom life, his kingdom presence and you can give water in Jesus' name, you'll do it. I pray with all my heart that you'll want to reach out right now and dial that number. If your heart was broken, you said, "James, I really need someone to pray for me." You dial that

number and you're going to have someone pray with you any time -- because God loves you. But if you'll dial that number now, you're saying, "God, I want you to use me, us as individuals, to show someone your love." And if you can drill a well -- now I know for some of you say, "Boy, James, that's a stretch. That's a big stretch!" -- \$4800! When Betty and I started helping drill wells it was a stretch but it was amazing how God promises that he will provide the ability to help to those who sow bountifully and freely. We're not talking about some gimmick. We're talking about people available to say, "God, trust me with the watch care of your resources and I'm going to do good with it." If you can drill a well, or you could drill several, I'm believing you will, but don't you take lightly making a gift of \$48 and giving ten people water for the rest of their life. For some of you say, "*That* may be a stretch." For those ten people it is life and the missionaries are going to tell them about where that love came from and about the love of God. \$144: 30 people water for the rest of their life. Many of our friends say, "I'm really stepping up!" And they'll give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray that three other people or another person joins with them and we've got a well. I know you're going to do what God leads you to do. I really believe that with all my heart! So I'm asking you to dial the number, take your bankcard and use it like a check. You can go online if you like, LifeToday.org and make your gift right now and you can just get up and go and do that -- and thank you for it. Or you write a check and make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Would you please? We're committed with your help and we can only do it with your help, to drill 415 more fresh water wells in 15 nations. Would you drill one? Would you drill part of one? Would you give as many people as possible fresh clean water?

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision. The good news is that there is a solution -- Mission: Water For Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything in life. With your support we will drill 415 new water wells in remote villages in 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime! In appreciation for your gift to help drill these new wells be sure to request the Kingdom Life Journal. This beautiful leather bound prayer devotional includes both Psalms and Proverbs, as well as a place to write your own reflections as God speaks to you through his word. Also please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or

a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request the journal as well as our beautiful commemorative bronze sculpture, "Heart of the Father." Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You know I want to join with Betty in saying thanks so much for helping us share water. We do have some wonderful inspirational gifts to share with you that I know will be a blessing. The bronze, of course, it's a real conversation piece. Many times people say, "Where did you get that?" And you can tell them and sometimes they will drill a well or help with our outreaches. We really do thank you for your support. We thank you for your prayers. If you would like to have the message we're teaching, *The Great Omission from the Great Commission*, teaching it all this week, don't hesitate to ask for it, CD or DVD. Thank you so much for your help. By the way, if you get a busy, you be persistent, call until you get through. Give a cup of water in Jesus' name.

Announcer: Join us tomorrow on *LIFE Today* as James and Betty Robison reveal *The Great Omission from the Great Commission*.

James: We feel we were born for this day -- so were you!