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Week 47

Randy Robison & Blynda Lane

James Robison

“Going On With God”

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

JAMES ROBISON: So many Christians, and especially preachers, are so concerned about protecting their reputation, they're about to forfeit their character. If what people think of you keeps you from going on with God, lay it down!

If those things you hold to hinder you walking on with him, lay them down! If people--Jesus said, "There's no one that's left father and mother and family for my sake, that shall not, both in this life and in the life to come, be blessed a hundredfold."

ANNOUNCER: A classic sermon from James Robison, next.

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RANDY ROBISON: Welcome to "Life Today", I'm Randy Robison. Blynda Lane joins me, how are you today, Blynda?

BLYNDA LANE: Hi Randy, I'm good.

RANDY: It's good to be here. And you know, we, a few months ago, we showed some highlights from some old sermons of my dad's in honor of him. And Blynda, the response was really good.

BLYNDA: Well, how could it not be? I mean, he's just such a dynamic, incredible preacher. I mean, I was even watching some of his segments, and just the way he has this beaming smile when he preaches, I mean, it was awesome, and I'm so glad that the audience gets another chance to hear them.

RANDY: Yes, and you know, the thing is, we have a lot of great sermons, you can go back and listen to those programs on lifetoday.org, see the full sermons on our stream app if you're interested. But today we're gonna jump back to 1992, and a sermon called "Going on with God". And what my dad was talking about, Blynda, is really, it's life, and in a sense, life as it's intended to be.

And unfortunately, a lot of times, we can get stuck, and thank God the Israelites got out of slavery, and most of them got out of the desert, some of them anyway, or the disciples, they didn't just stay in Jerusalem, they went to the ends of the earth. Life is a journey, and we need to know how to keep moving forward.

BLYNDA: We should always be in pursuit of Jesus. He's in pursuit of us. And we have to know what that means, to keep going on with God.

RANDY: Well, let's find out. We hope you enjoy this classic sermon from my dad.

JAMES: See, some people's idea of going on with God means, "Stay like you've been all your life and don't move, be steadfast, unshakable until death. Be a pillar of the church." "Be like us," man, that's terrible.

A bunch of preachers met in the room and prayed for the Methodist evangelist Sam Jones and asked God to change him, and Sam was walking down the hallway and heard the preachers in there praying, "God, change Sam Jones, he's tearing up his town, tearing up, so change him." Sam Jones just threw the door of the hotel room open, fell down on his knees and said, "God, don't do it! If you do, I'll be just like they are."

Going on with God is not necessarily staying like the crowd you've been with forever. Let the dead bury the dead. They'll do it, but the tragedy is, they'll bury you too.

I'll tell you, you better go on in resurrection power, because even when you're going with him, they'll still be trying to bury you. If we just go on, he's bigger than all of them. I'm telling you, it's wonderful.

But you don't have to do what everybody tells you to do. You just go on with him, listen to Paul. Do you believe Paul understood about going on?

He said, "I counted all things but lost so I could know him," but listen to this, he said, "I want to know the power of the resurrection." Verse 12 of Philippians 3, "Not that I've

already obtained this power, this resurrection life of Christ, this living Jesus in me in fullness. Not that I've already obtained it," this is a great Christian speaking.

"Or that I've already become perfect or complete, but I press on. I follow on, in order that I may lay hold of that for which I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet, but one thing I do, I forget the things that are behind."

I forget where I've been. I forget about who I've been with. It's not that I don't care.

This is the same man that said, "Brethren, I say the truth in Christ, I lie not. My conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I could wish myself a curse from Christ for my kinsmen." He didn't forget them.

He forgot that bondage and the entrappings and traditions that held him captive to something other than Christ. And he has said in the preceding part of the chapter, "I counted my ritual, I counted my race, I counted my royal priesthood, I counted my righteousness but dung, filth, that I could gain Christ." Let me tell you something, if you ever even taste Christ, all that the world offers as a substitute is just like dung, so much junk.

