

Week 39

9/22/11

James: It's always a privilege to come into your home. Betty and I are thrilled to have Jack Hayford and Margaret Feinberg with us. I'm James Robison. If you don't know that, most of you do, and this is Betty.

Margaret Feinberg is a great speaker, wonderfully gifted communicator; communicates with a lot of groups really frankly, we would consider it a privilege to communicate to in some personal way, Catalyst and Q and some of these other young people's groups of seekers; she has just been so effective. And she's written a book, *Hungry for God*.

Our good friend Jack Hayford who has been with us many times, we've done a lot together to hopefully point people effectively to Christ. Jack Hayford has just released a new book, *Penetrating the Darkness*. He talks about kingdom life and power.

We have Margaret Feinberg and Jack Hayford with us. Would you give them a good welcome to *LIFE Today*?

Glad to see both of you! Really good to see you.

Jack, she makes you look better. It is kind of like when Anna is with you.

James: I'm glad there is a little brightness in the room beside me and sitting here in my gray is feeling grayer than ever!

[Laughter]

James: Let me just ask both of you, you've written a book that I think is very relevant, *Hungry for God*, piercing or *Penetrating the Darkness*, Jack, which I'm talking a whole lot about the importance of really the family of God as individuals not being covered and that would include being covered by a sectarian covering, denominational or just hiding it in our own little family community, but really becoming a city set on a hill; not only a light that penetrates the darkness around us but that we come together collectively to be the light that cannot be hid and will not be hid.

I think it is imperative and I really don't think we're going to be shining as brightly if we don't pray and don't become an answer to the prayer of Jesus to come together. I've

been emphasizing this. The moment I began to read your book I saw you're emphasizing so much of the same things.

So I would like you, I would like you, Margaret, to just both of you speak to the whole church family in light of what you see, and really considering the opportunity and responsibility we have as believers. Jack, take off on it.

Jack: I think first James there is a lot of reason for us to feel very expectant of the possibility of the body of Christ coming together in this generation more than certainly in the earliest segments of my years of leadership, a decade or so later you began in leadership and we've both been around a while and you pointed out last time I was with you how much older I am than you, so I won't argue the point.

[Laughter]

But it doesn't need to be argued, people just need to look!

[Laughter]

But it is a delight and privilege to still have a welcome for my voice in ministry internationally, not to mention in the nation, nice to be with you.

And to be beside Margaret because I think she symbolizes not just a new generation of leadership that is exciting to see and we've been involved in other settings other than this one and I really regard her and it is a pleasure.

We've had some chance to visit already this evening prior to the taping. But I want to say that the very thing that you mention in reflecting on the locations where Margaret has ministered, notably, for example, is Catalyst, which is made up so much of young leaders. But there is a blending that is taking place among the young leaders that does not know the Joseph of the earlier generations, of the divisiveness that was so much a part of the body of Christ.

There is an increasing thing that fulfills what you and I have been urgently and passionately been seeking to sow seeds of and grow a harvest of. To what degree that generation is a fruit of our sowing, I don't know but I do know this, that the possibilities of partnership today with the living body of Christ, not nominal, I don't make that judgment, that's God's business but where the life is in the body, the members are reaching out to one another, all the parts of the body are doing that.

So the very thing that you champion and that all of us know as pivotal, the issue isn't just saying wouldn't it be wonderful? The issue is the power lies with a united body, not in an ecclesiastical sense of bonding but in a soma sense, the body functioning together. Whether its prayer or whether its reaching with the love of God which you so marvelously model in the various projects that you invite us all to participate in; that blending is in motion and I feel very hopeful about the future in those regards.

James: Margaret, in light of what we see and you know talking and communicating with some of the young leaders and seeing their heart hunger and yet, they're let's say disenchantment with "religion" and what they see as lifeless, loveless pretense almost, it is simply showing up and not shining forth; address some of the concerns and maybe some of the hopeful things that you see.

Margaret: Back to the idea of the *Hungry for God*, a hunger is actually something I pray for on a regular basis. I ask God that my heart would be so hungry for him and the things of his world that I would not be satisfied with the things here. And in that place of prayer, as Jack so eloquently describes, and of calling out to God, our eyes are open to very tangible needs.

I think I'm part of a generation who is recognizing that because of technology, and just being able to see the images, which are breathtaking, whether it is after a natural disaster or what we see going on in the Middle East, we see those images and suddenly, we recognize that we are meant to be part of the solution.

