

9/9/2026

Week 37

Randy Robison & Betty Robison

James Robison

"Judge Not"

MALE ANNOUNCER: The following program is sponsored by friends of LIFE Outreach International.

JAMES ROBISON: God told the people who were keeping his commands in the Old Testament in Isaiah 1, "I detest your solemn assemblies. I detest your prayer meetings. I detest your sacrifices. Your hands are defiled with blood. You've not even properly cared for one another. Your heart is not toward me. I hate your worship." God hates worship where our hearts are not toward him.

ANNOUNCER: Looking back at another classic message from James Robison next.

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RANDY ROBISON: Welcome to "LIFE Today." I'm Randy Robison. My mother is with me.

BETTY ROBISON: Good to be with you.

RANDY: It's good to be here and it's good to look back. Today we're gonna go back to a sermon that really had a huge impact on the lives of so many people. It's from 1986, but you know, Mom, the message is still relevant today.

BETTY: It is, it is. And you know, the year to me doesn't mean anything really. I watched all of these before the taping today, and I sat there and I got really got caught up in what God was saying to my heart.

He was speaking to me. It wasn't just James up there preaching. God ministered to my heart, and I hope you feel the same way as you listen today.

RANDY: Yeah, and you know, I do wanna say thank you to all those who have honored, you know, my father over these last several months. I want to point something out if I can. Your necklace. What are you wearing around your neck?

BETTY: It's James's wedding ring. You know, we all-- we didn't think we were gonna find it. We didn't get it back, and I was so concerned about that.

This ring cost me \$50 but it was priceless to my heart to get it back, and I'm just honoring him. This was the love of my life.

RANDY: That's beautiful and what a great foundation that he helped provide-- both of you really, helped provide around here. But we want to go back today and bless you with this timeless sermon. Enjoy this and then we'll be back to tell you about some other things that you guys started that we're still doing.

BETTY: Yup, that's right.

RANDY: God's Word is still being carried on in word and deed. Enjoy this sermon.

JAMES: God spoke to my heart and said, "James, we're to hate sin." I believe the Church of Jesus Christ is gaining at this moment a more proper and intense hatred for sin than perhaps we have known. I believe that we're recognizing the horror of perversion, of immorality, of worldliness and materialism in many areas of the church. But God spoke to my heart.

And said I was to share with you sins that God hates that are so often overlooked. God hates a proud look. God hates for you or for me to say, "I thank God I'm not as other men are." Do you know that if you go back and look at a church that's not in freedom and not in fullness, and you look at them and say, "I thank God I'm not like they are," as right as you are in not being that way, your attitude is not right.

The attitude of Christ is "God, I would that I could take them under my wings and cover them. God, deliver them from the evil, from the formality, and let them be delivered in my name." Is anybody hearing what I'm saying right now? Do you understand the imperative of praying? I mean, really praying?

Brother, don't get down on Baptists or Pentecostals or charismatics. God's not refusing to work in any group because they've got a denominational label or a label some group put on them or they claim. God is going to work and work through and in any group that will receive what he is saying today.

And we've got to pray, "God, bring them, bring them to repentance. Bring them now to repentance." God detests self-righteousness. God detests the Pharisaical attitude. God hates strife and dissension among the brethren.

Do you know how much he hates it? He hates it so much, he said that because of dissension many of you are weak, many of you are sick, many of you are dying, many are dead. It is destroying us.

God says a root of bitterness, unforgiveness, defiles many. Jesus Christ said after the model prayer, in that prayer, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." He followed it by saying, "If you do not forgive men, your Father will not forgive

you." It is imperative that we forgive one another. You say if they know they're wrong and we know they're wrong, Jesus hung on the cross facing those who had spit in his face, driven spikes through his hands.

This is the Son of God, the most wretched deed ever committed against God, divinity, and humanity has occurred, and Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them." They didn't ask for it. They didn't repent. He said, "Father, forgive them." That's the love of Christ.

We are to forgive those who hurt us. We mustn't hurt one another, and we must be granted by God the grace to forgive, and we must pray for one another that we do forgive. We've got to be forgiving.

No root of bitterness, for by it many shall be defiled. God hates the fact that Christians have refused, absolutely refused, to love one another and have used every possible theological and doctrinal reason to practice hatred and unkindness. God hates this.

We have built not only theological fortresses to bombard others of a different persuasion, but we have literally built theological and religious prisons, refusing to let people go free. We refuse to allow people to cross the line to love one another, to be seen with one another. We do not practice forbearance.

