

7/9/24

Week 28: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Fruitful Garden

In the studio

JAMES: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I have been together for a long time. We've been on a wonderful journey, one that God has led us on. When God called me to preach more than 60 years ago, he told me I was to preach and not use notes; just get up and trust him.

Well, I've got here a notebook filled with thoughts that I've written that he has just spoken to me. I'm so excited about what he's been saying to me that I've actually begun to put some of them down where they just flow. I feel led to read to you some of the things I wrote down because most of my time now, Betty, as you know, is spent in the word and in prayer. And then talking one-on-one, many times on the telephone, many times in a Zoom call or a small group, and I've had lots of conference calls with leaders from all different areas of life. I'm just pouring God's Word on them when we talk and I answer their questions. I founded *The Stream* to bring together some of the most gifted, anointed, principle-centered people in God's Word and God's will, and trying to get his truth and his wisdom out like a river. And it is there.

As I've been praying and listening to him and writing things down, I feel like the Lord has impressed me to read some of the things I wrote. I'm going to do that today because I feel like the same Father has told me, "When I give you something and you write it down and you want to read it, do it." I'm going to do that right now because I believe God wrote this on my heart. I shared with you some things about Joel, and what Joel said in the last program. I'm going to reference some of those things again today.

But I'm actually going to read what is in my times of prayer and you've watched me just write and write. It is not too easy to read my writing. So we get it over into type pretty quickly because I want to remember it. But that's what I'm going to do right now. So you just pray God will speak to you.

Paradise, this world, God's creation has been under a fiery assault since the creation with the intention by the destroyer to destroy this creation, this paradise. It is more than a garden. As Paul said, even of us as individuals, we're a cultivated field of God, which is the first part of our being, and that is supposed to be purified and fruitful. He says we're tried by fire and the fire tests the works. If it is wood, hay, and stubble, it will burn up and it reveals what it is. If it is gold, silver, or precious stone, the fire actually refines and purifies it and makes it more perfect.

Did you know that when you put silver in the fire it reflects the perfect image looking at it? It is a beautiful reflection. We're all supposed to be reflecting Jesus. People who see him in us. Betty, people sure do see him in you. I'm looking at that smile right now and I'm telling you, you're radiant. The enemy wants to burn up paradise and destroy the radiance of God in us. He begins with the field and the paradise of our own lives. The garden of God is supposed to be a well-watered garden. Too often it is not. Right now, the enemy is trying to burn up the blessings of freedom just like the locusts destroyed the fruitfulness of the nation when they came in. Locusts came through the windows like troops; came like charging horses and burned and destroyed everything. I read that to you the other day in Joel and it is so true.

Once again, the fiery testing is taking place right now. The war against paradise, the will of God, the purpose and beauty of God. On fruitfulness, which is the first thing he said, "be fruitful and multiply," not just with children, but in all areas God said. If you'll come back to me now, this is when they're going through the fiery trial, if you'll put me first, I can restore the fruitful fields. I can restore paradise. And I will pour out the former and latter rains; make up for the years the locusts ate.

God wants to make up for the years that everything has been damaged because we've walked away from God's principled foundational stones and we've got to turn back to it. He is, right now, as a shepherd leading us, seeking us with every fiber of who he is to lead us in green pastures so we can know that anyone trying to take us off into greater fruitfulness, blessing, and opportunity, is the voice of wisdom—that's God.

The enemy tries to get us to depend upon something other than God. Here's a quote from *Living Amazed*: "When you hand something to someone out of a misplaced, misappropriated sense of obligation, guilt or pity, and then don't require any accountability for how those resources are used, you're asking for what we have today, a dependent class of socially, immobile, ineffective, unproductive people who have no hope of ever bettering their own situation. The implication is the enemy makes you depend upon something or someone other than God.