But this is not a time where we can afford anybody to sit on the sidelines. It is a time in history when it is all hands on deck. I'm not concerned about your denomination, I'm not concerned about your age, I'm not concerned about your gender, I don't want anything to disqualify you from preaching, teaching, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and the love he has for humanity.

So what I see is this merger of the prayer, that growth, that hunger for God and the expression in the ways of teaching, preaching, and serving that *LIFE Outreach* does so well.

Betty: It really doesn't have anything to do with the different generations does it? It is a harmony among the children of God coming together. Because I feel like in our generation we still have something that we can offer in mentoring the younger generation and they have so much they can offer to us too to mesh together and fill that gap that you feel sometime.

Margaret: And it is not just offering, we need you! We desperately need you! We need your prayers! We need your years of wisdom, the lessons you've learned. We need you walking beside us, raising us up. We desperately need you!

James: I've found something -- this is interesting, I've been going to a vocal therapist. When I had staph infection I began to train any voice inappropriately. I was so weak that I did not support breathy -- and with my breath I began to speak with the muscle of my throat and talk down. And I'm having to learn over.

I've got a woman therapist who is just very determined. An interesting revelation occurred while we were talking because as I had to come to the time of where we were not going to be able to -- her training me but I would continue doing and convincing her that I was as determined as she wanted me to be. I said, "I want to tell you something, I can tell you've enjoyed our communication. I can tell you have. But I want to tell you what I perceive, why you enjoy this. I have so much respect for you. But the fact is, I have respect for all women." I said, "I respect them greatly." I said, "I admire them." I said, "As a result of that, I think they appreciate me." I said, "As a matter of fact, I think they actually admire that. They see that as a strength, the fact that I recognize their ability and their importance and their value."

I believe that we should offer the respect and honor to one another and then we should deserve and earn it. I really do believe that.

Men, I think every woman can respect fully a strong person who is strong enough not to be threatened by her strengths but who honors and respects her in those strengths. So I simply say that to you as a challenge.

Does that make sense, Margaret, speaking as a man to a woman? Because I have and I sense Jack expressing this appreciation for what you bring as well as what women bring in the most respectful fashion. Is this meaningful and is what I said, does it make sense?

Margaret: Absolutely, I would say it doesn't just make sense, it is almost like a balm of healing. Because there have been those times and those circumstances when maybe as a woman I'm not affirmed or those gifts are not affirmed and there is a bit of a pushing aside. What you're saying isn't just about men and women's relationships, it's about a relationship with humanity -- across the board.

We need to look at every human being as created in God's image as something to be treasured and that is precious and of great value. And when we see that in someone else, they feel it, they sense it, I think that's what that woman was feeling and sensing. So the question is God, how do I draw near to you so that I have those lenses to love people like you love them each and every day?

James: Absolutely! And it is something that really needs to cross these denominational lines, Jack... and partisan lines!

Jack: It is in every arena. Earlier in conversation, apart from hearing the conversation this moment, but prior to our beginning taping, there had been mention of my present work with pastors, which is the primary thing I do now. I've pastored for 54 years and for the last 10 it's essentially been pastor since I concluded my pastorate at Church on the Way. I find this -- in fact, I've marveled at this and I'm wise enough to realize it is not an achievement on my part -- but there have been 5,000 participants that have come and spent usually 30 to 35 for one week a month, eight months a year for the last 14 years; over 5,000 participants from over 90 denominations.

Now it does make me feel valued that they come but I do know that there is a great deal more than that. I notice the thing you said of the recognition of a younger generation saying, "If we believe you regard us then we want to hear from you because we need the benefit of the experience." In speaking with them, there is nothing more central to -- I don't have to contrive a sense of valuing your generation or your gender or anything else about... the denomination -- every denomination was founded in a revival.

There are values -- and those that are living for Christ in those denominations live out the essence of that revival. The ones that have somehow dissipated the spiritual energy of it and are locked in the systems, that's unfortunate, but I can't waste my time being troubled with them as though -- I need to regard them with gratitude that at least they still hold something of faith. But mostly, respect -- respect, regard, esteem, value -- and this is not a superficial thing, it is the heart of the Lord's own heart for every single one of us no matter where we are.

God so loved... and it is so personal and so precious and to let him work that in our hearts to where everyone with whom we communicate, as you with that speech therapist, as us here with a mutual regard for one another, not because of any reputation we've gained of some value to people in the body of Christ, but the regard

for the true value of the individual treasure that is in everybody, and to live that way. And that opens doors no matter what -- no matter what!

