

7/10/25 From: 2/14/14
Week 28: Water for Life
James & Betty Robison
Joseph Prince 2

Studio discussion:

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! We're so delighted that you could join us. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: The Power of Right Believing, Joseph Prince. I feel like God has given us a great joy of being a servant, an encourager, an assist to others. Some of you say, "I can't preach or teach or sing" but the greatest, Jesus said, is serving others -- him. I have a gift to communicate I'm told and it appears that people listen -- maybe they're just that bored.

[Laughter]

But there seems to be some divine enabling. And you might think that has to be the greatest thrill. No! The greatest thrill is seeing him in others and in all of his creation and giving him honor and glory, and assisting others who give him honor and glory. And Joseph Prince is a gift from God to us to show us love and grace from the other side of the world. Welcome Joseph Prince back to *LIFE Today*.

Joseph: Thank you!

James: Glad you're here.

Joseph: I'm glad to be here.

James: The other day when we were talking, I showed a woman that had so many children that

she loved and yet she had lost seven of them because of unclean water. When you see the needs that God sees, what do you think?

Joseph: Words cannot express that heartrending experience that the woman went through. I just -- as I was watching it, I was thinking, how is Jesus looking at all this? I remember... I think we as preachers, ministers and pastors, when we see the multitudes, the suffering multitudes, what do we see? When I look at that lady I remember that verse in the gospels that says when Jesus saw the multitude he was moved with compassion towards them for they were scattered, they were hungry, they were fainting, the Bible says, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Sometimes I think we preachers look at the multitudes and we think in terms of wow, that spells success for my ministry. Or we look at the multitudes that are suffering and we think of, wow, if they are following me, there is so many furs on these sheep -- or so much lamb chops for me.

[Laughter]

But that's not how Jesus saw the people. They were scattered not because they were rebellious, they were fainting not because they were lazy, they were just sheep without a shepherd. And that gave Jesus that posture of compassion when he saw the multitudes. When I saw that lady in Cambodia and how she had lost her seven children, I think when Jesus looks at her he looks at a lost sheep that needs his love. And of course the next verse tells us, Jesus turned around and he saw the multitudes, he told the disciples, "Pray therefore that the lord of the harvest, that he send more laborers."

James: Boy, I just -- I can't even begin to tell you how much I identify with what you're saying. But I really believe with all my heart, to some degree, and it is probably pretty small in relationship but it could be, that we're identifying with his heart -- that is what he felt.

The Old Testament prophets scolded the people because they would use the sheep for their own gain and they didn't even feed the sheep; they actually trampled them. I feel like people are manipulated and jerked around and used and they're not fed.

I see you feeding them, and hopefully, we are. I'm trying to... I've got to be honest, I compare myself to you and I think boy, I don't do near as well as he does. But maybe I do well by encouraging you and praying for you and loving you. That's why we have to quit saying, "Well, I don't guess I'm doing as good as he is." I stand up and preach but I've got to tell you, in this old boot and down inside a sock I've got a couple of hidden feet that nobody sees but I stand on them.

People have got to understand how valuable they are in the body of Christ and how important all of us are. You and I could have the affect we have and you, even the gift we have, because of some little unseen person, maybe like that woman that lost her kids praying for you and God's heard those prayers. Joseph, you are truly a gift. I count it an honor to sit here with you because I feel like I'm sitting with somebody that loves Jesus in the presence of God and you want everybody to know this relationship with the shepherd and the father can be so real.

I want to ask you because I look out and I see our nation like sheep without a father and without a shepherd. I look out and hear Jesus praying that they would come back to the shelter, like he prayed over Jerusalem, like chicks to the wings of the hen. He said that in the face of desolation. I hear God, this is our country but we try to help the countries of the world. I'm praying for America and I'm praying for the church in America.

You're on the other side of the world, the other side of the ocean, what would you want the church in America to hear and maybe what would you find yourself praying for our nation that's been so blessed?

Joseph: Forgive me for saying this but America needs the gospel.

[Applause]

I thank God America has been the number one nation to send missionaries out in years past and I'm a beneficiary of that; Singapore is a beneficiary of that, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, even China; there's a large underground church, a large army of believers all over Asia now, even Korea is a beneficiary of the presence of the Americans there and the missionaries.

