

5/22/24

Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

The Family Room #2

In the studio

JAMES: Betty and I welcome you to *Life Today*. I don't want to talk about it like this is a new program. It is just a continuation of the last program. It is going to be that way for quite a while because we're going to be talking to you about how God's will can be done on God's earth.

This is God's earth. Heaven and earth are the Lord's. They're to declare his glory. He taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come." All right, the king has come. The king that came said the kingdom of heaven is in you now. Then he said it is in resurrection power, after the resurrection. They didn't seem to understand it. We still don't seem to understand it. We must understand it because he said, "Thy kingdom come." And then what did he pray? Thy will—your will, God—be done on earth as it is where? In heaven.

I've said this, and I'm going to repeat it over and over, the only place God's will can be done as the commandments in the Old Testament, as the teaching of the prophets go forth, as the teaching of Jesus and the commission of Christ goes forth, the only place those commands and that commission and that mission can be fulfilled is in this kingdom. There is nothing to conquer in the next kingdom. There is nothing to overcome. There is nothing to resist. It is a finished work. If we're going to do God's will on earth, it has to be in this kingdom.

Which means, Betty, we were left here for a purpose. We weren't left here to be walked over by the devil. It looks like a lot of people believe that and so we want to get out of Dodge. We begin to pray, come back, and get us out of this mess. He said to stand up and

be a light in that dark place. He said don't hide the light. Let the light shine. He said don't let the salt lose its effect. It is a preservative. It enhances every aspect of life. It extends life, it protects life, it preserves life. That's what we're here to be. Does that make sense?

BETTY: Absolutely! James, I feel like right now is as dark as you and I have witnessed in our world today. And we've got to light the candle that God gave us, he put in our hearts. Let it shine, let it shine, he says. To do that, we've got to be committed to his kingdom work. We've got to be committed to him first of all. And then he will show us the way. He will give us the boldness. He will give us wisdom and understanding as he carries us on this journey for his purposes.

JAMES: And we do not give the enemy any of God's earth. We don't have to give him the fertile fields, we don't have to give him the flocks, we don't have to give him our family. We don't have to give him our time or our thoughts. We can walk over him. We can prevail against him. He has—Jesus has put in us the power and the ability to walk over all the deception and dissension and division and defeat that the enemy tries to put on us. He's putting death and destruction on us. He is the father of lies. He is a murderer. And we can stop that process by getting people to turn to God and let him be their father and let Jesus be their Lord. And we become members of his body, and united together, spiritually united. That's what these college students are doing, Betty. They're coming together in unity, in unity—the many themes of unity, and spiritual revival are breaking out. We've got to come together.

Betty, God has given me an anointing that is so obvious as I go to all the different denominational leaders, and all the different groups and talk to them about how we can find common ground even though we may have some serious disagreements. None of us are always right. Some of us are never really right. When we think we're the only ones right we're mostly wrong in all areas. We've got to be very careful. I'm watching church leaders come together. I'm seeing the greatest move of God on great anointed chosen church leaders coming together to love one another when they wouldn't even get in a room together because they just so preached against each other. Now I'm watching them

come together in love. I'm seeing a supernatural work of God.

You pray. Don't stop praying. Don't stop praying. Don't stop praying because God answers prayer. And pray for unity. Look what Jesus taught us. In the 17th chapter of John, this is in the Last Days, as it is approaching the time when he will die for us and then be resurrected to live in us, he told us to pray that we would be one with the Father in relationship. You have to have a relationship with God. And then you pray that we will be shaped by the word and sanctified in truth.

But then, Betty, he prayed for, and I've been emphasizing this over and over and I won't stop, that we would be led in supernatural unity to love one another. And the world will know we're his disciples because of the way we love one another.

Father, give us this spiritual love. Give us this supernatural unity.

I'm watching it happen. I want you to understand it is God's will for us to be one—all of us as believers. We won't agree in every area. We will disagree in some ways that we think are serious. But if we will just remain teachable, if we will just remain yielded clay in the hand of God the Father who shapes us into vessels of honor. A vessel of honor is a yielded vessel that is so clean and so pure that the river of life and truth and love can flow freely through it. That's what God wants all of us to be. And he wants us to be connected. I repeat, so we can put his arms around the world he died for.