James: You know what I try to encourage and I encourage it because I see the imperative in my own relationship. Jesus said that we're lights. And he said you don't take the light and put it under a cover; you don't put it under some bushel, something that covers it and hides it. You've got to understand what will hide it is finding some comfort and compatibility that could be in a total system of compromise or it could be in a system of systematic theology that so refuses any semblance of what you might perceive as compromise that you in fact begin to compromise by allowing the covering to separate you from all the other areas that so desperately need what you have and you desperately need what they have. I've said this over and over, there is a powerful amount of truth in this simple statement.

We too often fail to know him as we should because we refuse to know them, oftentimes to know them at all, so we really don't know him, nor do we bless them. So Jack, I am trying to encourage people as I want to be encouraged myself. I don't want to be covered by some system. I don't want to be covered -- by truth, yes, but I don't want to be covered by something that causes me not to speak the truth in love, not to walk in love, not to be able to look beyond their sin and see their need.

I want to be able to see clearly as Jesus sees. It is amazing how he looked at the people who were wrong. He never compromised with them nor did ever fail to love them. He was never uncomfortable being around the people that the religious people would do everything to stay away from. I really want to impress upon people to get in that covering.

Does that make sense, Margaret?

Margaret: Absolutely! And I think part of that traces back to what we've been talking about in this topic of prayer. There is this thing that I watch - and I watch your show quite a bit -- and I don't know if you know that he does this but it is almost as if he leans into your chair, Betty. Like you almost start taking it over and it is the cutest thing when I see it.

[Laughter]

It is! It is absolutely adorable. But I think that is an image of what we're supposed to do with Christ, that leaning in, that being close. And out of that place of intimacy and

that closeness and that presence, we keep refreshing those lenses of Christ and seeing people that way.

James: Well, we're really holding it back here in public. It's really all we can do to restrain ourselves.

Jack: Well, I would like to make one correction of what Margaret said, when she said, "It is the cutest thing." Margaret, it's Betty she is talking about.

[Laughter]

James: That's the reason I'm leaning into her. She is the cutest thing!

Jack: You know when you talk about nobody needs to abide under a covering of tradition, and I've had people often come and say to me, but I feel led to remain in the historic movement I've been in. And I say to them, "That is not what your covering is, that is the place you're called to minister. And that your covering is the clothing of the love of God and that can penetrate that arena as much as it extends to any other."

James: Don't put on any other kind of righteousness. Jesus said, "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees," which was really quite frankly, profound meanness. Self-righteousness is very mean, it's very smug, very condescending, very critical, very judgmental and it is not healthy.

The righteousness Jesus is talking about is the covering he is talking about. You put on the righteousness of God in Christ. We have no righteousness of our own, we're not redeemed by it, we're not made right by it, we're not maintained by our own but by him. We count all that loss for the surpassing value of gaining his presence and living in it.

I'll tell you what, we've just had a lot that we could cover but that's the reason Jack wrote the book *Penetrating the Darkness*; it's the reason Margaret wrote the book *Hungry for God*. Now I'm going to put both web sites up. You can always go to LifeToday.org. You can get the web sites and information on any guest any time that we have on *LIFE Today*. Remember that!

You can watch -- as a matter of fact, if you've got a good computer Internet connection, you can watch *LIFE Today* any time you want to and you'll get a good clear signal

every day. You can go back and say, "I want to hear that guest, I want to hear that person." Go back and listen. But you can also get any information. But there are both web sites. Jack referenced the school for pastors and leaders, also has the King's University. Margaret speaks at various locations and settings; there you will be able to find her schedule.

Would you join Betty and me saying a loud thanks to Jack Hayford and Margaret Feinberg? To both of you, thank you for your prayers and your support in what we're doing. I want to show you what we're doing. This is the last week we're going to talk about shoes and smiles for Christmas. We're talking about beautiful little feet with some shoes to keep them healthy. We're talking about giving children a smile.

Betty, I will never forget the little boy in Angola years ago. I don't think he had ever seen his reflection. I don't think he had ever seen it -- he was able to look because someone had a monitor and we were televising, of course doing videotaping and he we taped him with us. Then we played it back and this little boy had a terrible cleft palate; he had an opening in his face all the way up like this and when he saw himself he said, "Ah!" And he screamed as though he had never seen his own face. It is possible that they didn't have a mirror.

