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Week 36: *Christmas Shoes and Smiles*

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

Rabbi Jason Sobel

**In the studio**

**RANDY:** Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Randy Robison. Tammy Trent is with me. I know you know this but whenever we have Rabbi Jason Sobel on the program we get so much wonderful feedback.

**TAMMY:** Do you?

**RANDY:** Oh, my goodness! People love the way he brings the scripture to life.

**TAMMY:** I can see why. He is like on a quest to bring love and hope and healing and wholeness through the Word of God, and the amazing work that Jesus does in our lives.

**RANDY:** He is a Rabbi. So you've got that background because Christianity came out of Judaism. Christ was the fulfillment of the old covenant. He understands a lot of the symbolism and what he calls *Signs and Secrets of the Messiah*. It is just Christ revealing himself. By the way, this book will be available to you today if you're interested. But I want you to just sit and listen and learn and enjoy what we have enjoyed with Rabbi Jason Sobel.

**Begin video**

**JASON:** Absolutely. One of the reasons why we wrote *Signs and Secrets of the Messiah* is that we want people to find hope and healing and wholeness in him. That's part of the

supernatural, miraculous work that Yeshua-Jesus does in our lives.

And the first one I wanted to chat with you about was the miracle of healing. The miracle of healing chapters in *Signs and Secrets* is talking about the man at the pool of Bethesda, John chapter five. Here's a man who had been an invalid, and hadn't been able to walk 38 years, maybe his entire life or certainly from the time he was young. And Jesus comes and encounters this man, and asks him, "Do you want to be made well?"

And when you think about it for a moment it seems like a silly question. Like do you want to be made well? Like who wouldn't want to be made well? But here's the reality. The reality is that oftentimes, when we've come out of a season that's been difficult, where there has been sickness or trauma or pain for a long time, that oftentimes, defines our identity. It becomes so part and parcel of how we feel, how we see ourselves, and how we interact with the world that it is hard to see past that. And that was like the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt right there, free. And they're like, man, we miss the food back in Egypt. Let's dump Moses and go back because the cooking is better. That's like crazy! But there was a slave mentality. There was a victim mentality. They were struggling to move out of the past season. They were stuck.

And this man was stuck. And when Yeshua asked him, "Do you want to be made well?"

He's like, "Well, I don't have anyone to pick me up when the water stirs and put me in, and the angel." That's not what Jesus asked. He didn't ask, why aren't you well? The question is do you want to be made well? And the reality is hope deferred makes the heart sick.

And what's interesting, and a key detail in the story this man could not walk for 38 years. There is a reason why it says 38 years. Think about it for a moment. When you ask most people how long did Israel wander in the wilderness, the answer is usually what? Forty years. Correct but not totally correct. Israel was in the desert for 40 years but they wandered as a result of unbelief for 38 years. Deuteronomy tells us this in the opening

chapters. See, for two years God was helping them build the Tabernacle, he was giving them the Ten Commandments, he was preparing them and purifying them and healing them to go in and take the land. It was in the second year that God said to the children of Israel, "Go up and take the land."

Sends the 12 spies in. They come back with an evil report. Say, "There are giants in the land. The land is good but there is no way we're going to be able to take it." And the people lacked faith. They don't believe. And because they didn't believe that entire generation wanders in the wilderness. That was 38 years.

This man was representative of the children of Israel who came out of Egypt. And because of their unbelief wandered and died in the wilderness.

And Yeshua is saying to this man, do you want to be like the ten spies and that generation who died in the wilderness, 38 years, because of their unbelief? Do you want to remain stuck? So you should have said, but you don't have to. You can be like Joshua and Caleb. You can go in and find healing and possess the promise. And all of us have that choice.

**TAMMY:** Absolutely. And I think you're right. Many of us do get stuck in our pain, in our circumstances. And if we hang on to that for a long, long time it does become your identity. And it's not meant to be your identity. And maybe even asking him, do you want to be healed? What he wants to do is take us from that pain or brokenness and bring wholeness, healing, and fulfillment, so that we can live a fulfilled abundant life.

**JASON:** And it takes a step of faith. You have to be willing to—this man could have stayed on his mat, stayed on the ground. Yeshua reaches down to heal him and he chooses to get up. Okay, he takes that step of—

**RANDY:** So here's the other thing, when he asked him if you want to be healed, he is like, yeah, and here's the formula for it. I just can't get there. And the answer is standing right in front of him if he will just believe and obey.

