

5/16/24

Week 20: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Rabbi Kirt Schneider

In the studio

JAMES: I want to welcome you. By the way, we have a rabbi here with us today. Let me tell you this. I like him. You're going to like him the minute you see him. You're going to say he's cool. *A Journey Into Divine Love*. Now his testimony is interesting, we'll hit it briefly. But then we're going to go into divine love because God is love and we don't seem to know much about this divine love.

Rabbi Schneider, it is good to have you.

KIRT: Well, I love you. You're a breath of fresh air. It's great to be with you. I've been wanting to meet you in person for a long time so I'm happy the day has arrived.

JAMES: Tell us, describe what you do, your ministry.

KIRT: My ministry is called "Discovering the Jewish Jesus." I've been preaching over television for close to 20 years on most Christian networks, and also in radio stations across the country. Also, I've done a lot of traveling. I'm an evangelist; I've been to many places in Africa and different parts of the world.

My passion is I just love God's Word. I don't even need an audience. The Word of God is the engine in me. So what I do is proclaim the good news of Yeshua's kingdom, of Jesus' kingdom. My ministry, James and Betty, I consider to be an overflow of my relationship with the Lord. My first ambition is not to preach. My first ambition is to grow in him and enter more fully into that

which he has purchased for me.

JAMES: You just heard someone speaking the heart and mind of God as clearly as you can share it. And you mentioned about an overflow. That's what's coming—you are overflowing with divine love. It is obvious. Your testimony, though, just briefly. The journey you had, how you came to Christ.

KIRT: Well, I'm Jewish, born Jewish, raised Jewish, my parents spoke Jewish. I'm 100 percent Ashkenazi Jew according to Ancestry.com. Bar mitzvahed in a conservative synagogue. I didn't know anything about Jesus growing up. He was as far away to me, James and Betty, as the man on the moon. I never thought of Jesus in my life.

But what happened was I ran into a huge identity crisis when I graduated high school. I was a very committed athlete; I wrestled all through school. Got a small wrestling scholarship to college. Right before I left to fly to the University of Tampa where I was going to college, we got a letter in the mail that they discontinued the wrestling program. They still gave me the small scholarship but there was no wrestling anymore. I didn't know who I was anymore. I was lost.

The world I had known was over. I knew myself as Kirt Schneider the wrestler, and I was in control on the wrestling mat. But now that was over and I was going into a world that was so much bigger than I. I wasn't in control. And I realized also I could get cancer, I could get killed even as an 18-year-old. I have no guarantees. And I just went into a tailspin. Again, huge identity crisis, didn't know who I was, felt now I was vulnerable because I was in an environment where I wasn't in control. The whole world now was my home.

And I struggled like that for about two years. I was searching for an answer. I was asking what could give me that feeling back that wrestling gave me. And I didn't know what it was. I thought about becoming a doctor but I knew I didn't have the aptitude to be a doctor. I thought about becoming a lawyer and I thought that might be possible. But in the back of my mind I was thinking, but what's going to happen to you when you are 65 and have to retire? You're going to be in the same boat you're in now again. Your purpose will have ended and you'll be lost all over

again. So I didn't know what to do.

Long story short, I was reading a book on the New Age and there was a picture in this book of this guy levitating off the ground. You know the Yogis from India. I said, God—I always believed in God. I said, "If that's real if that guy can levitate off the ground, I found my new wrestling." If I could levitate off the ground, this is a higher reality than making money. And I imagined how I would feel levitating off the ground.

So I'm in the middle of this quest and I go to sleep one night. Now keep in mind, no one had ever witnessed to me. I had never read the New Testament. Jesus was as far away to me as the man on the moon. But I go to sleep on a hot August night of 1978, in the middle of this New Age quest, and I'm awoken from my sleep. I'm suddenly aware that I'm aware. My eyes are still closed but I have this heightened state that something is going on. In an instant, Jesus appeared on the cross. It was in color. I could see the terrain the cross was staked in. As an American, I knew enough to know the person on the cross was Jesus; that's all I knew. And then, James and Betty, from straight above, like through the blue sky a ray of red light beamed down on this man on the cross and sat on Jesus' head. When I saw that ray of red light beam down on his head, I knew the light was coming from God. I understood the symbolism. And I knew that the Lord had shown me that Jesus was the way to him.

JAMES: Wow!

KIRT: And I also realized that I'd found my answer. Remember, I was lost, I was searching, wrestling had ended, I didn't know who I was anymore, was looking for purpose, and that quick, two seconds my life completely changed.