It's nothing, it's nothing. But Paul said, "I haven't really obtained it, I'm pressing on. I forget what's behind, and I press on," verse 14, "toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude, and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal it to you." It's just that attitude to be like Jesus. "However, let us keep living by the same standard which we have obtained.

Brethren, join in following my example," and Paul is not saying here, "Join in being like me. Shave your hair like me, dress like me, look like me, move like me," that's not what he's saying. He says, "Follow my example of absolute commitment and love and devotion to Jesus, the simplicity of devotion to Jesus.

Follow me and my example of dependence upon him and trust in him and willing to suffer for him, and not self-seeking and self-serving. Follow this example of absolute intimacy and love with Jesus. Follow this example."

And how do we do it? The writer of Hebrews helps us understand how we're supposed to do it. Look at it in Hebrews chapter 12.

Look at it and listen. Here's how we go on, here's how you follow, not according to man's prescription or expectation, not according to the pressure and demands of man that will judge you if you don't do what they do and say, judgmentally and critically condemning, "You're not really going on with God," meaning, "You're not coming on with us, you're not doing as we do." That's the same thing the crowd said that held you in bondage.

"You gotta be like us." What are we to do if we're going to go on with God? Here it is: "Therefore, since we have such an incredible crowd of witnesses," and may I remind you who believe that if you get right with God and just have enough faith, you'll never have another problem, you need to read the preceding faith chapter so you'll understand, if you really live in faith, all hell may break loose around you.

Let me pause here to help you as much as I'll help you all week, if you'll hear. You know how I take one of the clubs out of the hand of the devil? I didn't know I was doing that, I didn't know this was wisdom.

I just knew God showed me to do this. You know one way I kept him from taking our kids, because you think the devil didn't want our kids? You think the devil doesn't want all our kids?

Let me tell you one way I kept him from taking our kids. When I saw that my kids might die, when I saw that my kids might experience defeat, that's reality, I saw it in too many preachers' homes. You know what I said?

I said, "God, impart to me not only the capacity but the wisdom to know that in whatever circumstance that comes in my life and in the life of my children, even if it means the death of children that I love so much, even if it means the tragic defeat," I said, "I want you to show me how I can give you glory through it." But I'm gonna tell you, that'll cause the devil to stumble in his tracks, because he'll say, "No matter what I bring on them, God's gonna get glory out of it." It confuses the enemy, just like it confuses the enemy when you determine in your heart, through the love and grace of Jesus, that you're going to forgive every offender, before the offense comes.

It's predetermined, because it's the heart of God in you. I'm glad my children didn't die. It's still possible.

I have already said, "Lord, show me how," oh boy, I'm gonna tell you, "Show me how you'll get glory through it all." Is anybody hearing? You read the faith chapter and you're going to find out, people who walk in faith, they face some incredible, not only opposition, but some incredible pain and suffering in their life.

Look what we do, "Because we've got this incredible example surrounding us, let's lay aside every encumbrance." That's what you do, you lay aside every weight, everything that would encumber you to prevent you from going on with God. Do you know that so many Christians, and especially preachers-- hear what I'm about to say.

So many Christians and especially preachers are so concerned about protecting their reputation, they're about to forfeit their character, and miss the opportunity for the character of Christ to be shaped in them. When the Lord changed my life, the first thing I had to lay down was my reputation. I had a charismatic man that seated me in a chair and prayed for me and told the evil spirits to leave me and told demons to get off my case.

When God set me free, and he did, he said, "You tell everybody what I just did," and I'm gonna tell you, I knew when I said it, my reputation was finished, and then God told me to go to major charismatic meetings and tell them that I loved him, and brother, that's curtains for a Baptist. The Lord said, "I wouldn't give you ten cents for your reputation, it stinks." He said, "I want you to lose yourself in me, period."

You lay aside every encumbrance. If what people think of you keeps you from going on with God, lay it down! If those things you hold to hinder you walking on with him, lay them down.

