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Week 45: Fall Mission Feeding

James & Betty Robison

Heather Thompson Day

Studio discussion:

JAMES: Boy, it's such a joy to be able to share with you. I'm James Robison, Betty and I, at *Life Today*. This the little subheading: "Navigating the Waves of Fear and Failure." Fear was one of your biggest problems. It will always try to come back, but here is *What if I'm Wrong*, and asking the question, navigating the waves, and sometimes those waves are just like a raging storm of fear and failure. Heather Thompson Day, this very beautiful lady, in some ways, has been to hell and back. She's certainly been through the waves of fear and failure and torment.

Heather, we just thank you for being here with us.

HEATHER: Thank you.

JAMES: You have a radiance about you that seems to imply that there's something happened that's lifted some loads. Is that correct?

HEATHER: Absolutely! I think so.

JAMES: So you wrote the book, and why did you title it, *What If I'm Wrong*?

HEATHER: It was a question I asked myself over and over again. I think it's actually a question that a lot of people, if God gives you some type of promise or vision or word over your life in the beginning, and then I have to go on this journey to see at what point is this going to happen? Or at what point is this going to be fulfilled, is the question that played in my mind over and over. Was I wrong about what I thought God was going to do in my life or where

I thought he was going to take me, or what I thought his plans were for me? Specifically, for me, my father who was my spiritual hero.

JAMES: Was a Christian man?

HEATHER: He was, oh my goodness, he was a man of God. Same person on stage as he was in the basement when I would watch him on his knees before the Lord in prayer. He gave every penny he ever made back into the ministry. And he got Alzheimer's when I was 25 years old. And so, by the time I started writing this book, I think I was probably 35. He's not doing well at all anymore. My family is trying to figure out -- if anybody's ever loved somebody who then has a medical crisis, and you're not financially wealthy, as my family was not, we were trying to figure out how do we pay for nursing home care for this person that gave everything to God? And so, I went through this, I wouldn't say it was a crisis of faith, but it was a crisis of was I wrong? Was my dad wrong about what he thought God was calling him to? I just remember I said to my mom on the phone one day, "I feel like Dad gave his entire life to God and to ministry, and we have nothing to show for it." Oh, that's going to make me want to cry.

And my mom said to me, "He has you to show for it. So I think you're wrong." It was the beginning for me of zooming out of my own life and seeing a God that works from generation to generation to generation. A God that answers prayers. He will answer prayers in my children's life and their children's life. Who answered, I think, some of my dad's prayers in my life. And then as Christians, we get grafted into this family of God that is working from generation to generation. It's never just about your singular life.

So that's kind of where the title for the book came from. I want people to zoom out a little bit of their present circumstance and say, what could I be getting wrong about how I think God has to work or has to move in order to know that God has been faithful to me?

JAMES: Well, how does he answer the question, What if I'm wrong? How did he turn that around for that to make sense? That even if you're wrong, he can right the wrong and show you the right. I mean, how did he deal with you in your life with that question?

HEATHER: Can I tell you? So last September, I was on a run and I felt the spirit. I just was struggling with different things, and I felt the spirit say, You don't have to think that I'm being good to you in order for you to choose to bring goodness into this world. And you don't have to think that I am blessing you in order for you to choose to be a blessing. And because this is true, Heather, you can bring goodness and blessing into this world at any time that you choose. I am with you and I am visible to you any time you choose.

So from that moment, I realized, and this is how I live my life now, I spent so much of my Christian life, and I think a lot of people do this. We spend our Christian life saying, God, reveal yourself to me. God wants to reveal himself in you.

JAMES: I'm going to take it one step farther. Through you.

HEATHER: Amen!

JAMES: He wants to flow his life in us and through us, a river of life.

HEATHER: Yes! It's available to you at any time you want. You can go, Lord, please bless me. Go be a blessing. It's changed my life to live this way.

BETTY: I think so many times, too, we ask that question, what if I'm wrong is because we have centered our whole life on our abilities, our not being able to do something, rather than what are God's abilities? They're limitless. You know, God can do anything if we just make ourselves in submission and available to him. But we miss opportunities when we're so centered on, oh, I can't do that. You know, that might be wrong. Instead of saying, God, what would you do? What would you have me to do? I used to think James being a preacher, he'd say, "Boy, God's speaking to me." I thought, I can't. God doesn't talk to me like that. I didn't think I was qualified for God to talk to me. I think sometimes we hold ourselves back from God showing us his purpose for us because we don't feel qualified. When I knew I wasn't qualified but yet God

is, and he created us and I began to submit to him and to his truth, his word, then he began to speak to me through his word. It's not who you are, is who he is.