But right now we feel like God is sending missionaries to America because we have forgotten what the gospel is all about. We feel that the gospel is another disguise for the law to come forth. We believe that you do good, you get good; you do bad, you get bad. But that's not what grace is all about -- that's not the gospel. The gospel is you can receive good you don't deserve because another received all the bad that you deserved. Now that takes the Holy Spirit to elucidate. It does not take the Holy Spirit to tell people do bad you get bad, do good you get good. Any religion can teach that without the Holy Spirit.

It takes the Holy Spirit to elucidate on the beauties of Jesus, his glories, his excellencies and how God has set him to your account. His righteousness is set to your account. His beauty is set to your account. God sees you in him. And that's the gospel of Jesus Christ; that God made him who knew no sin to become sin for us that we who knew no righteousness might be made the righteousness of God in him. That's the gospel.

James: That's it! Yes!

[Applause]

And not another one of the same kind, not stacking bricks, a temple built with uncut stones fit together by the Holy Spirit into a holy habitation. We're stacking Baptist bricks and Catholic bricks and Pentecostal bricks and he's looking for a holy habitation of his people coming together who are the righteousness of God in Christ. Excuse me, go ahead and preach.

[Applause]

Joseph: And the thing is that America, the beginnings of America, the founding fathers, they were not adverse to using the name Jesus in their writings, in their proclamations. What made them great leaders is that they believed the gospel. They believed the gospel of grace. They believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their righteousness. That's what produced godly character in them. That's what produced the wisdom and intelligence by which they governed this nation.

But now we want the character, we want the integrity, we want the wisdom in our leaders without the gospel. We're preaching right living, right living, right living, but there's very little right living. The intention is right but we've got to preach the gospel and the gospel is not just for when you are saved and then you put it aside.

Now let's go to deeper stuff. Let's go to the law. The law is not deep stuff. In fact, Israel, the Bible says when Israel was an infant in Galatians 4, Israel is put under the law, unto the fullness of time God sent forth his son. The law was given by Moses, that's the ABC's, the kindergarten of Israel, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Now this truth is on the side of grace not the law. So when Jesus spoke to the disciples and there's a premise of this book, he said, not the disciples, the Jews of his day, he said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Now think about it. These Jews that he spoke to, they were steeped in the law. They knew the law frontwards and backwards from the age of five. So what is the truth that will set them free that Jesus came to bring? It is grace! It is the grace of God and he was crucified for it. And the people that heard him gladly were the common folks, the sinners, the social outcasts.

In fact, they could receive from him. They could receive healings, they could receive whatever they need from him. He's holy. He's thrice holy -- holy, holy, holy, the Lord God almighty, and he is God incarnate in human flesh. But his holiness was such that he could move among sinners. He wasn't -- like the Pharisees, having this holier-than-thou attitude. Sometimes the church is coming to that place where we say we love the sinner, we hate the sin, but what they hear is that we hate you, we hate you, we hate you.

James: That's what they hear.

Joseph: God is not mad at the world. God sent his son and God is waiting -- there is judgment coming yes, but we're not there yet. When Jesus quoted Isaiah 61 in his hometown Nazareth, the spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to heal the broken heart, preach the gospel to the poor. He came to the part where it says, "the acceptable year of the Lord."

Now the scriptures in Isaiah 61 says, "in the day of vengeance of our God." But Jesus, right after he says "the acceptable year of the Lord" he closed the book. And there's a comma right after "the acceptable year" which is a day of vengeance. We're not there yet. The day will come, yes, but meanwhile we're in the age of grace. And God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation, not counting the world's trespasses unto them, Second Corinthians 5 and telling them, come home, God is not mad at you. Come home. Come home to love. Come home to the father's house where there is bread enough and to spare. Come home to the father's embrace.

James: In here you talk about something that you pointed out that was very, very, very significant and you're talking about the mind game but you're also talking about God not being angry, say at us. What did you want people to hear? And I know it's in the book.

Joseph: In Isaiah 54, and Isaiah 54 is after Isaiah 53; okay? And Isaiah 53 is all about the Messiah's work. Surely he has born our sicknesses, he was wounded for our transgressions, with his stripes we are healed. All of that is in Isaiah 53.

Now the very next chapter, Isaiah 54 says, God said, "For this is as the waters of Noah unto me. For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth so have I sworn I will never be angry with you nor rebuke you or condemn you."