I eventually started telling everybody about the experience. Somebody said you need to go get a New Testament. So I went and got a New Testament and slowly was assimilated into my walk with Christ.

JAMES: It is amazing! It is visibly apparent that he is in you—that Jesus. All right, this journey.

KIRT: *Journey Into Divine Love* is a book specifically devoted to "The Song of Songs." Most people to it as "The Song of Solomon." But several years ago, probably eight years ago, I came to the beginning of the year and I was looking to the Lord, what do you want me to focus on this year? And I felt very focused and strong that the Lord was telling me, I want you to focus exclusively on "The Song of Songs." Again most of the church refers to it as "The Song of Solomon," for the next year. The reason I call it "The Song of Songs" is because the book actually names itself. It starts in the first verse, "This is the Song of Songs." And it is such a more beautiful title than "The Song of Solomon."

So for a full year, I spent over an hour, probably a minimum of two hours every day in "The Song of Songs." And I preached 50 messages on it. And eventually, I felt the Lord told me to write a book on it. So this is the book "Journey into Divine Love." To me "The Song of Songs" is a book like no other book in the entire Word of God.

The ancient rabbis when they were deciding which books they were going to include in the Hebrew canon, the Old Testament, there was a debate as to whether they could include "The Song of Songs." But one of the most revered sages said, "This should not only be included," he said, "this is the holy of holies of the Bible."

The ancient rabbis always understood that this was not just about Solomon writing a poetic love song to the Shulammitte bride, the historical figure in "The Song of Songs," but this has always been understood to be a love letter between God and his people. "The Song of Songs" reveals an emotional side of the Lord that's revealed like no other book in the Bible, and the revelation that we can receive in terms of how intimate God feels about us, how much he loves us, how beautiful he is, and how beautiful we are to him. There is no other book in the Bible that covers this territory like "The Song of Songs."

JAMES: So when you teach this, and now you hope what you've seen when you teach will pass on through the book, what have you seen happen to those who hear the message from him that you long for them to hear?

KIRT: Well, first let me share what happened to myself. So as I started coming into this book, James and Betty, I felt a supernatural tangible anointing of beauty on me. I remember when I was recording.

JAMES: Well, you're radiant. I thought that the moment I met you. And I'd not seen you in person but immediately I saw that. There is a radiance on you.

KIRT: Thank you, brother. Thank you! That's what I pray for. Jesus is so beautiful and you guys are so beautiful. Look at you guys. Man, you guys are awesome. You guys are beautiful.

I remember I was preaching, I went to South Bend, Indiana where I was filming at the time, years ago, when I preached 50 messages on "The Song of Songs." In two days, I preached 13 or 16 messages. I forgot how many I preached in two days. I got into my car to drive home after that, to Columbus, you'd think I'd feel tired. I got in my car after preaching these 13, 16 messages on "The Song of Songs," I felt totally clothed with beauty. The beauty of Jesus is so revealed in the "Song of Songs" and how beautiful you and I, his people, you are to him. You will receive that. You'll receive that anointing as you give yourself to the Lord through your study of the "Song of Songs."

And what I've got to do in my book, "Journey Into Divine Love" is to break it down so people can understand it. I feel like I have an anointing to make complex things simple. So that to me is really important because I think at the end of everything Jesus is simple.

JAMES: Well, okay. What have you seen happen when people hear that? What happens to them?

KIRT: Thank you. Thank you, sir. Wow! Let me put it this way. I've been preaching on television for close to 20 years. I get more testimonies from my viewers from what they received in my messages on "The Song of Songs" than I have received from any other series that I've ever done through 20 years of preaching. People, just their heart opens up. They begin to have a new

sense of how valuable you are to God.

You know a lot of people are delivered from inferiority. What happens to people when they receive the revelation of how special and how personally Jesus is in love with them? It will transform you from the inside out. Like you'll know you're somebody. You'll know, even if you're—a lot of people struggle with body image. So many people delivered from problems that they're having regarding their self-image about their body. When they realize how Jesus feels about them, I have a lot of testimonies like that. Just overcoming inferiority and beginning to be able to value yourself like Jesus values you.

BETTY: You always, as a parent, want to bless your children and you want them to overwhelmingly feel the love in your heart for them. When you feel that coming from God like nothing ever before, there is like a shower of love and blessing. You feel it come on you. No matter what I've done, God has forgiven me. No matter what I do, he forever loves me.

