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Week 49: FMF

James & Betty Robison

Clay & Kim Dyer

Studio discussion:

JAMES: Well, you're about to be introduced to one of the most amazing things I've ever seen. I'm James Robison, my wife Betty; we welcome you to *Life Today*. We've been hosting together for about 50 years, married 62 years. It's just a glorious journey. But I always wanted to fish as a little boy. I didn't have a dad and didn't have anybody to take me fishing, but I wanted to fish. I was really glad to know Jesus liked fishermen a whole lot.

Well, I saw something, though, recently that was about as big a miracle as I've ever seen. You're going to meet this guy because this is a miracle of Almighty God, where he blessed somebody who wanted to fish, and there's no way he could. Watch. He let him fish.

Video:

ANNOUNCER: There's nothing like the vastness of a lake. Pro anglers always moving on the water, one lake channel at a time. Anglers like Clay Dyer are synonymous with lakes and fish. For years, Clay has traveled across the country searching for that next big catch.

CLAY: When the going gets tough, that's when we try to get going.

ANNOUNCER: It's part of what makes him a popular name on every major pro angler tour. Even fellow anglers are amazed at Dyer's skill on the water.

>> We've all seen the YouTube videos and stuff, up and fishing, but until you see it in person, it kind of gives you a whole different perspective.

ANNOUNCER: The only assistance Clay needs is getting into his boat when heading to any lake and tournament.

CLAY: How I fish is actually where I make the cast. I put the rod between my jawbone and my left collarbone. I use my chin to press the button to disengage the reel. I use all of our rods and reels. I've been partnered with them now going on over four years. But I mash the button with my chin. I feather the line on the spool with my bottom lip. I just twist and contort my upper body much like a baseball swing or a golf swing. I twist and contort my body however I need to, to dig the lure and the bait where I want it to go.

ANNOUNCER: The water is one of Clay's sanctuaries; just one piece of joy that reflects on others daily.

CLAY: I've had a lot of them tell me, Oh, man, if I had to go through what you did, do what you do, I'd quit. That's a big part of why I'm out here is because I want to show people that, hey, you know, quitters never win, and winners never quit. There we go.

Come here, sweetheart. Thank you, Lord!

Studio discussion:

BETTY: That is amazing!

JAMES: I want to tell something, buddy. That's a miracle! You agree, Kim, that's a miracle?

KIM: It is a miracle.

JAMES: Did you just kind of a little bit overwhelmed yourself that you're able to do that?

CLAY: You know, it's just a huge dream come true. Thanks to God in heaven above. I've always been a big outdoorsman, you know, enjoying God's creation. But I always wanted to be a pro athlete, and I felt like God led me in that direction. And fishing, they couldn't tell me no.

JAMES: Clay, this is a miracle. You really enjoy the fishing, too, don't you?

CLAY: You know, I do. What I love about it, I mean, yes, I love trying to put the pieces of the puzzle together to figure out how to catch them. But at the end of the day, there's such a greater purpose than catching the bass. God has given me that platform to show people that through Philippians 4:13 that says, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." It's been, really, one of those callings, purpose platforms, whatever you want to call it, that God has blessed me to be able to do to show people what he can do when we let him be Lord of our life.

JAMES: Well, tell me, what is the condition you have? Were you born with it?

CLAY: Yes, sir. I was born this way. My parents, never did drugs or anything that would have been a medical explanation. There's no other, nobody else in my family that's built the way I am. The way I look at it is God created me perfect in his own image. I've had opportunities to have prosthetics. I said, You know what? God created me this way for a purpose, and that purpose is to go show the world that where I could have gotten, angry, if you will, or could have questioned him, instead I was like, You know what, God? You give me the strength. I'm not going to lay here and make excuses. I'm not going to cry and whine. We're going to go show the world one soul at a time, the victory that Jesus can bring you through him.

JAMES: Kim, what do you think about this journey you're a part of, but you're watching?

