

1/16/24

Week three: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Laney Rene and Rhonda Redmon

In the studio

JAMES: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Betty just said, you've got three women here. They happen to be members of our family, our daughter and our granddaughter. And I would rather all of you do the talking. But our daughter, Rhonda is here. This is Rhonda. How many children do you have?

RHONDA: Four.

JAMES: And how many grandchildren do you have?

RHONDA: Eleven is on the way.

JAMES: Eleven is on the way. That's how many we have. Do you think you may have even more?

RHONDA: You know I hear a rumor that it is very likely. So yes.

JAMES: Are you okay with that?

RHONDA: I'm great with that. They're so much fun.

JAMES: Here is her daughter, his daughter, she really wants you to know that. She

wants every woman to know that you can be the daughter of the perfect Father, the King, the Creator, God himself wants to be your Father; you be his daughter, his son.

Laney, are you just kind of overwhelmed that God would take a girl that's struggled with herself wondering who she was, becoming who you already are but he is the only one that can show you who you already are, and who you can be with his power? Are you a little bit overwhelmed and amazed at what you're seeing?

LANEY: Absolutely. Honestly, not amazed at myself but when I think back to a lot of the insecurity that I used to live in on a daily basis, that a lot of people really didn't even know about. Honestly, I tried to hide it a lot. But yeah, I mean I look at my life and I just see God's goodness, his faithfulness, the confidence that it really gives you when you realize you don't have it all together and that's okay. And you don't have to. None of us have it all together. I think the lie that many of us, as women, believe is that we do have to have it all together. We try to even fool each other into believing that we have it all together.

I talk about this in the book but when you walk into a room full of women or full of people, I think many, no matter who you are, that can be overwhelming. It's like you're thinking about what everybody is thinking, what they're looking at, everything. But when you realize everybody truly desires the same thing that you're desiring, that kind of fades away. You realize they just want to be loved and accepted just like I do. It's just that not everyone is as willing to show it.

I think I've realized throughout my life being open with my struggles, being open with brokenness that I've walked through that I can help so many more people. And my pretending like I have it all together doesn't help anyone. Then everyone just feels like they have to be perfect. But if I'm open with my brokenness, open with insecurities that I have, that's when God's strength comes in.

The Bible talks about it's in our weakness is his strength. "I'll boast all the more gladly in

my weakness that Christ's power may abound." I want that in my life. I want people to not look at me and go, wow! She's really got it all together! Look at her conferences, look at her book. I never thought I would put on a conference, I never thought I'd write a book. That's just a fruit of, honestly, wanting people to know what is true about who their Father is.

I didn't want, I honestly never thought I'd write anything. Mom homeschooled us growing up and I hated writing. But I do remember the first time I fell in love with writing. Mom said, "You can write about anything you want to write about today." And I was probably ten years old, maybe. I don't know, 10 or 11, and that day I wrote about fear. I wrote about the fear I was dealing with, of darkness, turning the light out, fear of being kidnapped as a child. Like those things were very real to me. And I remember writing about the lies the enemy was spoon feeding me. And then I read it to my mom. I remember Mom was like, wow! That actually moved her. I remember going, okay, I can actually—I actually think I like writing if I can bring people into freedom.

That didn't mean I was secure and free for the rest of my life, but that's a journey, that's life. I want people to know that with this book because nobody wakes up every day feeling like a million bucks. We all go through seasons. We all go through needing to be reminded what is true.

BETTY: God doesn't expect what he does in our lives to be kept a secret. He wants people to know the difference he can make in everyone's life; that it can be life-changing. And that we feel free to share that through our example, or through the opportunities we get one-on-one, whatever the situation.

LANEY: Absolutely.

JAMES: Okay, Rhonda, tell us what you think when you're watching your daughter. This is not your only one for sure, you have granddaughters. Tell me what's going in your mind when you watch her.

RHONDA: When I watch her, and even just listen to what you were talking about, in her homeschooling, and when you're talking about her writing this book, when there became things that were in his heart that she was passionate about and that's her Jesus, and what he's done in her life, that became an easy thing of just wanting to get that out because she couldn't keep it in. And so watching that I've actually at times, as I read—was reading her book and just talking to her at times and her sharing things that she was hearing from the Lord, and what was going on in her life, and just the freedom and the comfort and the hope, just his goodness to her at times as she would write and then I would read it. She said, "Mom, would you read this?"