If people--Jesus said, "There's no one that's left father and mother and family for my sake, that shall not, both in this life and in the life to come, be blessed a hundredfold." You'd be willing to leave anything to follow Jesus. That doesn't mean you have to be unkind and uncouth and go back and treat everybody ugly.

It just means you're willing to go on, no matter what the cost. "Lay aside every encumbrance and the sin that so easily entangles us, repent! Let us run with endurance the race that's set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus," this is the key, "the author and the perfecter of faith, who for the joy before him, he endured the cross and despised the shame, and he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For your encouragement, consider him, Jesus, who endured such hostility, such accusation at the hand of sinners against himself, so that you don't grow weary, you just keep looking unto Jesus." I see that I'm to fix my eyes on Jesus. I put my hand on the plow and I'm not to look back.

Jesus Christ is my pattern. Are there any people here, it's the first time you've ever been to Dallas? Let me see your hand if it's the first time you've ever been to Dallas, hold up your hand.

Dallas is a large city, we're now a metroplex. Including Dallas, Fort Worth, and the mid cities here, we're four million people. It's the largest population center now in Texas in total, in a mass megapolis, metropolitan area.

It's hard to get around in some of the places, especially downtown Dallas. Can you imagine how difficult it'd be for you to get around in Dallas if you, in sincerity, went and got a map, and in order to find your way from place to place, you diligently studied the map, but what if you had a map of Chicago, here in Dallas? And it had Dallas on the map.

Would you get slightly confused? Would you get slightly frustrated as you follow the Chicago map that said Dallas, trying to get around in Dallas because it was the wrong map, the wrong pattern? Do you know that all the devotion and sincerity and behavior alterations you made would never get you there any quicker?

You got the wrong pattern, you got the wrong map. You know why some of you are having a hard time going on with God, you got the wrong pattern. Your pattern was Jimmy Swaggart.

Your pattern was Jerry Falwell. Your pattern was Bill Gothard. Your pattern was Benny Hinn.

It's the wrong pattern. James Robison's the wrong pattern. You don't go on with Jesus following us.

You don't go on with Jesus following movements. You go on with Jesus following the move of the Holy Spirit, and God's given every one of you an anointing of the Holy Spirit, so he can communicate and direct. The pattern is Jesus, listen, you'll never understand the Word of God until you let Jesus explain it to you.

I promise you, I don't care if you've been to every seminary. We got one of the great seminary professors from one of the great seminaries, Dallas Theological, one of the great real conservative seminaries, a great protector of the faith and the integrity of the Word. I'm gonna tell you something, you don't understand the Word of God because you got a degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, Jack.

You don't understand the Word because you get a seminary education or become a seminary professor. We only understand the Word through the eyes and heart of Jesus. He's the only one who understands the Word.

We need to let the Word explain the Word more than the commentators and commentaries. The same Holy Spirit that wrote it will reveal to us what the Scriptures are

saying, and write them in our hearts so we don't just carry them in a leather binder that we defend and beat people with. We let them be written in our hearts, that's the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the pattern. Folks, listen, you know what needs to happen to many of you tonight for you to really go on with Jesus? Your perspective, your view needs to change, the way you look at things, the lens through which you look, your whole perspective needs to change.

And you need to begin to see through the eyes of Jesus, because you can be so sincere and think you're so right and be so off track. I want you to listen to a naval report from a captain of a ship, listen to this. The fact that you can be looking through a lens that you perceive to be real and be dogmatic, deeply convicted, totally authoritative, and yet be 100% dangerously wrong, is clearly illustrated in the Naval Institute Journal Proceedings, author Frank Koch.

Listen to this experience. Two battleships were assigned to a training squadron. They had been at sea on maneuvers in heavy weather for several days.

The author of this article was serving on the lead battleship, and he was on watch on the bridge as night fell in the storm. "The visibility was poor with patchy fog. The captain remained on the bridge, keeping an eye on all activities.