KIRT: You know it is a beautiful thought that I heard shared one time, Betty, that blessed me. One of the greatest things about being a child of God is every day we begin anew. No matter what happened yesterday, as you said, no matter what happened in the past, no matter what sin you might have committed in the past, no matter what you're ashamed of, every day you can start brand-new. The slate is washed clean through the blood of Jesus. We begin anew beautiful to God all because of who he is and the sacrifice he made for us.

JAMES: One of the things I try to say to you as often as I can, and I can't say it too much if you could only know how special, how beautiful you are to him. He didn't make a mistake. He didn't make a mess. He loves you. When you experience that divine love and then you begin to express it, the river of love and the river of life begins to flow freely through you. That divine love will touch others.

You know that. You know when you watch me and Betty and you see us come in every day and we show you the overlooked and the forgotten, and the least of these, with us as God's people, with your help, putting God's arms around them. And that's not an acting part or a role we play,

we love them. You're going to see some very hungry children. You're going to see some families. I wish you could know how much I love all of them. They're beautiful to God. That's divine love. I want to hold them in his arms of love. I want to meet a need that needs to be met. This is divine love.

As I'm getting older, I'm 80 years old now, I'm experiencing it in greater fullness, and it seems to flow even more freely. The more freely it flows, the more it's catching people up in the river of God's love and the river of his life. It is a beautiful thing to see! And if the family of God, the family of the perfect Father would show this world who knows very little about a healthy family, even a healthy father, or mother and dad, or relationships, if we could just show them how we, the family, love one another, I believe they would run to that family to know that Father. Don't you believe that? If they could see this love and witness it?

KIRT: Brother, thank you for preaching what you're preaching. I've seen you preach it many times before. I think more people need to be speaking on exactly what you're speaking about. We need to get rid of the competition, and we need to come together and understand what the calling is—to love him, to love each other. And as we know, Jesus said, "All men shall know you by your love." And boy, a lot needs to shift and change before the world sees what Jesus prophesied is going to happen.

JAMES: I really, I just got the book, and wow! Prophetic love letter. Kiss me with your revelation. Draw me after you. Dark yet lovely. Where do you pastor your flock? The praise of the bridegroom. The banner of love over you. Come along.

I just feel like you're going to be leading the reader into an experience of divine love. You've been given a wonderful gift. You've got an aura of glory or radiance on you that captured my eyes the moment I saw you. But I'm telling you, this is special. This is a special man. You know when we invite somebody on, we believe it is enabling you to see Jesus more fully, more clearly. Do you notice how we bring people from all different backgrounds, even different denominational groups? It doesn't matter because we're trying to bring them into an aura of divine love where his presence and power is manifest. I think you've seen through what we do in

our ministry and our television program—I've been on television now for over 50 years. I think you can see the love of God in the unity of spirit that we build when we invite people in, even as our guests and we speak to them. And then we go into the darkest corners of the world with the brightest light. And it is divine love that is flowing through us. Is that what you see?

KIRT: Praise God! I want to share a good testimony with you about that. I told my publisher that I was going to be down here today with both of you. She said, "Oh, I have a friend who works there. They think a lot of James and Betty." That says something. So the reason I'm sharing that with our audience today is because the people who work here at *Life Today* see that the two people that I'm speaking with right now are real and genuine. I want to encourage you to keep supporting what they're doing because there are not many people in the world left like James and Betty Robison.

JAMES: God bless you. I want you to go online and get the book. But I tell you what, if you'll right now help us put God's arms around some of the most desperately needy people. We had not found these children. We had not found this situation. The hundreds of thousands that face death, very rapidly, where they couldn't even bury their children in a grave. They had to bury these dying children in a big pit just like a dug-out ditch.

We can stop it. I want you to listen to the heart of God through one of our co-laborers, Tammy. Listen to her and look with your eyes and see through his eyes what we can do if we extend his hands with the power of divine love. Watch closely.

On the mission field

[Music]

Open Captions

My heart pounds, my strength fails me: Even the light has gone from my eyes.

Psalm 38:10 N.I.V.

TAMMY: We talk a lot about the children. As I'm traveling, I spend a lot of time with the

children. I see their need, especially the little ones under five that are so vulnerable. And sometimes, the elderly in these communities can be overlooked because we're focused so much on the children.

Today was a different day for me when I've come to this village. Yes, I see the children. Yes, my heart is wrapped around those kids but I'm sitting with this elder of the community, 80 years old, and I think about my own parents. They should be thriving. They should be in a season in their life where they are not struggling, where they're looking around and seeing people prospering, living, laughing; and all he does is cry, feel the weight of the burden, and he can't do anything about it.