To me, I actually would tell her at times, I don't mean this in any way other than to say I know you didn't write that. In the sense of I don't mean that like in downing her like she couldn't write. I'm just saying the way that it would come out and the reality of life.

JAMES: It was bigger than her. It was absolutely bigger than her.

RHONDA: Right. And so I experienced that myself. Just like I've heard you say, Mom, that you, at 80 you needed this. And I've told her that over and over again. Even as I would read, I would say I need to be reminded of this continually. Because everything in our world tells us differently and we're being bombarded by that all the time. So I need a continual reminder that I belong to Him.

I told Laney the other day, actually, we were just out taking a walk. I said, "I haven't told you this yet but the other day you gave me a sweatshirt and all it said was 'Daughter' on it." I said, "After you left and gave me my gift," I said, "I put it on." I said, "When I put it on, I wept." And I said I didn't realize—I didn't realize how just that statement of my identity in who I am to him and what he's done in my life, and as I know you talk about in there, of just the righteousness that we've been given as a gift through Jesus, and what he paid for. That when we put that on and when I put that "Daughter" sweatshirt on I just had these flashbacks basically of my life. From the time as a little girl, when I first

believed in him, in my Jesus and became his daughter. And that way the bombardment of the enemy and the lies, I look back and I'm like that's when they started. Like they really started back that young.

And so it's been a lifetime of those being replaced by the truth of who my Jesus is and what he's done in my heart and life. I need reminding of that continually. It doesn't matter what age. And so, when she's over and over to me, she said, "Mama, I want what I've written in this book to bring freedom and life and the reminder of his goodness and his deep love for them as women of all ages to just be reminded." She said, "It doesn't matter how old you are." Those are things—because it is just a constant, constant attack for those truths and who he is and who we are because of him to be stolen.

BETTY: Have you found, Laney, that in communication with some of these women that have come to your event that they're finding out that you've experienced a lot of the same things they're going through; that the enemy tells them they're the only one. And so you keep it to yourself. Don't dare share your heart with anyone.

And when they find out that other people deal with fear, with insecurities, the kind of baggage that the enemy tries to put on us and work in our lives to destroy our life in Jesus, do you find that they are surprised? And they think, oh, I can be delivered from all of this!

LANEY: That's what I was saying. Like share your brokenness; not to stay broken but some of my healthiest and most amazing friendships are the ones where we went—we got so close so fast because we were not afraid to share our brokenness. We were actually so broken that we had to share it. And then we went, no, we're not going to stay there. You share your brokenness because you know a healer. You share your brokenness to go towards freedom, to go towards life. It's not to just stay there, to stay in that broken place. But because we know a healer, because we know hope there's always somewhere to go.

Yeah, I definitely think women too, when you see another woman be free or be confident,

you think they've never dealt with struggles. You think they've never had any insecurity. But every single woman on the face of this earth, whether they realize it or admit it or not has and has dealt with insecurity. Unless Jesus has met it. I think just because you even know Jesus and he lives in your heart, there are days where I still deal with insecurity. I have to be reminded that I don't live there. That I have a firm hope, a firm security in my Jesus. A scripture I always in that season, honestly of becoming free I would cling to was Proverbs 14:26. It talks about in the fear of the Lord is strong confidence, and his children will have a place of refuge.

But it wasn't really what I was pursuing because I was in such a broken place, I didn't know how to do that. I was like, I need a savior; I need a refuge. I need someone to pick me up, to take this weight, this blanket off of me, and heal me and redeem what I've walked through. That's what he does.

That's when you meet him as a Father and you realize, I'm a daughter. That's the best thing I'll ever be, it's the only thing I'll ever be forever. I feel like as women, one of the reasons I even wanted to do this all together is because we're all in different seasons. And we've all played different roles in life. As women, we go through many different seasons wearing a lot of different hats. And sometimes, even though you're a mom, it looks different when you're a mom to a toddler to when you're an empty nester, and then you're a grandma. I know from talking to Mom there are moments where you're going, what's my purpose now? What do I do now that all my kids are gone?

So even in writing this book, I thought about that so much. My heart was really on the woman who is in that place going, what's my season now? And Mom has always said, "God takes us from glory to glory." He doesn't do something that he specifically—

RHONDA: He specifically, when I was at that specific place some years ago when you were basically letting me know you were out of here, and all the others were doing the same thing, I just was like, God, what now? This is what I dreamed of. So now what? And I felt like he just stopped me in my kitchen one afternoon. And I was asking those

questions as I had been doing for a bit. I heard him say, "Rhonda, I don't do less than seasons." It is like I didn't even need to know what was next in that way. That promise to me, there was peace and rest when I heard it because I thought, it doesn't really matter what's ahead. Because my Jesus doesn't do less than seasons. So he has something good for me. And I don't know, it was like a weight lifted.