JAMES: Take us on a journey through the book because I think God's giving you a great gift. I think you've really experienced him personally and miraculously, supernaturally. You give God yielded clay, put that clay in the Master potter's hand, and he can shape it into a great vessel of honor and magnify himself in us in that yielded clay. I think that's what you are.

HEATHER: Thank you. So the reason it's "Navigating waves of fear and failure" is because there was nothing worse to me than failure. So I tried to make every choice in my life in a way in which I would not fail. What I've come to discover, and this is just in my acceptance, and whether this is right or wrong, this is what God has led me to. Jesus entered towns in which he would not do any miracles. If Jesus was willing to -- if I'm God and I'm going to plan a three year ministry, three and a half years, I'm only going to hit the towns in which I am successful, in which there are baptisms in which everybody's applauding and which we are turning lives around. Jesus chooses to still enter towns in a three-and-a-half-year ministry, in which he will not do any miracles. Because for God, the submission to the commitment and the obedience of the work was the most important thing. That was the success. Whether the outcome happens is not for me to worry about, but to submit myself to the work. That's the point.

Jesus says, and I live in Texas so, when Jesus says, The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who scatters seed on rocks, I don't know any farmers who scatter seeds on rocks.

JAMES: That's not a good idea.

HEATHER: But Jesus does. Because for God, the work, not the results, the work, the commitment to keep showing up even if people refuse it, that's what matters. So once I've accepted this, that failure just doesn't have -- I don't fear it anymore because it's not mine. Do you know what I mean? Like God is doing the work and I'm just supposed to show up and be obedient. And then the results are up to his kingdom, not me. So it's really allowed me to detach

myself from these fears of well, what if I fail? What if I'm not obedient? That should be the bigger fear for me.

Let's use Joseph as an example. If I'm going to be prepared to be the leader of Egypt, would I go to prison to prepare for that? No.

JAMES: Not on purpose.

HEATHER: Not on purpose! But for God, right? Prison is part of your journey because the point isn't your position, it was that he would restore the family of God when he was there. So, for some reason, something happened in that prison for Joseph's heart that by the time he gets put into position, he's able to refill or to restore the family. So, it's always the heart process. So therefore, if I submit myself to this journey, failure, difficulty, adversity, why am I afraid? Because he is with me and he will keep refining my heart throughout whatever it is I'm going through.

JAMES: Back to the potter. When you give yielded clay to the potter's hands, part of the shaping process is pressure. So, pressure is a part of the shaping process, and that includes problems. It improves failures, it includes challenges. He's the one that creates the masterpiece. That's what he's done in you and continues to do in you. That's what he wants to do in every one of us. We don't offer him something perfect. We offer him something that needs to be shaped. We give him our lives. He gave his life for us, now we give his life to us, and he will express his life to us and through us if we become the yielded, shaped clay by the master potter. Does that make sense?

HEATHER: It makes perfect sense to me. And yet, I've resisted it most of my life.

JAMES: Why?

HEATHER: Because it hurts, and it's difficult -- and the uncertainty. It's one thing if I'm going through pressure and I know, okay, this is going to be like five years from now, ten years from

now, I'm going to have this story. But when you're in that pressure point, it's so much uncertainty. What if this is how it ends? It's just this sad story. And so, especially for my dad, there's not -- my dad has not seen and he will not see -- well, I keep praying for his healing, and the Lord hears those prayers, but he has not seen any like miraculous point of his ministry. It has just been pressure, and to accept that.

JAMES: We have a lot of -- We know God works all miracles. We know God is a healer. We know he can heal anything. We prayed seven years for God to heal the most fabulous -- we'd never known a greater person. We had three tremendous children, but we had a little girl, a little surprise baby that just kind of surprised the whole world, she was so full of the life of God and the love of God, and just a stick of dynamite with three beautiful children. She kept asking Betty while she was fighting cancer for seven years, "Mom, do you think I'll get to see my grandchildren?" She has seven now. She's only seen them from heaven. And so, we lost her. It didn't happen.

So, we don't understand why certain things don't happen. And we'll never get the, the why answer that satisfies us here. So here's what we try to point out to people that we've learned ourselves. Ask what not why. What do you want to do with the incredible life and testimony of this beautiful girl that's now in heaven? We see what you're doing through her three children, teenagers that she left who are really amazing. Now she has seven grandchildren, and we know what God's going to do through those. So, we're asking God what do you want to do with it? But I'm telling you, God sees through all your pressure, and you not understand about your dad. Would you say that he's doing some miraculous things in your life right now?