Listen to what I read this morning that jumped out at me. I came out of those kingdom mod Monday night meetings knowing that the world is being manipulated, or motivated or deceived, or enlightened by two voices of two fathers. One is the father of lies: Dissension, division, death, and destruction. The other is the Father of light: Truth, life, blessings, fruitfulness, and anything the Father desires for us, and any great parent would want for their children. Those are the two voices.

If you can't distinguish what is going on, and not just categorize people with an ism, a secular name, or some label you can put on them, everything is a racist right now if you question anything, somebody does outside their race. This is ridiculous! The voice of deception has also revealed itself to be a voice of insanity. It has no sound thinking. It's Romans one, they changed the truth of God into a lie and can't determine night and day, light from darkness.

I'm telling you, the enemy destroys your ability to think. God said in Romans one that if you change his truth into a lie, you'll have a twisted reprobate mind. You can't determine

right or wrong. So you're going to dig a trail and a track and a graveyard, a grave that you will fall in with what you do when you change his truth. You do not think straight. You think insanity and you think suicidally and destructively.

God, please deliver us from this. That's what God wants to do. Here we are today, and to the Christians right now this moment, I want you to understand perfectly with Paul, what Peter has said in his letters, the things he says are kind of complicated and hard to understand. He is complimenting Paul.

One of the great apostles, beginning with First Peter 2:13, "*Submit yourself for the Lord's sake to every human institution.*" We're supposed to do that. But we will not follow them into changing truth into a lie. You can't do that. You may know it. You may be submitting to authority. Here's the thing, if you put authority in place that brings judgment on you, then it is because you put leaders in place who are unprincipled. When you are given the choice of picking leaders then you need to choose them wisely, and responsibly and you have got to do it with a wisdom that comes from above. Do not allow them to destroy you. That means that you have literally chosen the punishment that's coming on you because you didn't do what God told you to do. You didn't choose righteousness. You didn't choose against evil and deception. You didn't choose principles that are unshakeable. Many, many people are being punished right now because good people opted out of participating and see to it that we have good leaders in place.

Listen to what Peter said, "*Submit yourself for the Lord's sake to every human institution whether a king, or as one in authority, or to governors sent by him for the punishment of evildoers.*"

By the way, we have in our state a governor who is questioning evildoers and he is being called a racist. It is going to get worse in every state. When you question what's wrong you'll be called names. But the praise of those who do right, for such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. That's what God says. You will see that's really what God is trying to do. Silence their ignorance.

What you saw many times in those hearings and with the candidates for the Supreme Court, you saw the ignorance of foolish men. And you saw how damaging it would have been. Thank God wisdom overcame it! And we got a miracle! We can have those miracles in every area of leadership. *We need to act and live as freedmen, and not use our freedom as a covering for evil but use it as bondslaves of God.* In other words, your freedom is liberty, not license. *Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.*

Here's God Almighty. Where are the emperors, the kings? Where has his nation made the mistake of wanting a king like other nations? They didn't need one. That was a huge mistake. You honor him because he is here. This is the deal. All authority is used by God. What is it used for God? To punish even if the evildoers are the ones who pick the authority and democracy, in the Middle East, wherever you are?

Our founders said we're not going to have this authority anymore. We're going to have the right kind of authority. Those were principled men. And it is going to be under God. Even Thomas Payne, who later became a critic of Christianity, I think got out of sync when he got back into the wrong fellowship. They called him a deist then. But when he spoke common sense, there was no way he wasn't listening to the voice of wisdom because he said "the Word of God," and he talked about the creator. "Everything stands on that, the Word of God," this is Thomas Payne. He is talking about the law of God. As he got down to the hall of common sense, it is common sense he wrote, that turned the people loose. That pamphlet on common sense had to be one of the most powerful and most-read things ever written. It would have been like a YouTube post going viral to billions. That's the impact it had. It helped change the world.