You know what love did? We got into Angola -- you did it -- because we had to take him all the way to Johannesburg, South Africa and we got him a new smile. And when I say, "we," boy, I use that very explicitly, I'm talking about you. We got a chance to do that for some others. It would be a wonderful time to do it. We have to raise the funds ahead of time so we can give them a smile for Christmas and we will point them to the reason for the season. I want you to watch.

On the mission field:

James: Got the socks, just need the shoes.

Kathy: I'm not even here for five minutes and I'm crying. You are concerned about their bellies and their health and the water being contaminated but you don't think of the disease that comes through the precious little bottoms of their feet, that enters their bodies and can steal life from them.

Betty: You look at these beautiful children and you know God did a good thing. He loves the little children of the world -- all of them! And we love them and we want to be able to give them some shoes for their precious feet so when they walk, the

disease doesn't contaminate their feet and then get in their blood system. Blank.

James: You know what Jesus said? Suffer the little children to come into me and forbid them not! You know what? We are the representatives of Christ, we're his body, we're his family! We can share his love. Blank.

Kathy: What a privilege it is for me this day to be surrounded by these precious little ones. I'm going to ask you right now to give them something that sounds so simple that we take for granted, and that is to put shoes on these little feet. Your gift will not only provide shoes for these precious children but it will also provide smiles -- new smiles for the children who need cleft palate surgery. Oh, you'll be blessed as you put shoes and smiles on the faces and feet of children around the world. Thank you so much!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I don't know what impressions you get when you look at the children. I was looking at their feet, of course, because we're talking about giving them shoes for Christmas, to keep them from getting the parasites and the infectious bacteria and even the hookworms that can actually kill them. We want to give them that but I've got to be honest with you, when I was looking at those children I saw so much more than feet, I saw precious beautiful little children. I saw children that God wants to love and hold.

And, Betty, without exaggerating, when you express the love of God, you actually are putting his arms around them and that's what I want to ask you to do.

This is our last week and I pray this, I prayed it before we came on the air, every person watching please help us help those children. We have targeted, with the missionaries help, areas where we've got 200,000 children. Some of them are going to have tiny little feet like this, just learning to walk. Others will be older children and we have a Velcro strap that they can adjust it to where -- and this shoe will last. It is all-weather. It is really resistant to rotting or to the terrible conditions they live in and they can adjust the strap. This is something they can wear for an extended period of time.

Would you help us this week by dialing that number? If you could give \$1,000 or \$144 as an example will give 40 children shoes. If you could do that, \$36 will give ten children shoes.

I don't think there is anyone watching that can't at some level reach out and say, "I'm going to touch those ten children." Then I want you to really pray about this -- this is a fantastic gift!

Children that have deformities in their face, cleft palate, some other facial deformity, we want to do the surgeries that is corrective. It averages \$500. Could you give a surgery or maybe two or several? We're sending the "Heart of the Father" bronze to say thank you if you'll make that special gift. You may want to make a sizable gift and say, "Use this to give shoes and smiles. I want to do what I can."

I'm asking that you help us. Please do not think \$36 is not much. No, it is real big to those ten children. I'm asking you please, make that call. If you want to go to LifeToday.org feel free to do that or you can simply dial that number. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail because we depend upon you.

We're sending the Jesus Calling devotional book for any gift. This is absolutely fabulous! This will help you come into the presence of God. Make that call. Thank you for making that gift. Thank you from the bottom of our heart.

Begin clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children they've never owned a new pair of shoes and while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

LIFE Outreach International has developed a durable all-terrain shoe especially made for the harshest conditions in children of all ages. By responding today you can help life immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays!

Your gift of \$36 will help provide 10 pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

In appreciation of your gift be sure to request the bestselling inspirational devotional by Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may request the heart of father bronze sculpture.

This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: It's really important that you understand now, this is your last opportunity to help us with the shoes and smiles.

This devotional book is absolutely fabulous. If you could possibly make a -- every gift is generous but if you could help us in a substantial way give some of those surgeries, we'll send you the "Heart of the Father" bronze.

Betty and I again, we thank you for watching and helping.

But we want to thank our special guests. Join us in thanking Jack Hayford and Margaret Feinberg for being with us.

Remind you again, their wonderful books and there is their web sites, *Penetrating the Darkness*, Jack Hayford; *Hungry for God*, Margaret Feinberg.

Thank you! Thank you for sharing this time with us.

Announcer: Join Pastor Robert Morris next week as he helps you discover how real friendship with the Holy Spirit can change your life!

Robert: The way God speaks is through the Holy Spirit.