Now for God to swear is a sworn oath. For God to swear -- wow! God's Word alone is enough. Amen? But for God to swear it means there's a double ironclad guarantee. He will never ever be angry with us again, for the believer. All right? He cannot get any clearer than that. That

God has lifted his hand and said, "This is like the waters of Noah." So now when you see a rainbow you don't think that God would not flood the earth again, you think God will never ever be angry at me again because of what Christ has done.

Now has God gone soft on sin? No, God is still a holy God. It is precisely because God is holy he will never be angry of us. It is precisely because God is holy there is therefore now no condemnation for us who are in Christ. Why? Because 2,000 years ago his holiness unleashed his holy wrath and divine retribution against all our lawlessness, our disobedience, but in the body of Jesus Christ. Jesus exhausted all of God's judgment and anger in his body and cried, "Finished! It is done!"

Now because God has punished our sins in the body of Jesus Christ, today he'll be unjust, it will not be holy for God to punish us for the same sins he punished Christ, if you believe on Christ. Now when we believe this, it won't lead to licentiousness, it will cause you to fall in love with him -- and when you fall in love with him, you fall out of love with sin.

Sometimes we try to state -- we feel like no, no, no. If we preach truth to the people, there is no telling what they'll do. So we have more faith in the flesh of the people than the power of the Holy Spirit in them. That's a ring of truth, to the truth of God, when we start preaching the truth it bears witness to the people.

I believe that many of the things that I'm saying today, the people are saying, yes, this is what confirms and affirms what I have. I'd be very concerned and afraid that the things I'm saying are completely new. Now I've never heard of that before, but nothing bears witness with that. No, for a believer the Holy Spirit is in them. So when they hear the gospel, they say, "This is what I believe about God all the time but I couldn't put words to it, I couldn't put theology to it." But God has sworn he will never be angry of us.

I always say don't interpret obscure passages in the New Testament or in the Bible -- don't interpret them with obscure passages. Interpret them with clear passages. You can't get any clearer than God has sworn he will never be angry at us because of what Christ has done.

People tend to... Yeah! Grace and peace is good, brother. Amen! Keep it up. It's the ABC's, we go for deeper stuff. But when Israel was an infant, they were under the law. When Christ came he brought grace.

You know when children come to my house, I don't tell them -- when children come to my house I tell them, "Don't touch the kitchen knives. Don't play in the kitchen. Don't touch the gas stoves." Now if an adult comes to my house, you come to my house and I say, "Don't touch the kitchen knives, James. Don't play with the stoves" and all that, you would be insulted.

[Laughter]

And we make the law, going to the Jewish laws and all that and going back to Judaism or things like that as substance when that's a shadow: Laws, rules, and regulations are for infants. Love and grace -- and I tell you, you would never understand fully the length, the depth, the breadth, the height, even when we are in heaven, the love of Christ is something we'll still discover!

James: Do y'all love this? Do you appreciate what we're hearing? I do! I thank you, Joseph. We could stay here for days. Listen, get the book, it's in the bookstores. I will simply tell you, Joseph, you said you want to help us and your church already is helping us do the important things like loving the helpless and the overlooked, and I thank you for that.

Joseph: We feel privileged to be able to do this. I feel like we get to do this. I'm so glad that you're giving opportunities for people to participate. Whenever the Lord invites you to give he is setting you up to be used by him, to be privileged, to be a blessing. What a deal! You get to do it!

James: I showed you a brokenhearted woman the other day. I want you to look through the eyes of the father of the shepherd in Jesus. I want you to listen to a grandfather, a father. I want you to hear a father's heart. And then hear the father's response and do what the father would do.

On the mission field

Announcer: Cambodia's history is a rich one. But 1975 brought four of its darkest years imaginable. Cities were emptied and innocent millions murdered as a maniacal dictator tried to reset Cambodia to what he called "Year Zero." Families were torn apart and lives left in ruin. Recovery has not come easy. Samnong remembers. His whole family was killed and everything lost.

Subtitle:

>> I was 20 years old. My father was educated so they took my mother and my father and sister. I was able to escape. I was the only one.

Announcer: Today in this land, the suffering continues. Families are torn apart and lives left in ruin. But no longer from communism or dictatorship -- it's waterborne diseases.

Subtitle:

>> My daughter got diarrhea and then she started having blood. We took her to the hospital but it was too late. In the past, I lost my beloved parents and sister. I never saw them again. Even now, I cannot escape. I still love my little girl.