You know, Betty, you were talking about how difficult it was to come and sit by me and realize that you would be communicating, and then to go to the mission field. But God gave you the grace and the strength to do it. How do you explain that? How could you find yourself sitting here feeling like I don't know what I'm going to do? How do you explain what's happened where you can express him so clearly and so freely?

BETTY: I think I just said, God, I can do nothing without you. You are my strength. You are my power—the power you put within me. And I just want to radiate your love. And

you take it from there, God. I can't maybe get out on a platform like you have over the years, James. The average person is saying, "I'm at home." But if you will just let God fill your heart with his love and His grace and his peace in a time when there is such anger, such turmoil going on, I promise you that peace and that joy that he pours into your heart and your soul will flood out to others and they will be curious to know what is it? Where did you get that? And God will give you the opportunity. Maybe on a daily basis, I don't know. But just to be around people that need hope so bad they'll ask, where do you get that hope? You can tell them, it is from him.

JAMES: You'd be surprised how much encouragement and hope people have when you just express an interest in them or a concern for them.

Betty, when you were even talking in our last program about how terrified and frightened you were that you were going to come sit here and be expected to share with the whole world on television, I thought about when God called me to preach. I was the shyest person on the planet. Boy, God made me bold in an instant. It was a supernatural thing. And he can do that for you. He's given this girl a confidence, an unshakeable confidence that people can see. You could see it just a moment ago when she was talking.

But here's where I came when God called me. This is a passage that God led me to memorize. In the first weeks, I was dating you, as I had been for a year, when I was called to preach, we continued dating. I would just read the Bible and memorize verses. Listen to this one because this is something Paul said. This is in First Corinthians. It is in the second chapter. It starts with the second verse:

"I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I also was with you in weakness and fear, and much trembling."

This is the greatest Christian that ever lived. This is the Apostle Paul. "And my message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."

And by the way, from the time I started preaching, that was the thing that jumped out at people. There is a demonstration of the Spirit of God, and power from God coming through that shy teenage boy. "And it was this way that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men but on the power of God. We do not speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom however not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age understood; because if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

Betty, Paul goes on to talk about how we are to be a supernatural family. But he goes into the next chapter and he points to the real concern that we need to have today among Christians. Now, this is New Testament day. This is the Apostle Paul talking with the disciples that were with Jesus who are still present and around. "And I, brethren could not speak to you as spiritual men." He is talking about disciples, he is talking about Peter. I couldn't talk to you as spiritual men but as to men of the flesh, carnal, as babes in Christ. "I gave you milk to drink and not solid food; for you were not yet able to consume it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like men? For when one says, 'I am with Paul.' And another, 'I'm of Apollos,' and another, 'I'm of Paul,' who are these people?" Who are they? They are just servants. He said you know what? "We're all God's fellow workers. You're God's field."

You're his cultivated field. That means you are to be a fruitful field. It is cultivated. It's been cultivated to bring forth much fruit. That's you! You were designed and destined by God to bring forth fruit, great fruit, spiritual fruit, eternal fruit, everlasting fruit, transforming fruit that changes lives. That's what you're here for.

You are God's fellow workers. "You're God's field, God's building. According to the grace which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another

is building on it. But each person must be careful how he builds on it. For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, each man's work will be made manifest." Because the fire of testing will prove it. And if it is gold and the fire comes, it purifies it. If it is wood, hay, and stubble, it burns up.

Betty, we're watching people rise up today and reveal the glory of God, the love of God, the compassion of God, the convictions and courage of God, the consistency of the Christian faith and it is transforming people's lives. That's what God is calling us to do. That's the reason you're watching *Life Today*. That's the reason we're talking to you as members of the Father's family about the Father and putting him first in his will.