HEATHER: What I've come to realize is that my circumstances aren't the story. My spirit is the story. So, whether or not I live a good story is not about what happens to me, it's about how I respond despite what happens. I think all of heaven is watching us to say, oh, my goodness! Look at all this difficulty. Look at all this pressure. And yet, look at how they're still living, choosing to bring goodness and blessing into the world, even if they perceive that they are not experiencing it. That's a beautiful story. And all of us have access to that. Only in Christ! I really think only God empowers you to step outside your own suffering enough to live this way,

and to believe this thing, and to actually be God's hands and feet in this world every day. My prayer every single morning, as soon as I open my eyes, Lord, help me to make a moment for someone else today. So I remind myself this isn't about me.

BETTY: I think it is more about the journey that God has us so on. Because the heartaches are going to come. They're there. But the joys are so wonderful. The heartache with us losing our daughter, and her children losing their mother, but the beautiful thing is the relationship that we have that grows every day with God, and the opportunities we've had to share with people because we understand loss. A moment to encourage others through the journey that God took us on. No, we would not have chosen it. Just like you said, you don't choose that. You want the results, God's results. Well, these are results. So we need to look at it differently. We don't wait to get to the end of it. God, what have you got on the journey for me?

HEATHER: Yeah. What if you're wrong about what God does still do in your life despite these pieces?

JAMES: Okay. Answer that. What if you're wrong?

HEATHER: Oh, I just think, because I go around and I travel and I speak. I keep meeting people who talk about their testimony as if it was 10 years ago or 20 years ago. In my experience, your testimony is an unfolding process of what God is still doing in your life right now, in the here and now. So, what if I'm wrong about what God can still do? Of course, you're wrong about what God can still do, because if you're alive, there is still so much that God can do through your life. When we don't see it as like waiting for God to do necessarily something for me, but what is available for me to do for God, for other people? Then your life becomes this -- it is, it does. You used the word like *miraculous* earlier, or supernatural. It really feels that way to live in this space where God is -- where I see my life is every single day, who is God bringing across my path that I can meet, that I can minister to, that I can encourage? It's an incredible experience. It is wild to me that God allows us to be so deeply a part of his kingdom in this way. What a privilege and honor as human beings to co-labor with God in this way.

JAMES: Do you believe if our viewers read the journey in the story, they can find the answers they're looking for?

HEATHER: Absolutely. This book took me -- journey is the appropriate word. It took me on such a journey of surrender. I have discovered that surrendering is not necessarily letting go, it's letting in. It is letting the spirit work through you despite your circumstances. I promise you, if you think there's nothing God can do with me, there's I don't have the resources, I don't have the open doors, I don't have the network, I am telling you, you are wrong.

JAMES: God wants to use us all. He loves us. He gave his Son that we might have life; life not only eternally, but abundantly right now.

Father, I pray for everyone listening, asking questions, facing challenges. And I believe Heather has been gifted by you to write some insights and some inspiration that will help those right now who are asking these questions. Please, dear God, give them the will to decide I'm going to learn and I'm going to live in the center of God's will, in the potter's hand, and let him shape his life in me, and express it through me; in Jesus name.

We will gladly send you the book. You can get it online or in the bookstores. If they want to see your website and what you have to say, where is it?

HEATHER: You can go to Heather Thompson Day .com.

JAMES: That's pretty simple.

HEATHER: Yeah, it's super easy.

JAMES: You could go there and get the book. If you will help us feed some starving children and give the overlooked and the least of these a chance at life, we will say thank you with several gifts that will help you grow in the Lord. We'll just send them to you as gifts. So, how about you give the gift of life to someone who's facing death right now?

I want you to listen to the challenges that are expressed by a mother that we not only have the answer to, in many ways we are the answer because of what we can do. Watch prayerfully.

Transition roll-in: [Paulina's Tears]

ANNOUNCER: Imagine if all you had to offer in exchange for food for your children were chunks of charcoal. Now imagine a daily challenge against an unforgiving terrain to find and chop down trees in order to make the charcoal. For Paulina, she doesn't have to imagine. This is her life, which includes daily walking up to four hours to find a road where she can try and sell what she has made, all the while thinking of the three children she has already lost to severe malnutrition, and praying that someone would stop to make a purchase so she can feed her remaining little ones.

She knows all too well the grief that comes when she has no food to give.

OPEN CAPTIONS: At times, we go without eating. So I'll boil some water and put in a little salt. Then the children may be able to go to sleep.