First Peter 2:18 says, *"Servants be submissive to your masters with all respect."*

This is not an endorsement of slavery. This is the very thing that likely helped more than anything get the slaves free. Their attitude and their prayers and their spirit, even when

they were being abused, they held on to God and let God be the one who set them free. Right now, people are being held captive by the spirit of slavery because they don't realize that the thing that frees us up is not how much we hate people holding us but how much we pray for them.

We've got to pray with all our hearts that we will hate the one who makes the terrible deceptive decision and pray for those who will heal the wound by making principled decisions and putting those principled things in place. We have the ability to be the fruitful garden of God and again, grow grain, grow grapes, grow vines just like Joel said. Betty, I believe this is going to happen.

BETTY: I do too.

JAMES: I believe the stage is set for the greatest awakening in history. We must not allow hatred to prevail. We have to be prayerful. We have to be respectful. It is not only to those who are good but those who may be unreasonable. Because this finds favor for the sake of conscience toward God or man. It bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. That's what Paul did, Peter did, what John did on Patmos.

First Peter 2:20, "For what credit is there if when you sin and you're harshly treated, you endure it with patience. But if when you do what is right and suffer for it, if you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God."

And then it goes on to talk about how we're supposed to live and not just always go astray like sheep. Can you hear the fire and the concern in my bones with what I just shared with you? Do you understand that if we will return to God and return to his principles and seek to put those principles back in place and put people committed to those principles as the leaders, Betty, we can have a whole new day in America?

BETTY: Absolutely! As I listen to you, James, you talked a lot about hopelessness. We look around in our world today and it looks pretty hopeless, doesn't it? Well, let me tell

you. Every day you watch this show, we show you hopelessness without food. We show you hopelessness without water. We show you hopelessness with the trafficking of children. But we *offer* hope. That's what you do when you give to this ministry.

So don't give up and say, look around this world and say it is hopeless, James. Every day that you give to give a drink of water, every day they give to give a bite of food or tell the child that is in trafficking there is a way out because with God there is always a way out. You can be a part of bringing hope to this world that is in dire need of hope right now.

That hope comes through the truth and love of Jesus Christ. There is no greater love that he expressed than giving his only Son that we might have eternal life, and have that hope that is in Christ Jesus. So please, have hope in your heart. God puts it there. He wants you to act upon that hope to demonstrate the hope and truth that he puts in us.

JAMES: Father, I want to thank you for this beautiful girl. For my wife, and mother of our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. What a blessing! Lord, there are so many people watching who want your will to be done just like Betty expressed the desire, and I've tried to share what I shared. Please, dear Jesus, heal our land. Awaken your people and pour out your love through them; in Jesus' name.

BETTY: Amen!

JAMES: Well, Betty talked about giving water or food. Right now we're in our Water for LIFE. We found 350 areas where water is a desperate need and there is subsurface water. We're committed to try to drill a well there and do it but we can't do it without your help.

The wells cost \$4800. Many people tell us they don't have a greater joy than giving a well and try to give one every time we ask. Thank you for that desire. You can give part of a well. Many people give \$1200 and just pray God, give me three more to join me! And we've got a well. But there is a level at which you can give. Please, please understand, \$48 as an example will give ten people water for the rest of their life.

Would you right now, would you listen to our mission director and see if you don't hear God speaking through him concerning a need that you can meet? You really can. You can be the miracle needed and longed for and prayed for by many. Watch closely.

On the mission field

JOHN: I'm here with Joetta in Liberia. We've been listening to her story. She's been married 24 years. She loves God. And yet, she is a mother like so many of you watching understands and has experienced the grief of the loss of a child.

TRANSLATOR: We drink from water that is unsafe, and it has caused the death of my child. My son was only 13 years old when he died. He was very smart and he loved playing sports. One day he woke up and complained about bad stomach pain and that the water he drank was hurting his stomach. He said he couldn't stay home from school that day because he had a test and team practice later on.