KIM: Listen, you know, Clay and I will be married 12 years. So I had to go through some dark times to find this wonderful man of mine. But God did that. And it has been a beautiful journey. My dad was a pastor so I've been in it all my life. But when I met Clay, he crossed the stage, and I heard his voice. Listen, something inside of me literally leaped, you know, just like the word talks about. I heard his voice, and I knew. I said, I've got to meet this man, and I've got to

know him. So we began to form this beautiful friendship. Of course, you all know the rest is history. But inspiring every day, absolutely! The faith that he has! I compare it to my sweet little daddy's who's gone on home. He had such faith, it's real, tangible faith, and that's Clay. You don't say no. You don't say, You can't do that. Because the God in him is so much bigger. He'll try it and he'll do it. He'll overcome.

JAMES: Clay, has Kim blessed you?

CLAY: Oh, Absolutely. It was such a God thing from the first time she came and met my family, there was sign after sign after sign. I'd always heard, you'll know when you know. I always prayed, and I won't get into the whole story for time's sake, but she'd given me a business card because her son, my stepson's college roommate had been in a tragic accident, and was paralyzed. She said, "Will you talk to him?" I said, "Well, sure." So I come home from a tournament and she'd give me that business card, but I could not tell you where that business card was if my life depended on it. So I went and did an engagement, and I came back and that business card was laying on top of my laptop in my room. So at the time I lived with my parents. I went and I asked them, I said, "Okay, who's been in my room while I was gone?" Nobody had. And I was like, okay, God. I can take a hint. Like she said,

KIM: A big God wink.

CLAY: Yeah, the rest is history.

BETTY: That's awesome!

JAMES: Well, the, the story is really, truly amazing. God is using you to change lives. Aren't you amazed, Kim, at how when people see him, many times they turn to the God of the impossible and their lives were changed because of his testimony?

KIM: Absolutely. You know, I say it like this. Of course, his purpose to the world is to go out there and catch the biggest five bass that he can catch -- to the world. But we have a saying in

our family. The purpose is greater. Because he knows that if they get in the boat with him, unless they're going to be like Jesus and walk on the water, he's got them for eight hours at least, and he's going to find out if they have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And if they don't, a lot of times, I get to see them come in and he's led them to the world. So how special is that?

JAMES: Well, you know, don't you just wish everybody could understand that catching a fish is fun. Doing what looks like the impossible is a wonderful thing, but the greatest thing in all the world is to know him and love him, and allow his love to flow through us like a river of life because that's what his love is. It's a river of life. That's what we're allowing to flow. That gives us joy.

I wish you could understand that the life that he has in spite of the challenges is because of the life of God that he has experienced and is experiencing and is expressing. Betty, it's quite amazing to see.

BETTY: It really is. What would you say to others who have challenges, physical challenges like you do, maybe not quite to the extent that you do, but it devastates them. How do you help them find God's purpose in their life?

CLAY: It's absolutely, if they -- I tell people, a lot of the culture we live in today, I look around and I see is the Bible is being fulfilled. I tell folks, the Bible is total truth. There's no inaccuracies in it. A lot of the culture we live in today looks at somebody like me and says, Oh, he's disabled or he's handicapped. I tell folks, You're only as handicapped or disabled as you allow yourself to be. But I tell them if you put your faith and hope in Christ, I want you to understand that there is absolutely nothing on this earth, no obstacle, no adversity, that you are not able to overcome when you put Christ first in your life. I say does that mean it's always going to be easy? No. But God gives us the strength to either kick that mountain down or go over it, or he gives us the wisdom to go around it. We just have to keep our faith, hope, and trust in him and let him guide us and lead us and give us that strength every day.

JAMES: How do you see people respond to him, Kim, when they see the challenges that he's faced so beautifully? But how do you see them respond when they listen?

KIM: It makes me think about children a lot. We have a lot of children that come up to Clay. Some of them, he tells the story of one mother who was in a grocery store, and she was punishing her child for, "He doesn't have any legs, and he doesn't have an arm!" And Clay said, "No, no, no! Don't punish that child. God created me this way. He created me beautiful, unique." And he breaks it down wherever he is and teaches them and uses that moment, whatever moment he's in to glorify God. You know, I think that's what made me fall so in love so fast with him was the God in him that was so apparent. That's how he is with anybody. Clay is just Clay. That's a lot of our messages together. There's so much fakeness in the world already, but just being real with one another, being real and knowing Christ as your Savior and knowing that you can encourage and you can accomplish something here in this dressing room, while he's got you here. So inspiring, he's definitely inspiring. But children always come to the front of my mind because he has a way with them. They walk away from that chair going, he's bigger than that. And that's God.