RENEE: And that's something like when you know his character, when you know he's good, when you know he's kind, like fear falls away. You're not worried about the future. Of course, we have moments where we're worried, we're human, but I have found that when you know him, when you know who he is, you know his heart for you, you trust whatever the next day will hold.

Mom and I were literally talking the other day about walking through miscarriage and the loss of Rory and how much that was, of course, so broken. I would never choose that, but the life that God can bring out of what is death on earth; the life that he has brought through my son. I have an amazing daughter. I enjoy her life every day but I'm enjoying the life of my son, just in a different way because of what's eternal, what is forever. The hope of Christ. And his life has brought so much life to my life. It's given me so much purpose and given me a way to connect with women through brokenness and through their story. To remind them that God has hope for them and they can walk whole.

So I through that, I was hearing, you know when you know his heart, when you know who he is—

RHONDA: Well, we've discovered even that just talking the other day because we both did go through and about the same time—not at the same time, but the same few years before, the same time in our pregnancies of losing little boys, and yet, we both made the discovery the other day that our response while it hurt and we had so many questions and still don't have answers in so many ways, but yet, we both had the same conclusion in where our comfort came from. Because I told her, I remember going home from the hospital and telling my husband, her daddy, at that time, I said, "I don't really understand

or know what's happened. And I could be really angry and all that but I feel so loved." And so to me, that's what she is talking about in that relationship. That even no matter what you go through, as painful as it is, there is something you can't explain with him.

BETTY: There is something that during that brokenness God really does pick us up and hold us close. That's what I love about your book, Laney. It is not an age-limit book. It's for all ages. Like I've told you earlier, I was surprised that it affected me like it did. And it's the kind of book you can read through and then go back and where you've marked you can be reminded. I think we had to be reminded of God's love and who we are, we're his daughters.

JAMES: Let me just tell all of you that Laney has been led by, you might say, demand of those who read the book or know about the power of God that's on her. She is doing conferences, what do you call them?

LANEY: The One He Loves.

JAMES: The One He Loves. You can go to that website and you can find when the next one is. And there's no limit. They'll come preteen, teen, and the young adults. They go all the way up to our age, 60s and 70s and 80 years old. They want to be there because they're in the presence of God.

And aren't you amazed, Rhonda, at what you watch happening there? And you see their lives changed because they get in the presence and realize they can all be a child of God. So I want you to check that out. And anything you want to say I'm going to point all of our viewers, I want you to get the book.

We've got some gifts we want to give you but I want to tell you something. You're going to—if you'll watching one of our staff, Tammy Trent, she's going to show you how you can become the greatest miracle a person can ever imagine and you will not only give life but point them to eternal life. Is there anything you want to say to our viewers, either one

of you right now about the importance of sharing God's life? And they can come to your conferences, even find the dates there. Anything you want to say to challenge our viewers?

LANEY: I would just encourage you to receive his love for you. I believe that when you receive his love, when you taste and see that he is good, you can't help but want to tell of how wonderful and how kind he is. So more importantly, first, I would just pray that God would just meet you right there, right where you're at. That he would just come and touch your heart the way that only he can with his healing touch, with his loving touch, with his kind touch, with his supernatural touch; that you would just feel and know his loving kindness towards you.

His Word says that he forgives all our iniquities. He heals all our diseases. He redeems our life from destruction. He crowns us with loving kindness and tender mercies and he satisfies our mouth with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagles.

So I pray that over you right now, right where you are, that you would just know that. That you would receive that love that he has for you. He is so wonderful. He is so good and he is so kind.

JAMES: Hard to add to that, isn't it, Rhonda? That's it. Go to one of those conferences.

Now, Jesus said of people who do this, "You're my sheep and you are blessing and ministering to me personally." I want you to how could you bless and minister to Jesus and know I'm a sheep of the shepherd? Watch.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: The most precious thing for these mothers in Burundi is their families, particularly the next generation of children. Tammy Trent spoke to several mothers whose children have died from waterborne diseases. The impact of their stories caused

Tammy to reflect upon her own losses.