ANNOUNCER: The heartache Paulina experiences watching her children go without food pales in comparison to her sorrow she still carries over the death of her youngest child.

OPEN CAPTIONS: Martine was very happy. He had a beautiful smile. Whenever I would go to fetch water at the river, he would come running after me calling, "Mama! Mama!"

ANNOUNCER: Paulina went on to share from her broken heart that she fears without help this same type of tragedy could take the lives of her remaining children, Jose and Mateo.

OPEN CAPTIONS: There is a drought and we have no food. I am afraid me and my children can no longer survive. Please do not forget us, all of us, please don't forget. Remember us.

Studio appeal:

JAMES: If you would just simply make a gift that helps three children find life, we're sending you *Happy, Healthy, and Free*, which is a 31-day journal. It's a beautiful devotional book. And, I think it takes people on a wellness journey. And then, you know what I think about this throw, this blanket. This is a peace blanket. Perfect peace. I can't tell you how much I enjoy this. It's not only beautiful, comfortable, unique, but to give \$100 and literally save the lives of ten children. Would you do it? Betty, I'm praying everybody will. There are some, literally, can give even more. They can give \$1,000 and save a hundred children's lives.

BETTY: You know, James, I watched that dear, sweet mother who's lost so much. You think, how much more can she lose? She's run out of resources to take care of her children. She's begging. She's pleading for someone to reach out and help her. She's got two children, two little boys left. She says, I don't know what to do. That's what her spirit, her heart says. What am I going to do?

We have the answer. Jesus has the answer. We can help this mother raise her two boys giving them food. Please join with us! Can you imagine the heartache that mother's already felt? Please, let's fill this time, let's fill her heart with joy. Let's give her the food that she needs to feed her children. Thank you so much for your help!

JAMES: \$30 will give life to three children. \$50 to five. \$100 to ten. \$1,000 to 100.

Father, we not only hear the heart of this mother, we hear the heart of all those who need a miracle of love. Our viewers can be that miracle of love that provides life! Lord, please help them to go get their bank card, checkbook, and to let you direct what they give, in Jesus name.

Would you get your bank card and use it like a check? Would you dial that number? Would you make that gift? Would you go online and make the gift? Please, if you write a check, make it to LIFE, but do call us and tell us you're sending it please. You're going to be the miracle someone has prayed for. And the miracle you're giving is the miracle of life. And we'll tell them about the

life God offers in Jesus, but we're going to demonstrate it by expressing his love. Thank you so much for helping do it.

FMF Cause spot 2025:

ANNOUNCER: Right now, across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition and even death. With food reserves critically depleted and many areas experiencing devastating famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us every single day.

Through Life's mission feeding outreach, your gift of love can be an answer to a prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift, we'll send you "Happy, Healthy and Free." A powerful 31-day journey to help you embrace God's promises for healing, wholeness, restoration, peace, and joy. Step into the abundant life God has prepared for you.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the beautiful and soft "Perfect Peace" blanket bearing the words of Isaiah 26:3 as a meaningful reminder that those who trust in the Lord are never alone.

Finally, this is the last opportunity to request our 2025 majestic bronze sculpture, "Lion of Judah" with your gift of \$1,000 or more, which will help feed 100 children in desperate need. So please call, write, or make your gift online today.

On the mission field

ISAK: As we've traveled around these communities in southern Angola, family after family has told us how they're experiencing the worst drought they've ever seen. Statistically, it is the worst drought in over 40 years. Families tell us of how their crops have failed, of how they're running out of food. You can see when you look at these

crops, you can see why these crops have failed. There is no life in here. There is no way that these crops can produce any food. This swale is literally just dry. No life in it at all. Failed crops though mean failed lives. And as there is no life left in this soil, if we're not able to respond here soon this drought will not just steal the life in the soil but the life in the communities.

So please, I'm asking you to dial that number on your screen or get online and give the very best gift you can today to give the gift of life by giving the gift of food to these mothers and their precious children here in Angola that so desperately need our help.

Studio goodbye:

JAMES: Thank you so much for helping. I really do pray that that you responded to put God's arms around children that without the love of God won't make it. We asked Heather, how do we pray for you? She said, "Just pray that this book will be read and be a blessing to so many. It's why I wrote it." She wants to help people like you. You reach out and touch a starving child, give them life, we'll gladly send it to you to say thank you.

Heather, we pray God's blessings all over you and everything you do; in Jesus name.

Thanks for being our guest!

HEATHER: Thank you! My absolute honor.

JAMES: Hey, thank you for helping us bless so many people all over the world and save many lives. Thank you.