Announcer: Once again, Samnong risks losing his whole family but this time to waterborne diseases. How can you forget your past when you aren't promised a future?

End of clip

In the studio

James: I need you to help me, Betty.

Betty: You know as I watched that, I think that father who loves his family so much, he's

already lost so much and yet there may still be pain to come. I think the enemy is right there where he lives, James. It's in the water -- the disease.

We've been there, James. We've seen that awful contamination of the water; it will just break your heart. And to know that that's the only source they have, you have to have water to even survive a few days. And knowing that it's going to kill your loved ones but you still have to give it to them. It must be torture to their own souls and their hearts.

But we have an opportunity, James, to do something about it.

I hope you will join us simply by being able to drill the wells. We can be a life source to these families that are so desperately hurting and living in the midst of loss to their families.

James: Lord, I don't think I can really -- I don't know if I know how to talk to the people about hearing that man crying like he was crying holding up that picture. I never knew I would know what it would feel like to lose a child and I do now. And the very thought that I might be able to let somebody keep their child, I just... I just want you to touch the hearts of everybody who are watching and they will just say, "I want to be the hands of Jesus right now, Lord." Let them feel that. "I'm going to give a cup of water." "I'm going to give a well of water." Please, dear Jesus -- please do what I can't do. Please move hearts. Please!

I can't even begin to tell you how many times I feel so inadequate to be a representative of -- an advocate for people who suffer. I've never been able to be satisfied. I used to ask Billy Graham when we'd have thousands of people saved and coming out of the stadiums and I would say, "Billy, how do you feel when you see the ones leave?"

He said, "Well, I can't think about them, I've got to think about the ones coming forward."

I said, "Billy, my heart goes home with the ones that leave. I want to go home with them." I've never been able to see something that I thought we could... you know we could give them something and not want to do it.

So I'm just going to ask you to go to the phone or go online and don't let anything stop you, and I want you to make the largest love gift you can to help us drill wells. The only thing that stops that is we need more laborers who see the fields of harvest and pain and hurt. But we've got areas, where the missionaries said, "Here! We need it." That's one of them. Would you say, "I'll drill a well"?

The average cost is \$4800; would you just do that? Or give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray two people join you or three and we've got a well? Or would you give \$48 and give ten people water? There's a level you can participate at; \$144, basically breaks out to giving 30 people.

We want to send you some incredible teaching, the *Awaken Now* Conference; some of the most anointed people you'll ever hear. I promise you, you're going to be blessed. We want to bless you. But I'm asking you to help us show people the love and life of Jesus and give them the water of life by giving them Water for Life. Would you do it? Go online, LifeToday.org. Dial the number, use your bankcard. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. But please call and say, "I'm going to do it." And don't let a busy phone line, don't let anything keep you from doing it please. Let's be an answer to that man's heartache and that man's heart cry and prayer.

SWFL Cause 2025:

A: 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 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 Prayers for My Physical Health, a Bible-based collection of 52 prayers designed to bring strength, healing, and renewal to every area of your body. Covering a wide range of physical needs, this beautifully crafted book encourages intimate conversations with God.

With a gift of \$100 or more, you may request the "Armor of God" tumbler set. These two 20-ounce stainless steel tumblers, each inscribed with Ephesians 6:11 are a practical and meaningful way to carry a reminder of God's strength and protection throughout your day.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people, or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Lion of Judah."

Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

Field appeal:

JOHN: As I kneel next to this pond, and recognize as I've talked with the village leaders, that this is their water source, it's desperate! It really is desperate. We need your help. So I'm asking you to help us make a difference in this life. As I pour out this water, I want you to see how filthy it is. But this is not just a staged pond somewhere that we're -- this is what people are drinking. They've asked us today, they've asked me today, when can we hear whether you'll be able to put a water well in for us? I'm asking you right now to join us. Go right now. Get on the phone. Get on the internet. Make the very best gift that you can possibly make. Help us give life through *Water for Life*.

Studio good-bye:

James: Today, if you help us give water, and I think you'd be pleased with this, we want to send them as a thank you, we want to send your book, *The Power of Right Believing*. Would you join me again saying thank you so much to Joseph?

Joseph, I love you, buddy. We're family! We're family! I'm so honored that you came. So honored!

Joseph: Thanks for having me. It's a privilege to be here.

James: Thank all of you.