This is sin. We're ashamed to be seen not only with sinners, but with those with whom we disagree. It's one thing to cut off a rebel and an unrepentant believer.

It's another thing to cut off someone who is mistaken, however seriously mistaken they are. God is not talking about separating ourselves from the body of Christ that's defeated or deceived. You don't cut someone off because they're deceived, you reach out to them.

You cut off a rebel who will not repent. And you give him up only that the flesh may be destroyed, that he may come back in repentance. And Paul said of the very one that he had decided to give up to the devil for the destruction of his flesh.

Paul said in another letter, "Now I have forgiven him. Why have I forgiven this one?" This one had repented. Why had Paul forgiven the one that had fallen? He said, "I have forgiven him, lest Satan taking advantage of you." Any unforgiveness springing up in the church makes the body of Christ vulnerable.

It's the accursed thing in our midst. I'm telling you, when unforgiveness comes up and festers, it's like blood poisoning to the whole body. I want you to know one offense in the church poisons everyone.

Get a prophet or an anointed person offended and the whole body is desecrated. That's why God said in Romans chapter 12 that the prophet and the prophecy must be delivered with love that has no dissimulation, no hypocrisy, no hurt. If I have a prophet's message and you come to me with your hurts to confirm that message, you will defile the heart and help me pervert the message if I receive that bad report.

That's how it defiles. I mean, you can't believe the people that are wanting me to take on denominations right now. You can't believe the people that want to move me over here into their camp so we can bombard the other camps.

Every time there's a disagreement between brothers, the devil says, "Choose the brother, this one or that one." No, choose Christ. He loves both the brothers. He wants to bring us together.

Choose Christ. God didn't call me to merely speak correction to this group or this group, but rather to speak a corrective word to the whole church. I'm not here to endorse any part of it.

I'm here to encourage the church. Listen, this is what we're supposed to do. We don't endorse anyone.

We embrace and exalt Jesus. We encourage every brother. We seek to edify every brother.

We seek to equip the whole body. And we seek to expose the unfruitful works of darkness while all the while exalting Jesus. Will that work?

Sure, it'll work. Do not let any, any bitterness come up. Do not bury someone who's hurt or wrong.

Listen to this. Paul the apostle thanked God for some who were preaching Christ out of contention and out of selfish ambition because Christ was preached. Are you listening?

Paul said, "I thank God for those who are preaching Christ out of contention to do me harm really and out of selfish ambition," and James said if you have selfish ambition that's demonic. How in this world could Paul thank God for someone he knew was wrong? Because Christ was preached.

We spend too much time worrying about what's this man going to do, and these people over here are casting out demons and they're doing these works, but they're not walking with us. Jesus said, "You leave them alone, come follow me." You know that's how we're gonna help one another? Now, folks, listen to me.

I am not embracing, I am not excusing any sin on the part of any minister or ministry. God Almighty will not do that. I am refusing to be their judge.

You know that I not only know in the spirit sins of major ministries and ministers. I not only know in the spirit, I know firsthand. You say, "What are you to do?" I am to minister face to face to them the Word of God and the word of repentance, and I am to minister it in love, lest I also be caught in such a fault, considering that it may in fact be me.

And I want to stand here before God, my conscience being clear before God and all men. I have faithfully ministered that Word to every one of them fearlessly and lovingly and mercifully, and I have ministered it to their people, and I have ministered it in privacy, and I have ministered it in letters to them, every one of them before God. My dear friend, it is

God's business to correct them, to expose them, and to bring them down if they do not repent.

It's not my business to do it. It is my business to pray for them as though it were me in that place with mercy, and that is precisely what is going to occur in our lives to release the purity of God in the church, that when the church is being purified, if we lie to the Holy Spirit and we persist in our sin and we refuse to repent, God told me clearly, "I am going to repeat with rapidity the Ananias and Sapphira experience. I'm going to destroy those who harden their hearts." I tell you, we are nearing that day. Some of you are saying, "Oh, I bet you know some things." Let me tell you something, you don't know how serious it is for those of us who are here tonight.

God is going to bring us down. He is going to bring us down if we do not repent. You have heard truth.

God is calling you to separate yourself unto him in holy living, to be an expression of his life, to walk in the fullness of his Spirit, to eat that word "Jesus" in fellowship, to believe him and receive him, to forgive all men. Jesus Christ did not begin the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes because your attitudes are of little importance. They are of supreme importance.