But here are these New Testament Christians experiencing the same battles we do. We tend to divide over people, over opinions, over positions, over a particular view of a particular thought or truth or even scripture. By the way, it was the greatest Bible thumpers and wavers that crucified Jesus. It was the Pharisees. They had memorized the first five books of the Bible, and they insisted on Jesus being killed.

You can believe the Bible, read the Bible, confess the Bible, and not live the Bible. You can use it as a club to hurt others and that's not what he wants. He wants the Word of God to shape Christ in us, the living Jesus, the Jesus people who quoted scriptures crucified. You have to let the Word of God be written in your heart, and then written as a letter in the fleshly tables of other men's hearts, Paul said. You become a letter, a message written in the fleshly tables of people's hearts.

That's what we're going to be calling you every day. Whether it is Randy and Tammy and other guests, or me and Betty and guests we have, or it is just us talking to you about the Father's will. We're calling the family of the perfect Father to do his will on his earth and to come together in supernatural unity so people can see him in us. That's what Paul said if you're dividing over all these different opinions, positions, and leaders. And you're picking this one, Paul, that's a pretty good leader. Apollos, that's a good leader. Peter,

that's a good leader. But you don't divide over leaders. You don't divide over a particular point of view or a particular truth. You may be sure you're just the only ones that have it right. But don't look at others as though they're rubbish and not important or don't matter. It is unconditional love that never fails. It's God's love that never fails. Father, fill us with this love.

I'm telling you, Betty, the stage is set right now for the church, so to speak, to come out of the closet; for the light of God to get out from undercover; for the salt to begin to take its effect again. For us to be yielded to the Father and not yielded to the enemy. For us to put Jesus on the throne, to put Jesus in the center, to keep our eyes on him, and to point everybody to Jesus. And that's what we can do.

People have seen our marriage and boy, we have had our battles. We call them "heated discussions" and so forth. And one thing, living with me, and I'm a pretty good debater and arguer, she's got me. I've said, Betty, you've just—

BETTY: You've taught me well. [Laughing]

JAMES: I did! I had a little bit to do with it but I'm overpowered. But see, here's the thing. We love God so much. We love one another so much, we love our children, we love your children—we love the children of the world. We love the people who are so lost, who are so wrong, who are so deceived, who are so defeated, they're all over this place. And the only way we're going to change it is to point to the truth that transforms; to the one person who can come into you and your life and bring his life and his love and his forgiveness and his mercy and his strength, and a peace that does pass understanding.

We've had a lot of friends now that have said goodbye to family members, just like we said goodbye to our daughter. That was tough. Betty said yesterday when we thought about a friend that had just lost a teenager; she said, "Well, you know, we did get to enjoy our daughter for 40 years." You better believe it. There is so much to be grateful for.

But everybody that's got a broken heart, do you realize that love is the only force that can comfort those people? And when people full of love put arms of care around them it gives them a peace that passes understanding. God, there are people right now with broken hearts, broken relationships, broken marriages, loss of health, and a family member who's battling something. God, so much defeat. Would you supernaturally just let a wave of your peace and your love flood them, overwhelm them. Let them sense your presence.

Please know if I can be there in the room with you, Betty and I together, we will be praying for God's love to prevail. We would likely come over and put arms around you and just hold you. That's what God wants to do. He wants to hold you. And then he wants to use you to be his arms and to hold another broken heart.

Thank you for watching *Life Today*. Thank you for making *Life Today* television possible because it is the prayers and support of people just like you who enable us to knock on virtually the doors of every home almost on the planet. And do you know what else you've done? You've enabled us to give a cup of water to millions of people who have never had a clean drink of water; only contaminated, disease-ridden water. You have given life.

We have asked you to help us feed the starving. And by a count of foreign nations, 18 million they said of their own children in those nations were saved by what you did to offer food to the starving. We have an opportunity to do that now. We set out to feed 350,000 a day this year. We're halfway there but we need to finish the money. But we just found another 190,000 that are starving in Ethiopia—many of them young, many of them elderly. God, we need a miracle. We need a miracle.