JAMES: What do you want everybody watching all over the world to hear from you right now about what it means to really turn your life over to the Father, to God?

CLAY: You know, I grew up in a -- was blessed to grow up in a God-loving family that had me in church. I used to say I was a drug baby. I was drug to church. But they used to have me in church basically, every time the doors were open. With that being said, it was a thing for many years I knew about Jesus, but I didn't know Jesus and Jesus, he didn't know me because I didn't have that relationship. I want you to know out there in this world, don't question God. Trust him and believe in him and understand that there's purpose. He has a much more incredible purpose for you than what you can even imagine. Trust in him, if you haven't already, turn your heart and surrender to him. Turn your heart over to him. Ask him for that relationship. Surrender to him, confess your sins to him, and ask him just for that relationship. I love how a dear friend of mine says, a lot of people come up to him, and he's an outdoor legend, Hank Parker. They'll come up to him on fishing trips, and he'll say, "Well, do you know Jesus?" They'll say, "Well, I

got baptized.” He’ll say, “That’s not what I asked you.” He’ll say, “When were you saved? Or when did you pray?” He’ll say, “No, when did you pray?”

There is a drastic difference in knowing about him and knowing him. A lot of us know about him, but know him. Because I can promise you, like Philippians 4:13, my life verse, John 3:16, Psalm 62, “God is my rock, and with him I will not be shaken.” I just want to encourage people, like I’d said a moment ago, to understand that if you’re facing a difficult circumstance in life, if you’ll give it all to God, there’s one thing I can promise you, you will have victory.

JAMES: Here’s what I want to ask you to do. I didn’t have a father. And, I’d written a book called *Knowing God as Father*. I would send it to you. It really does help you. I tell a little bit about my story and my journey. I’m the product of a rape. A man raped a home nurse taking care of his father. And, I didn’t have a father, but I came to know the father as a teenager. Both Betty and I was christened in church, and she was baptized in church.

BETTY: I was one of those baptized ones.

JAMES: Neither one of us knew the Lord. But I came to know the Lord. And amazingly, Betty could see Jesus in me. And said, “I want to know Jesus like that.” I said, “He’s more real than the flesh on my bones, Betty.” She said, “Well, to me, he’s just someone I’ve heard about.” We just prayed together, and she gave her life to Jesus. I’m telling you what, we’ve had a glorious journey together for over 60 years.

If you just say, I want to know God as my Father, this will bless you. We’ve given it to so many people, it’s unbelievable. He’s given them life knowing him as Father. So you just call the number there on the screen or go online and say, I want to know God as Father. Someone will pray with you if you call that line, that prayer line.

I do want to ask all of you who are watching to really pray for Clay, and for Kim, and their journey. Thank God for them. Father, I just thank you for this couple. I thank you for the miracle you’ve worked in Clay. I thank you for the joy and the peace that’s all over them, in

spite of the challenges he lives with every day, every moment. Thank you for your greatness, in Jesus' name.

I want all of you to know the Lord and love the Lord. I tell you what I'd really like to see you do right now is I'd like to see you give life to those who don't even have a chance at life without his love flowing through you. I want you to watch this. I want you to listen to what a girl sees and what mothers are seeing everywhere. They're praying for somebody like you to provide the miracle that they've longed for. Watch this very prayerfully.

Transition roll-in: [Don't let this be normal]

ANNOUNCER: *This is a clinic for mothers whose children are suffering from the effects of malnutrition. Kiera Pretorius, daughter of Isak Pretorius, is seeing for the first time Angolan children struggling to survive the consequences of not having enough food to keep them alive.*

ISAK: So you can see the other signs; you can see how his ribs are just sticking out here. Look at how little his arms are. His arms are like the size of my thumb.

KIERA: And just skin. Like, no muscle.

ISAK: No, it's just skin and bone, really. Because that's the state at which its nutrition is at. It's so weak and so malnourished that literally the body starts to shut down.

KIERA: Do you think you'll recover?

ISAK: Chances are that he will survive, that we will be able to save his life. But there are so many children in this state that don't leave clinics like this. That's good! It's good to cry. It's okay.