Even as a father or a grandfather, he can't change it because his hands are tied. There is no water, there are no crops, there is no food, there is nothing. They have very little to survive on and they're barely making that happen.

I have no doubt he is struggling and carrying so much weight every single day. We could do something to help lift that from this community. We could do it today. We could do it together.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: I just—Betty, I find myself wanting to lay down and weep. Please, God!

Now listen to me. We just found these people. Ethiopia was in between some of the areas we're working on. It is a very large country. They said there are 190,000 in this area right here that basically face death. We're committed to feeding 350,000. I'm thinking, Betty when I saw the missionaries bring this back, and Tammy and Isak Pretorius went in and saw this horrible crisis that's occurring, I said, God, we need to jump at 100,000. They're burying those kids in a pit; they're dying so fast. God, if you would just give us a miracle response today, we could go put your arms around thousands of them and give them life. Don't let the love of God—how better can you express it than to rescue the perishing, care for the dying, snatch them from sin and the

grave? It is God's love that does that. And we express his love by meeting needs.

Jesus said if we just give a cup of water, it's bigger than you can describe. Betty, I'm praying for a miracle that absolutely takes our breath. That every single person watching would say you know what? I can feed three. I can feed five. I've got \$30. I've got \$50. I can feed ten, I've got \$100. Some of you could give thousands of dollars.

We have gifts to bless you. You're going to love what we're offering you because we come every day to share the life of God and the love of God, and you help us. But we try to put something in your heart with our guests and the message of love and life, and we reach out and put God's arms of love around you every day. But right now, you can put God's arms around people that are dying. They're going to see the love of God demonstrated. And then we're going to share that love in Christ—and they'll come to Christ. But we will save their lives and give them lives. I believe everybody watching is going to do something.

BETTY: I do too. I'm just counting on you. God is counting on you to step in and do your part. Let's help feed these precious little ones that don't have a chance if someone doesn't help them. So join with us, please. Maybe you've done it before, or maybe it is the first time for you, you will be so blessed. Thank you!

JAMES: You heard Tammy talking about the older person. You know, we're the older people. It's nice to know you'd be cared for if you couldn't get around like Betty and I can. We believe you would.

Father, please pour your love out through the viewers today, your divine love, in Jesus' name.

Would you please make the gift God puts on your heart? Would you go online, take your bank card, use it like a check, or dial that number and make the biggest gift you can because you are giving life, the greatest gift? Please do it right now.

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Right now across the continent of Africa, children are suffering facing severe malnutrition and even death. Severe drought and famine, including in crisis areas like Ethiopia, means we must replenish food supplies immediately to keep feeding 350,000 children and help reach more people in desperate need.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach your gift of love can be an answer to 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 of any amount, we'll send *The Blessing of Taking Communion*. In this book, discover how the sacred ordinance of communion helps to feed your soul and reminds you of the transformative power of receiving the Lord's Supper.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the LIFE Legacy Journal. This beautiful journal and pen will help you write your personal story and share the experiences that made you who you are. One day, the generations that follow will be able to look back and learn from the legacy you've left behind.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video**On the mission field**

ISAK: My heart is just broken, sitting here in this cemetery surrounded by graves that are each and every one of them, graves for children. Little lives that have been stolen by malnutrition; children who have starved to death because they didn't have enough food. It truly breaks my heart. But you know what breaks my heart even more is the fact that we could have avoided this, we could have changed this, we could have stopped these graves from being filled with these little lives. We could have saved these children if we had been able to act in time. If we'd just

been able to get to their village, take Mission Feeding, and give them a bowl of food a day.

I need your help today. I need you to help me ensure that the next grave doesn't get filled with another child who died for no good reason. So please, give a gift of life today. Give the gift of Mission Feeding. If you can give \$30, \$50, or \$100, you can save three, five, or ten children. Ten children's lives that are relying on you. Ten mothers are saying, please, please give that gift today! Please give the gift of Mission Feeding.

In the studio

JAMES: I believe Rabbi Schneider has blessed us. I want you to get this book. If you gave any gift, we have *The Gift of Communion*, the *Life Legacy Journal*, and the beautiful bronze. But if you make any gift to help us, along with these other gifts, we'll send you this. I want you to experience the power of the divine love this rabbi talks about.

Rabbi, thank you for being with us. May God bless you, sir. And bless all of you for putting his arms around the overlooked and the suffering and lifting them up. Thank you for doing that.