Shortly after dark, the lookout on the wing of the bridge reported, 'Light bearing on the starboard bow.' The captain called out, 'Is it steady or moving astern?' The lookout replied, 'Steady, Captain,' which meant we were on a dangerous collision course with that ship.

The captain called to the signalman, 'Signal that ship. We are on a collision course. Advise you change your course 20 degrees.'

Back came the signal, 'Advisable for you to change your course 20 degrees.' The captain said, 'Send the message, "I'm a captain, change the course 20 degrees."' The answer came back, 'I'm a seaman, second class.

You had better change your course 20 degrees.' By that time, the captain was furious. He spat out, 'Send the message, "I'm a battleship.

Change your course 20 degrees."' Back came the flashing light, 'I'm a lighthouse.' We changed our course 20 degrees."

Do you see how dangerous, how destructive an improper perception of truth and reality can be? Cecil B. DeMille observed of the principles contained in his monumental movie

"The Ten Commandments", "It is impossible for us to break the law. We can only break ourselves against the law."

Jesus is the pattern. Jesus is to be your pursuit. And to go on with Jesus means that I'm going to walk on with him in first love, in intimacy, in relationship, regardless of the change.

RANDY: Yeah, I remember that one, I remember that sermon.

BLYNDA: Which is crazy that you would remember that, but that's how impactful he was.

RANDY: Well, you know, and it's about spiritual growth. We should always be growing, learning, and just getting stuck in our ways, that's not what God has designed for us.

BLYNDA: And what I love is that a message from '92 is as applicable today as it was back then.

RANDY: And that's true, not that his message was the Word of God, but it's based on the Word of God, and God's Word is true. You know, I think, and Blynda, you've recently experienced this, but the spiritual journey that we're on is to become conformed to the image of Christ, and I believe that part of conforming to his image is to act like him, to emulate him, as my dad said, not emulate another preacher, and you know, emulate Christ. And you know, Christ was compassionate.

He saw the needs of others, he felt compassion for them, and he acted. And that's what I love about the model that my dad laid down for this organization, which is, we act when we see the need.

BLYNDA: The gospel is most clearly heard when it's lived.

RANDY: When it's lived, yes. Well, we hope to live it, and we want to invite you into living it with us by seeing a situation that is very difficult, one that I saw myself.

I'd like to share it with you because I'd like you to understand that, as Scripture says, the hands and feet of Christ, we can demonstrate his love, his life, in both word and in deed. Watch this.

RANDY: We arrived in this village this morning. We came here to see a malnutrition clinic. We didn't know that we would watch them carry out this little boy, place him in this hole in the ground, and bury him.

It's a hard reality, but in places like this where food is scarce, where malnutrition runs rampant, graves of two-year-olds are not uncommon. We asked at the clinic what happened, and they told us that this child, a little boy, about two years old, had been eating whatever they could find on the trees and on the ground, because they had no real food to eat. And as a result of the malnutrition and the wild food, this little boy suffered diarrhea, no doubt dehydration, I would assume, and he died today because of malnutrition.

As a father and now as a grandfather to two grandsons in this age range, not far, if someone could do something to save their lives, I would give anything. I'd do whatever it took to save that child. There's others right now on the verge of death, so close.

Will you save that child? Will you see that child for who he or she is, which is the image of God? And will you say, as a follower of Christ, or maybe just as someone who cares about other people, "I want to do something, I'll do what I can"?

You can't come all the way over here and save all the children, I understand, but we have people in place right now who just want your support. We shouldn't bury children like this. So please, do what God puts on your heart.

RANDY: All it would have taken to save that child's life was some food, a meal in time. And no, we can't go back, but we can do something for those who are going down that same path. We can take a meal to a child who is malnourished, to a child that is hungry, and it won't end up with a grave out in the field.

It will end up with life. That's what Mission Feeding is, it's life. But it only works when you join with us and you give a meal.