I want you to look with our mission overseer. I want you to look in on a scene right now that's indescribable. Listen to me, please, don't turn away. Listen closely. Don't look away. Look up and say, God, we're going to be the miracle they must have to even live. And we're going to point them to you in demonstration power. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Open captions

"Do not cast me off in the time of old age: Do not forsake me when my strength fails."

Psalm 71:9 N.A.S.B.

Ethiopia fears of looming famine for 20 million people.

ISAK: We often talk about numbers and statistics. Numbers like 250,000 children die every month because of malnutrition; because of the impact of not having the food that they need. And yet today, I'm here amongst a community, many of them children who are the reality of those statistics.

We came to this community because our teams on the ground told us that in this area there are 190,000 people and more who are chronically food insecure. We came in here today, you can see the magnitude of people around me, the magnitude of children. That's exactly what they've spoken to us about. They've told us, one lady in this village explained, she said, so many have died that we haven't been able to bury them properly. We've had to dig what I would describe as a mass grave and bury them in there.

This community didn't gather today because we have food to give them, unfortunately. They gathered today because they knew we were coming, and that was just a glimmer of hope. The truth in this community is that if we don't respond to this crisis, the hope that they came with today is going to be empty. Their lives are going to be empty, and the graves she spoke about will be full.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Betty and I, in a way, have tried to put our arms around every one of those little

children, the least of these. But I want you to notice something that as we've gotten older, we're 80, a lot of people we see that are 80, they have to have help to even get around. Some of them have to have full-time care. I looked at some of those older people there and I thought, God, they need to be loved. They told us there are 190,000 that they've found that have just gathered together and are starving—and that is not part of the 350,000 that we knew we had located. That's a whole new group. I said, God in heaven, God, we're talking about feeding the 350,000 we found, and now we've just got to find 190,000, many of them children, but we also saw a lot of older people. God, you love all people.

So I'm just saying to all of you, I'm saying as personally as I can, would you put God's arms around some older people too, the same way you would want it to happen if you could barely get by? I think people would reach out to help me and Betty if we couldn't get around. But those are people there that need our help.

God, I don't want to sound like a beggar but I am pleading the cause of the widow and the orphan, and the starving and the thirsty. God, please give us a miracle.

Would you put God's arms around some of those older people and give them food? Would you reach out to another 100,000 plus? God, we need a miracle. We've got to finish out the needed funds for the 350,000. But God, I wish you'd just double it. I'm asking you, could you double it? Maybe you already gave a gift for this feeding but you say I'm going to give another one. I'm going to give one twice as big.

I don't know what you can do. \$30, \$50, \$100, three, five, or ten? Could you double that? Could you give \$1,000 to try and feed 100? Could you help us feed some of those who are older and suffering? Would you please? Do you think God doesn't love everybody at every age? Well, let's show that love. I think *Life Today* has been a wonderful example of what it is like to notice the overlooked, the least of these. Give a cup of water in Jesus' name. Give food to the hungry.

Would you go right now and get your bank card and use it like a check? Go get it, please! Go online and make the best gift you can or call that number and make that gift. We're going to send you the gift of understanding communion. It will bless you so much. And *Life Legacy*, you can start writing a new life legacy today with this incredible journal, and the pen that we send you. And then "The Cup of Living Water." Just a cup of water. Jesus, you're offering that today.

Please right now, if you get a busy, you call until you get through because you're doing kingdom work. You're giving life because of the unconditional redemptive love of God that's flowing through you. Don't let anything stop you. We're going to share life. We're doing it together like a family—his family. Thank you so much!

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

In the studio

JAMES: I am believing God for a miracle. I wish you'd double everything, God. We found over 100,000 more people starving, that wasn't part of the 350,000. God, we need a miracle. You work miracles.

Betty and I want to thank you for being a miracle to so many people. Thank you for being a miracle to us. You've prayed for us. When we lost our daughter, their prayers held us. Thank you. You've prayed for our family and our family is so beautiful. We pray for your family. But thank you for being his family to us. And us together putting his arms around the world he loves so much. Thank you.

Don't miss the next program because we're going to be sharing life today!