Then that afternoon, I saw a group of students walking to my house and they were carrying my son. I said, "What's going on?" My son was very weak from vomiting and diarrhea. And soon after that, he stopped breathing.

I beg you, please, please help us get clean water in our village.

JOHN: I think of a mother who would sit on a porch and wait for her son to come home from school. My heart just aches today for Joetta. We don't know what is going to happen for the rest of the kids here unless we can somehow bring Water for LIFE here. I believe that God has given us the technology and the resources and the compassion to do whatever it takes to bring those rigs to villages like this here in Liberia and all over the world.

It is impossible for these families to fix this on their own. It is impossible. We need your

help. We need your help right now.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: That's precisely what God has given through you to LIFE, to all the outreaches of LIFE. Thank you, God. Thank you for hearing God's heart and the heart cry of the mothers just like the one you just saw.

Would you help us drill the 350 wells that we found the location of where the water was there, subsurface? We just need to drill. We're more than halfway there now but we need a miracle close. Things have gotten tight in our economy and our nation; just a lot of people feeling it, and of course, we feel it.

Father, touch hearts, some that maybe have never given. Maybe say, you know what? I can give a well or part of a well, but I can give. Father, would you raise up people to help us become the answer to the heartache of that woman and turn so many away from the cycle of death by giving life, in Jesus' name?

Would you please go get your bank card? Use it like a check. Call the number on the screen. Go online. Make the best gift you can. Remember \$48 will give ten people water for the rest of their life. \$144 gives 30 people water for the rest of their life. If you can give a well, joyfully do it. If you could give \$1200 and pray for three more to join you, we've got another one. Do that! Pray! But get that bank card and use it the way you should always use it, like a check. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* because that is precisely what you're giving. Please do it right now. You be the miracle that is going to change everything for so many in an area. You will give them a miracle of life. And we will point them to the source of life. We will point them to Jesus. They will have seen him because they've seen his love in you. We have some gifts to send you that will bless you and inspire you. Thank you for giving life.

Video begins

ANNOUNCER: Every day thousands of lives are lost to a waterborne disease, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five. Through Mission: Water for LIFE, now in its 25th year, you could give mothers hope and children a future as we provide clean life-giving water for thousands of children and their families before it is 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 help provide for ten. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With a gift of any amount, we'll send you the "God's Word for My Day" devotional set. These four seasonal devotionals each contain a daily reading, an encouraging verse, and a thought to ponder for each day of the year.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the "His Word is Life" tumbler set. These two 20-ounce stainless steel tumblers each inscribed with a scripture will inspire you throughout the day and help keep your drinks well-insulated while at home or on the go.

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 beautiful bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video**On the mission field**

RANDY: This water is filthy. It is cloudy, it is muddy, it is oily, and it is contaminated

with worms, and other things from animals that come to drink here. It is something that you and I would never ever consider putting into our bodies, much less letting our children drink it.

Why do they do this? Because they have no choice. That's why at Mission: Water for LIFE is so critical. It is why we have to move fast. Because we have talked to many families in many villages around here where they have lost children in recent months, especially young children. They tell me that when a child stops nursing and starts having to drink water, that's the most vulnerable point.

But it shouldn't have to be that way. We should be able to come in here and give them a water well that goes down and gets clean drinking water. Will you be a part of Water for LIFE? Let's stop this as quickly as possible.

Go to the phone, go online right now. Make the best gift you can. And know that when you do, you are reaching them with the love of Jesus Christ in word and in deed.

In the studio

BETTY: Thank you so much for sharing whatever God put on your heart to share. Please continue to. We need your help. These children are counting on you for that fresh clean water. God bless you.

JAMES: Yep. You become that miracle. We're going to send you the beautiful devotional guide, and the beautiful *LIFE* tumblers. And if you give a portion of a well, \$1200 or more, we'll send you the beautiful "Water of Life" bronze. Thank you. Thank you for sharing him—Jesus!