I think a lot of people, probably some people who are watching right now, are in a place where they're stuck. They feel like they're wandering in the wilderness. Right now Jesus is saying, do you want to be healed? Do you want to be healed in your mind? The solution is in front of you. It is Jesus. All these signs are pointing to him. Believe, obey, and if you want to talk to somebody, there is a telephone number on the screen where you can call and someone will talk with you.

But all you need is Jesus. He's the one that can heal you. He's the one that will take you out of your past, out of your wilderness. Jason, what you bring out in this is just such deep, deep healing truth.

Now I know you have some experiences with literal healing. I think the greater healing is the forgiveness of sins, as we saw on one of the miracles of Christ. But you've seen physical healing.

**JASON:** Absolutely. I think what happens with the invalid, 38 years, is he's lost hope. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Hope is the belief that your future is going to be better than the past. God wants us to know that our future can be better than our past. Oftentimes, we have a hard time believing that. That's the power of these miracles and the power of the testimony both past, like in the Bible, but also that we experience in our lives.

So there was a young girl. I've seen this several times, and she is a cheerleader. She was injured, torn ACL. She is the first person to come forward for prayer.

Usually, when you pray for people, you can't tell if they're healed instantaneously. But this was very clear, she is healed. And I'm like, Lord—I said, Lord, give me the faith to believe for this. Prayed for her and she was like, "Okay." She puts down her crutches. She has two friends holding her up. She is trying to walk. She said, "Okay, let me try walking on my own." She walked on her own. Next thing she was running around the

sanctuary. The Lord completely healed her.

I needed faith to believe God could do it. I literally asked God, to give me faith for this miracle. She needed faith to take literally, the man who was invalid, she literally took a step of faith and said, "Well, let me try and walk with some help. Let me try and walk on my own." And then ran just knowing God had healed her. And she didn't have to worry that she was going to reinjure herself. God honors faith that is expressed in both risk for him and obedience.

And another situation where I had a friend who was homeless in New York. He was sleeping outside and got frostbite from the knees down. Had gangrene. The doctors told him his legs needed to be amputated. I was a new believer. I went to the hospital. I'd just read the book of Acts. Okay, God can heal. Laid hands on him. You know that faith and zeal of a new believer, right? And said, "Silver and gold have I none but I have in the name of Yeshua Jesus, rise, take up your bed and walk." He came to faith. He got healed, and he walked out of the hospital.

That's what God does. There is hope. It doesn't matter, 38 years, how long you've been stuck, how long you've been suffering; you never know if just one more time of faith and risk and obedience could result in God doing something miraculous.

**RANDY:** Here's the hard question because I get everything in scripture where Jesus did forgive sins, he didn't heal the heart, heal the mind, and that's an ongoing process of sanctification. But there was an instance where people wanted to see Jesus do the tricks. They came to see the miracles and he—without a word got in the boat and left.

And when you talk about our faith, you talk about—we know God can heal, we know he doesn't always heal the body. And really, any healing in the body is temporary anyway. How do you align sort of the sovereignty of God when it comes to the physical?

**JASON:** I think one of the beautiful things is that when he dies on the cross, why does he

die on the cross? Well, think about it. How did sin enter the world? The first man and woman stole from the tree, took from the tree. So God puts back on the tree Jesus for you and me to undo the sin that happened in the very beginning. So when he dies, what happens? The kingdom of God begins to break into this reality.

So we straddle two realities: This fallen world and the kingdom reality where there is power and healing and wholeness. So that means because the kingdom has come, healing does happen, miracles do happen. We can have hope but because the kingdom hasn't fully come what it means is miracles don't always happen. But they're possible and available to us right now.

**RANDY:** But the goal is wholeness. It is not necessarily physical healing, it is spiritual wholeness, is it not? Because that's what we see in the—

**JASON:** We talk about in the book there are these four aspects. There is the spiritual, which is the most important. There is emotional or inner. There is relational and there is physical. Physical is one of the four aspects of this reality of the healing transformation and wholeness God wants to bring into our life.

This actually connects to another miracle which is a miracle found in John chapter four, which is Jesus healing the noble man's son in Cana of Galilee. There is a royal official, whose son is sick, comes from Capernaum.

I love taking people to Israel, by the way, doing tours. Love it! Love going to the places where the miracles have actually happened.

Capernaum, comes to Cana and says, "My son is sick. Would you please come down with me and heal him?" Well, here's the interesting thing about that. Jesus heals this man's son at a distance. What's interesting is he says, "My son is sick." Well, the Hebrew word for sick is the word for a man is *choli*. Which interesting, is that the word for sickness in Hebrew, the root of it, or hospital, Hebrew is *Beit Choli*, the house of the sick,

comes from the word Chol, which by the way, equals 38, which is another miracle. But it means, the root word for sickness in Hebrew means to bore out, to make hollow, or to make empty. So sickness is a result when something that is there goes missing. Then a vacuum is created. That vacuum creates a space for sickness and the unhealthiness to be able to enter.