TAMMY: I lost my husband in a scuba diving accident. He was killed. I lost my grandmother to cancer. And I lost a niece in a bicycle accident. Never once have I ever thought of losing anybody that I love because of the water that they're drinking.

These precious children have just led me to their only water source right here in this village. When I think about it, it represents generations. I think about their grandparents that drank from this water. I think about their parents that are drinking from this water. And I think about these little ones that are drinking from this water fighting for life with every sip that they take. And then I think about the generations to come. How many more will have to live—try to live off of this only water source here?

Many in this village have already died. We've heard the stories. My heart has been broken. And the beautiful thing for me is that I traveled all over the world with *LIFE Outreach*, all over the world, and I have seen a solution. I've been there when water has come up from the ground, from a well that we've drilled. So I know that it works. I know that we could come in here and we could drill them a well that will actually change then the generations to come.

I don't know about you, but that's something I want to be a part of, that kind of thing. I want to be a part of bringing life. I want to be part of bringing hope. I want to be a part of planting seeds for generations to come. And we can do that today. We can do it together by coming in here and drilling them a well.

[Cheers & Applause]

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Do you realize how much they need that miracle of water that we just take for granted? Do you realize that we have water just in a faucet, and yet people are going and

buying water that they think might just be a little bit purer and safer? They don't have water in a bottle. They don't have a faucet. The only way they get water that won't disease them, contaminate their life and kill them or damage them is somebody with love gives them a well.

And in the areas that we drill we know the water is there. Normally, they're under 300 feet. That's why we can do it for \$4800. Sometimes you have to go deeper. One time we had to go 5,000 feet. It was a very expensive well! But a half million people get water from it every day. And it was drilled because of love. Because of a man that said, "I want to help my country and I will give the first \$100,000." And then we got the money to do it.

My point is, when we come together, we can become a miracle of the village. You can help those people Tammy was talking about for \$4800 and give them a well. I know there are not many of you watching that can say I can give a well. You can't. But could you give \$48 and give ten people water for the rest of their lives? Could you give \$144 and 30 people water? Just break it down to what can you do to give life? I'm praying there will be many people who can drill a well. We have people who have said to us it's a greatest joy every year for us, we drill a well. Could you give \$1200 and pray three people join you or \$2400 and pray one joins you? We've got a well.

Father, I pray for that. And Lord, I don't want the person who gives \$48 or maybe they just give \$10 to think that's small because it is huge. It is a miracle for somebody. So God, help them to become the miracle people have longed for and prayed for, hoped for; in Jesus' name.

Would you be that miracle? Would you right now go get a bank card? Use it like a check. That's how you should always use it. But go get it, dial that number where people are calling in to have prayer, to be prayed for, to accept Christ, but would you call that number or would you go online? Take that bank card, use it like a check. Make the greatest gift you can because you're giving the greatest gift you could possibly give them.

And we'll not only give them life in a well, we're going to tell them about the well of life. Those missionaries, they plant their lives in the midst of that suffering, oftentimes, with their children. It is an amazing sight. Your love, his love, flowing through you makes that happen.

Please, we're going to send you Laney's book. It will lift you up high out of any pit. It really will. It is a gift from God. And yes, she is a granddaughter. I'm going to tell you something, God's on her. We want to bless you. Right now make the gift that God put on your heart. Thank you so much. Thank you for giving life.

Video

***ANNOUNCER:** Every day, thousands of lives are lost to waterborne disease, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five. Through mission Water for LIFE, you can give mothers hope and children a future as we provide clean, life-giving water for thousands of children and their families before it's too late.*

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With a gift of any amount, we'll send you Daughter, written by James and Betty's granddaughter, Laney Rene. This insightful book invites all girls and women to walk in the freedom of their God-given identity and embrace who they really are.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the "Great is the Lord" decorative blanket featuring the words of Psalm 145:3. This beautiful blanket is perfect for comfort and cold weather and a reminder of your help with Water for LIFE. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people. Or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And request our new bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water"

inspired by Jesus' words in Mark 9:41. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Well, I just believe you provided a miracle of life. I hope you got life today from what you've heard. I promise you, what's in here will lighten your load. It really will. I've read lots of books, I've had lots of authors, the most famous and the most highly read authors on the planet. This is going to bless you.

Touch somebody with God's love, you just ask and we have other gifts to send you, too. Girls, thank you. Thank you for being beautiful daughters, and just beautiful parents, and it is a joy. Thank you so much for watching. And thank you for sharing life.