We would like to be able to give 20 million meals, we call it a Christmas Meals Blessing, because it really is a blessing, and in the Christmas spirit, the Spirit of Christ, we want to tell people what the angel said, "Emmanuel, God is with us." We say to them, "God is with you," not just in word, but in deed, we do it, we show it. But we need you to do it with us.

Your gift of $44 today will help provide 400 meals, life-saving meals. A gift of $77 would provide 700 meals. A gift of $110, if you could do that, if God puts it on your heart, it's 1000 meals.

It's not 1000 children necessarily, because we give them a meal today and tomorrow and the next day, as they come out of malnutrition. But that meal, it means everything to that child today, I promise you that. A gift of $1100, if you're able, would provide 10,000 meals, and you know what?

I know there are some of you who can provide far more than that, but whatever God puts on your heart, I'm just asking that you would pause, you would be obedient, you would join with us, you would say, "I see that need, I wanna do something about it." Let's not have another child buried because they didn't have something to eat.

Let's reach them in time. Please go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can.

ANNOUNCER: This holiday season, many families will gather around tables filled with food. But for mothers in impoverished communities, simply finding enough food to feed their children can be a daily struggle. Through Life's Christmas Meals Blessing, your generosity can help provide 20 million nutritious meals for hungry children.

One meal, one child, and one precious life at a time. Eleven cents, that's all it takes to provide a life-saving, nourishing meal. Your gift of $44 today can help provide 400 meals.

$77 will provide 700 meals. And $110 will help provide 1000 meals for children in desperate need. And with any gift, you may request James Robison's final book, "A Life Proclaiming Freedom", as a thank-you for your support.

Discover the freedom James found in Jesus and how you can experience it too. With your gift of $110 or more, request the "Fruitful and Flourishing" bundle, a beautiful collection of daily encouragement to remind you of God's faithful care and his promise of guidance from Isaiah chapter 58, verse 11.

Finally, with your gift of $1100 or more, you will help provide 10,000 meals for children in need, and can request Life's beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Good Shepherd". So please call, write, or make your gift online today.

ISAK PRETORIUS: We've been hearing Rute's story. It's a tragic story. The story of a mother who lost her young child this year to malnutrition.

We can break the cycle of death in these communities through that silent killer of malnutrition that is literally coming and stealing their lives. And here's how we do it. We make sure that we can establish Mission Feeding programs here and sustain them, so that we're bringing the nutrition every day that these children both need and deserve.

We have our teams on the ground. We have our infrastructure in place, thanks to many of you who've made that possible through opening your hearts and giving the gifts that you've given before. But what we need now is we need the support to be able to provide the nutritional resources that ensure that the food keeps flowing to these communities, that

ensures that that vital, life-giving nutrition is provided to Rute, to her family, and to the families that she represents in these communities here in Angola.

We're ready to do the job, we're in place to make it happen, but we can't do it without you. And that's why we need you to open your hearts today, and we need you to do everything that you can do to give that gift of life, to give the gift of food.

RANDY: Please do, we'd love to hear from you today. You can make such a difference, and you know what? We would love to send you a gift, my dad's final book, it's called "A Life Proclaiming Freedom", and Blynda, I know it'll bless people.

BLYNDA: It will absolutely bless people, because he lived a life proclaiming freedom, and it's what he would want for everyone.

RANDY: And it's what we want you to do, so please join us and then come back for more "Life Today". We'll see you again next time.

BLYNDA: See you soon.

♪ Oh, you can't hear me cry ♪

♪ See my dreams all die ♪

♪ From where you're standing ♪

♪ On your own ♪

♪ It's so quiet here ♪

♪ And I feel so cold ♪

♪ This house no longer ♪

♪ Feels like home ♪

♪♪♪

RYAN WEKENMAN: And we live in a day and age that's shouting, "Put self at the center," and it sounds like the right idea until you actually do it.

ANNOUNCER: Ryan Wekenman, tomorrow.

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