So here's the point. When God creates the world, he creates it to be filled. Before it was filled it was chaos, it was void, it was empty until God said, "Let there be light." When Jesus cast out the demons, he said listen, casting them out, if you don't fill it with my presence, the demons will come back even worse than before. Why? Because space is created to be filled. Either it is filled with God and it is filled with the good things or it's going to be filled with demonic things or addictions and things that are unhealthy.

Now, it is interesting that God spoke to me one time and he said, holy, holy, holy. But it wasn't Isaiah six, it was H-O-L-E-Y, H-O-L-Y, W-H-O-L-E-Y. And what the Lord said to me is that all of us, before we know the Lord, as we come to know the Lord, we have holes in our souls. We have places that are void, we have places where there is a vacuum. We've got things that we've filled in our lives that are not healthy. All of us have those holes. But he wants us to go from being holey, like holes in our socks, he comes in and by his holiness, he brings about wholeness in our lives. And there is a wholeness in our lives that completely changes who we are. And that's what he wants to do in our lives.

**End of video**

**In the studio**

**RANDY:** Tammy, the wholeness, the redemption, that is the beauty of the gospel. He takes the broken and gives us hope and wholeness again. I love it! I love it!

**TAMMY:** I couldn't manage without that, honestly, in my life. I've been broken a number of times and without it, without the redemption, the transformative power of

Jesus in my life, I don't know where I'd be. What a gift Rabbi is to all of us; just the way he brings scripture to life, Randy.

**RANDY:** I love it. By the way, if you're feeling broken, if you feel like I don't have that wholeness that Rabbi Sobel was talking about, and you want to talk to somebody, pick up the phone. We've got people who care for you who are waiting to pray with you, just to encourage you. And really, just show you that that wholeness is God's design for your life. We take our mess, Tammy, I know you know this, we all hit that point where we just take it and we say, God, I've made a mess! Or I'm hurting! Or whatever it is, he invites that. He wants us to bring it to him.

**TAMMY:** It's that surrender. For me, I've learned to surrender in my life. Sometimes I try so hard to carry the load by myself but Randy, when I get to a place of truly surrendering and trusting God with the pieces, it is out of my obedience that blessings begin to flow into my life. So I think to be in that pursuit constantly in your life where God's fulfillment in your life and wholeness and healing and hope, chase after it. God wants that for your life. He longs for that. We'll stand with you in it, we'll believe for it for your life. We will pray with you today.

**RANDY:** You said that word *obedience*. You just have to understand, it is not our obedience that makes God want to make us whole. It is the wholeness that he brings that enables us to live a life of obedience. So you don't have to clean up to get to God. You bring everything to him and he cleans you up. And he will do that right now.

Listen. One of the things he does talk about in scripture is don't forget the poor. Look to those who are in need. Love your neighbor as yourself. These kinds of principles. And that is an outflowing of what God is doing in your life. We have an opportunity to be a blessing to so many people in need as an outflowing of who we are as believers in Christ. I want you to watch this and prayerfully consider or do you want me to be a part of this? I think you will find that this is a great opportunity to share his love and his life with people. Watch this and you'll understand.

By the way, if you join us in this, you can get Jason Sobel's book. Just request Rabbi Sobel's book, *Signs and Secrets of the Messiah* when you support this beautiful outreach.

### **On the mission field**

**ANNOUNCER:** In the heart of Africa lies an oasis of healing. That special place is the CURE Children's Hospital of Uganda. Doctors here are well-known for their specialization in neurosurgery. The children who arrive here are usually born with neuro disabilities like hydrocephalus, which is an excessive accumulation of water on the brain. Left untreated, about 80 percent die before reaching adulthood.

*LIFE Outreach* is partnering with Cure to help save the lives of these precious children. Children like Oloka Favor who is following up with his doctors for the third time.

**ASHTON:** I'm standing here in the CURE operating room with Oloka right behind me. He is four months old. I was speaking with his mom, Maurion, just a few minutes ago. She is 20 years old. Her baby, Oloka is sitting right here and he is about to go into surgery.

### **Open captions**

>> I realized that my baby's head was too large when he was about two months old. I took him to a hospital but they could not help. Then a friend referred me to CURE.

**ANNOUNCER:** The doctors that gathered to operate on Oloka Favor agreed upon a procedure to insert a single shunt to divert the excess water on his brain. The operation was a success.