You cannot deal with the sins properly of lust and hatred and unforgiveness toward one another until you understand that if your attitude is not affected by the mercy and grace of God, your discernment, your eye, your light, your capacity to hear and to act is totally diminished. Your attitude. Your attitude.

These attitudes be in us, Christ attitudes. That's what he's looking at. God wants to cut away every unwholesome, every un-Christ-like attitude and expression in our lives.

God wants us to follow Jesus with our whole heart. Don't ask, "What about this man?" God hates immorality. Do you believe that?

Impurity, immorality. He also hates for the church and Christian people to commit adultery with the world and with religious systems. To let their hearts go after other gods, even theological and religious idols.

God told the people who were keeping his commands in the Old Testament in Isaiah 1, "I detest your solemn assemblies. I detest your prayer meetings. I detest your sacrifices. Your hands are defiled with blood. You've not even properly cared for one another. Your heart is not toward me. I hate your worship." God hates worship where our hearts are not toward him. God hates form that's called worship. God hates formulas that are called faith.

We can't walk in faith if we cut ourselves off from hearing God. You do not hear God if you have given yourself to idols, any of them. Things, the world, religious idols, whatever they are.

God is not excited about worship services, praise services, or preaching services and teaching services and seminars that do not produce Christ-like love, one for the other. Jesus said, "This is the measure. Herein will the world know you're my disciples because you love one another." We will be known by our love. We love not in word only but also in deed. Many Christians say they love other Christians and do not practice it.

RANDY: Wow, you know, I actually, Mom, I think, I found some of those old notebooks that he was reading out of there at the end, and he had all these notes and all these scriptures and Bibles that were marked up. I mean, he dug in.

BETTY: He really did. I've been cleaning off his desk of some of the stuff. You know, he wasn't very neat about it, but he'd say, "I know where everything is. Don't touch it," and he did, he did, but it's beautiful to be able to go back into time and look at all the notes that he had, you know, but he's talking about the love of God.

If it's real in your heart, you can't be angry with somebody. You can't have unforgiveness in your heart, and it's just like in Ephesians 3 it talks about how wide, how long, how deep God's love is, and if you think God expressed that to you and gave that to you, how can you not give it to someone else, Randy?

RANDY: Yeah, yeah, I mean this is true worship, you know, in Spirit and in truth, and the truth is we are called to not just be hearers of the Word but doers as well. And you know, over the decades since that sermon, since he delivered that sermon, I have seen people come together, people who don't always agree on every theological point, and that's fine, but come together in love to serve others.

BETTY: And to work together as the family of God. You know, you have disagreements in your own families, but you work them out because God is love.

RANDY: Yeah, and you unify behind the more important things, frankly, which again and it's interesting, there's a scripture that has caused me some difficulty because I love to discuss and even debate doctrine, but Scripture doesn't say that they will know we are God's people, Christians, by our doctrine, even though doctrine is very important. It says they will know we are his by our love. And you know, since that sermon, again, it's really amazing to go back and look, I mean, that's a lot of years, what, 40 years? And to see the track that God took y'all on and the rest of us, all of us, many of our viewers as well, to say, "Okay, we are going to come together, we are going to share God's love with other people." And that continues today.

BETTY: It really does. And when God first put that on James's heart, I thought he wants to go over to a foreign country, and I'm gonna go with him? I'm scared.

And I always ask God not to make me be a-- not ask me to be a missionary, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. It's been the most joyful, refreshing, rewarding thing I've ever done.

RANDY: Yeah, y'all have been, we have all been, you as a viewer have been, ambassadors of God's love and guess what? We're gonna do it again this Christmas. Watch this and then I hope you will join us in this beautiful outreach that we call, "Christmas Shoes and Smiles."

JAMES: They're gonna be devoted to Jesus.

ANNOUNCER: For James Robison, standing before massive crowds, preaching to literally millions of people, never overshadowed his desire to comfort the least of these. While leading global initiatives that altered the lives of millions, James, along with his wife Betty, traveled the mission fields of the world to find those who had been forgotten and overlooked.

JAMES: You know, Betty, all these people have wondered why we're here--how are you? And we have told them through translators that we're here because we love them and because we wanna give them a better life, we came in the name of the Lord Jesus. But we didn't just come to talk about God's love, we came to share it and demonstrate it.

ANNOUNCER: James firmly believed that hand-delivering a brand-new pair of shoes to a child was just as important as any mission he had ever undertaken.

JAMES: We found out something else, because of contaminated water and even contaminations and problems in the soil, children get little cuts in their feet and they pick up hookworms, and as I understand it, that ultimately gets into their intestines and that is a horrible sickness. But it's a disease that not only brings incredible pain and discomfort but in so many instances death.