KIERA: I've grown up knowing many of these stories and seeing the photos and hearing all the heart-wrenching stories of young mothers with their young children that want to do the best for

them, but genuinely just don't have the resources. Every time I see or hear these stories and being here today, it affects me deeply. It hurts my heart. So I'm asking you to not let it become normal to you. Don't let it -- don't let it become something you become immune to.

ISAK: I ask you to hear that appeal from a 19-year-old girl who knows what happens if you look away. Who knows what happens when this starts to become normal. When we shut our hearts down, when we try to think through this with our heads, instead of just listening to our hearts. And so I'm asking you today to listen to your heart. Listen to the heart of Kiera. Listen to my heart. Listen to your heart. Because our heart cry is the same as this mother's, and I believe yours is too, and that is to do everything that we can do to save this little boy. Everything that we can do to give this mother what she needs for her child.

Studio appeal:

JAMES: Peter Pretorius and I started more than 40 years ago together. Peter and I stood real close to each other for 35 years, I guess, when he left us. I'm so glad that Isak has picked it up, and now that beautiful little 19-year-old, looking at those little children.

Please listen to me. I want you to look at them and look what it did to her heart. But you see, that's what it did to my heart the first time I saw them. Betty, when I saw the graves of 10,000 of them, most of them less than four years old, they were two and three in just little graves, and no markers. Maybe a little picture of a child or a little toy. I just said, God, please! We sold a bunch of stuff the ministry owned because we didn't know if our viewers or we didn't know if people would help missions. Oh boy, but you did when we showed you the reality of what they face. We showed you the love of those missionaries that moved their families across the ocean and planted their lives in the midst of death. They said to me and to Betty, "Please go home. See if you can get us some help so we can stay here and not be empty-handed. So we can stay here with more than a broken heart." Betty, we came back and did our viewers help?

BETTY: Oh, they absolutely have, James. One thing really struck me that Kiera said. She said, Don't become immune because you've seen scenes similar to this before. They're still there. They're still needy, different ones, but they're needy.

So I want you to know that my heart was so deeply touched. I thought, God, don't let me ever become immune to a need like that. We've been over there many, many times through many, many years. I've never felt on any of the trips that oh, I've seen this before. No, it was always fresh on my heart. I pray that it'll stay that way for you as you let God speak to your heart.

JAMES: Well, I pray that Betty and I believe -- I know for a fact, we're as faithful of supporters of the mission outreaches as any of all the thousands of people that do help us. I just pray, God, everybody would be that faithful and even more faithful. Please! Did you realize that for \$30 you can feed three children, for \$50, 5 children, for \$100, 10, and \$1,000, 100. But did you know there are many of you who could give part of your estate. You give large gifts. And right now we're being told as people are moving out of Africa to feed, that there's going to be the highest starvation rate in history on that greatest continent that has so much to offer. And if only God's people would put his arms around those desperate, suffering people.

We have beautiful gifts to send to you. But please, right now, would you go get your bank card and use it like a check? If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail. We need a miracle response. Please, don't put this off. Go online with that card. Call the number, make the gift. If you get a busy, be determined to get through, and let's put God's loving arms around these desperate children. We can give life to them by the millions. We've done it together. Please help us. The need has never been greater.

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.

Studio goodbye:

JAMES: You know I've really enjoyed having Clay and Kim. It's a miracle story! When I saw you all, you told me we had been in your living room since you were a teenager. But then you told me something happened to you. What happened to you?

KIM: When I was 14, I had Bell's palsy. For years, it can leave a trace of looking like you had a stroke. So this particular day, I'd come in from school, and mom had you on. I remember you stopping and you put your hand toward the screen, and you said, "I just feel led right now to pray for someone." He said, "I don't know what the need is, but I know God's going to meet it." And I was healed instantly. Went to the doctor the next day, my mom took me to have me checked out, and the doctor brought other doctors and nurses in to show them because they were so baffled at what God had done. So thank you for your obedience.

JAMES: Let me just say that's why we're here. Father, reach out and touch someone right now that just says, I want that. I want God to touch me. I want God to change me, to heal me, in Jesus' name.

Tell somebody what God does for you. You want somebody to pray with you, you call that number. We love you. We're glad to send *Knowing God as Father* to anyone who would like to know him and understand it.

Hey, thank you all for being with us. God bless you on your journey. God bless you on your journey as you help send us and the missionaries on their God-call journey. Thank you so much.