**DR. TOMSON:** Apart from this being a Christian organization, I'm a born-again Christian, when you deal with complex operations, you realize that it is God that leads you through it. We cannot do this work without him, definitely. That's why we need that

prayer every operation.

**ANNOUNCER:** Success stories like Oloka Favor are made possible by the support of friends of *LIFE Outreach*. Their partnership with the doctors and team members of CURE is helping save lives. The hospital here not only offers highly skilled care but also provides spiritual guidance to Oloka Favor and his mother as well as thousands of other children and their families.

**TIM:** We're sharing the love of God in all that we're doing. We're integrating spiritual ministry. We're praying for the vulnerable. And thousands of thousands of people are coming to know Christ through the impact of this hospital. We're so thankful to James and Betty, *LIFE Outreach International*. We're so, so thankful to partner with like-minded groups like you to bless vulnerable children. It's just remarkable. There are miracles happening every day at our hospitals and it wouldn't be possible without people supporting like you all.

**End of video**

**In the studio**

**RANDY:** I want to say thank you to those of you who have made those miracles possible. For many years, we have been partnering with CURE and saving lives. But Tammy, you know I rejoice when I see stories like that but my heart breaks for those who are still in need.

**TAMMY:** I know, Randy. It is like I watch and I get emotional watching it. I'm happy for these children and I think what an incredible, incredible surgical center is being built right now. We're going to do so much more beyond what we could even imagine because there is such a need. And I think that the heartache sometimes is knowing that there is a need and feeling like there is nothing we can do about it.

But here's the beauty of it. We know the need and we know there is something that we

can do about it today. It is exciting. When I was learning about this surgical center, Randy I get so excited about this ministry; the part of our ministry like outreaching, helping people, leading people to Jesus, bringing them health, bringing them wholeness. Whether it is water, food, pulling them out of a hard situation, and now, being able to help these children that are suffering from neurological conditions, I'm just so honored that God would choose us to be a part of this, to make a way for these families.

**RANDY:** Tammy, we've been all around the world. We've seen some very difficult situations. I couldn't see a child whose feet hurt if I didn't know we wouldn't come alongside and put a new shoe on that foot. I couldn't see that child with a cleft palate unable to nurse correctly or sometimes breathe correctly if I didn't know we didn't have the ability to provide that surgery and heal that. And with these neurological issues that we see there, not just in Uganda where that surgical center will be, but all around the region, all around the world because people are coming in from everywhere. They are overwhelming the doctors there. Instead of saying no more, we're saying let's do more.

Listen. This Christmas is going to be huge for so many people. We're going to do the typical 150,000 pairs of shoes. We're going to offer those to the children that don't have shoes, and they will pass them down for many, many years. And so your gift today of \$36 will put shoes on ten children. A gift of \$72 will provide shoes for 20 children. Many of you could provide shoes for 50 children with a gift of \$180.

Maybe you're at a level where you can say I'm going to provide that cleft palate surgery. We can provide a corrective surgery for an average of \$500. If you're here in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and most of the West, you know that that is an incredible achievement for \$500 to be able to provide that surgery.

But listen, we want to go beyond that this year. Can you provide \$1,000 for that surgical center? Could you do \$5,000? Someone has already given hundreds of thousands of dollars toward the \$1.2 million that that center will cost.

What can you do? Tammy, that is my prayer. Someone will say, Lord, what will you have me do to share your love this Christmas with some people in need? And then do it—whatever God puts on your heart. I know we can be a huge blessing, Tammy.

**TAMMY:** Yeah, don't hesitate. People are waiting on us right now. So that would be my word for you. Don't hesitate. If God has put you in a position where you can bless some people, then I would just say just respond—just respond. Do you know what is so amazing about this, Randy? These surgeries don't cost these families anything—anything! -

**RANDY:** Great point! Yes! Someone needs that Christmas miracle. You can be that miracle. Let's do it today.

**TAMMY:** Yes!

### **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 a gift of \$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**

**In the studio**

**RANDY:** Let's do this. Let's be a blessing. Look. Yes, you will be a blessing to the *Christmas Shoes and Smiles* but that surgical center, you are going to save lives. We always do it in the name of Jesus because that's who we are. And we have a great gift for you if you request it today. Tammy?

**TAMMY:** We're going to send you this book. You're going to want to have it, *Signs and Secrets of the Messiah*. Look, it is an exciting time to be a part of exciting things that are happening in the kingdom of God. Come alongside us. Let's do it together. We appreciate you. We love you. God bless you. We'll see you next time on *Life Today!*