ANNOUNCER: To he and Betty, that simple gift of a pair of shoes was a powerful message that whispered directly to a child's heart, "You are seen, you are loved, and someone cares for you."

BETTY: You know, I'm standing here with these children and they're just a small example of children all over the world that they deserve to be cared for. And we have an opportunity to do that right now to put some shoes on their feet to give them a chance in life and I ask you to help us do that. It's just a simple request but a very urgent and important one.

Please join with us. You'll get such great joy out of it. I know you will. God bless you and thank you.

RANDY: What an outreach and, you know, Mom, obviously you were there at the beginning. You've seen the impact that a simple pair of shoes has on children's lives.

BETTY: You know, for so many years we'd go over there and it's more than just putting a pair of shoes on their feet. It's maybe saving their lives, you know, because they can get so many things and sometimes we don't tend to go there because you don't want people to get--you don't want them to miss what we're trying to say, but I mean it could cause all kind of deficiencies in their life, dangerous deficiencies.

RANDY: Yeah, and the hookworm is a real threat, and it causes all sort-- it makes them ultimately very vulnerable to many other diseases because it weakens their immunity system. So yeah, we're talking about a pair of shoes, but we're also talking potentially about the health of a child, which is why it makes this both fun and critical, important, that we do this. And you know, Mom, the smiles part of it, you know, we have the surgeries where we correct the cleft palate and the cleft lip, but the smiles on the children's faces just warms your heart.

BETTY: When you just slip a pair of shoes on their feet, they just grin the biggest grin and some of them with the smile problems, with the deficiency and stuff, it's hard for them to smile, Randy. We wanna fix that.

RANDY: Yeah, we can-- and we can. That's the beauty of it. We can, we know, because as you see the older footage we've been doing this for many years and it is a blessing every single year to go and give these children something that they desperately need and that they enjoy.

So we're asking you to be a part of it. Today, I know it's a little bit early, but it's time to get ready for Christmas because it takes a while to get everything in order. So here's what I'd like to ask you to do.

The bottom line on the shoes is that the average cost of getting the shoes and delivering them to the various places is about \$3.60 for a pair of shoes, which means you could give 10 children a pair of brand-new durable, lasting, health-providing in a sense, shoes for \$36. If you can make a gift of \$180, it will go so far. Fifty children will get a pair of shoes.

Some of you are able to give 275 pairs of shoes to 275 children for a gift of \$1000. That \$1000 alternately would provide two corrective surgeries. So let's share God's love in the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of Christ, this year.

And let's do it now. Will you go online or go to the phone, join us in this beautiful outreach, whatever level God puts on your heart. Let's give the children this Christmas shoes and smiles.

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 things we often take for granted, such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. Far too many children living in extreme poverty have never owned a new pair of shoes, and while that may seem minor, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of painful infections, injury, and life-threatening diseases. But this Christmas you can bring hope and healing.

Your gift today will help provide new shoes for 150,000 children in time for the holidays, and for some children, a beautiful new smile. Your gift of \$36 will help provide shoes for 10 children. \$72 will help provide for 20.

\$180 will help provide shoes for 50, and a gift of \$500 will help provide a cleft surgery, restoring a child's smile for a lifetime. As a thank you for your gift, please request the first

time ever, dual color crystal shoe ornament with beautiful green and red accents. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request this keepsake boxed set featuring 5 of Life's colorful crystal shoe ornaments. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or corrective smile surgeries for 2 children, and you may request the beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Good Shepherd." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

RANDY: We do need to hear from you today if possible because we need to get all of this in motion to make Christmas very special. So please, I hope you're going online, going to the phone, and making the best gift you can. Mom, I'm excited we've got more classic sermons.

BETTY: Yeah, we do.

RANDY: And I'm excited.

BETTY: I am too. I could listen to them all day.

RANDY: And you know, you can listen to more of them if you wanna go to LIFEToday.org. They're also available in total at stream.org. Come back, we'll see you again next time here on "LIFE Today."

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FEMALE ANNOUNCER: Visit LIFEToday.org. Dive into your favorite "LIFE Today" programs, explore impactful ministry outreaches, and discover life-changing spiritual resources all in one place. Plus, it's easier than ever to support our mission with seamless donation options.

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JAMES: I pointed a twin-engine airplane toward the ground very near where Ricky Nelson died, and I tried to take my life.

MALE ANNOUNCER: James Robison's life message.

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