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Week 29: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Dr. David Jeremiah #2

Studio discussion:

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James. We are so delighted to have Dr. David Jeremiah back with us.

James: We really are. I watch you over here on the monitor because I think you're just as cute as you can be! Do you know that? I mean, I think, I say, God in heaven, how much wisdom you gave a 15-year-old boy to notice her -- 15 years old! I saw this girl and got to know her and just saw the glory and the grace and the sweetest girl. I went home after the first date with her, and I grew up without a home, without a family and I went back to the pastor's house that let me use his car to take a girl in his church out because I had had to leave my home. I fell down on my knees and I started crying. I said, "God, I met a pure girl -- really pure! And I want to thank you."

Don't y'all think God led me in a good way? Don't you agree he did? I know you're probably thinking how in the world did she go ahead and go for you, buddy? It's a miracle of God!

Dr. Jeremiah, we've been blessed with wonderful, wonderful homes and families. And together, we love God's family very much, both of us. I don't think we're just trying to get God's arms around his family, I think we're encouraging God's family to put their arms around a hurting world.

Dr. Jeremiah: We are God's arms.

James: We are! I think that's one reason you wrote this book. Because there is a lot of people that are hurting who may not have even considered the God of heaven and earth. And many people who have considered it they wonder and some who go to church a lot, wonder can I really know I'm even going to go there? Because we're going to live somewhere forever where there

is no more of these things that really disgust us if we have any sensitivity to decency about us. We don't like the pain, the disease, the horrors of what happens here when there is hatred and malice and anger and rage and out-of-control humanity and wickedness. You think, is there a place? Or do we just die and we're gone? And we're a living soul so people are really wondering. So the question is *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*, first of all, how can we even be assured there is a heaven?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, the assurance of it comes from the revelation that we have in the Word of God. God has promised us that. I believe that there's even beyond that evidence that comes from the way that we have been created. I believe that God creates us with a hunger for heaven that cannot be satisfied with anything else. People often say, "I know there is something missing. I wish I knew what it was." Then they find Jesus and they discover that the emptiness of their heart has been filled with the Lord Jesus Christ.

So not only do we have his revelation in the scripture, we have the actual creation of humanity with this void that cannot be filled anyplace else except in the ultimate arms of the Lord in heaven.

I have no question about the fact that there is heaven. Even skeptics, even secular people who try to reason heaven out of their routine, when they are serious they know that death is not the end, that there is something beyond that. Not just for those who know Jesus. There is an eternal life that is... Everybody is going to be alive somewhere forever. Best get that straightened out while you can.

James: You know if people are miserable or depressed or hurt or whatever, it is obvious they are trying to escape something here that is anything but heaven and they get high, addicted on alcohol or drugs or get high on something they smoke and opioids and other let's say drugs. They're trying to get away from something which in itself implies a desire for something greater and better and beyond all of this. So there is that inborn desire.

The question is, how can a person know that they're going to be in heaven? One of the

questions in the book that you touch on is how do you get your name in the Lamb's Book of Life? Which the people in the Lamb's Book of Life, they go to heaven. So how do you get your name in there?

Dr. Jeremiah: Let me just give you a little background in the Lamb's Book of Life. In the Roman and Greek cities, during which the Bible was written at that time, they had a registry for the people that lived in their city. If you lived in this city, your name would be on the registry. If you did something that was immoral or perhaps you killed somebody or you did something terribly wrong, they would take your name off of the blotter and you would no longer be on their list.

The scripture teaches us that when we are born, whoever we are, our names are all in the book of life. If we get to the place where we die and we haven't accepted Jesus Christ as our personal savior, our name is removed from that list. But if we're Christians, if we've trusted Jesus Christ as our personal savior we cannot be blotted out of that list. The Bible says, "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish."

James: "No one can pluck them out of my hand."

Dr. Jeremiah: That's right! The Bible teaches us that the book of life is simply like the registry of the city. Everybody's name is there but if you don't trust Jesus Christ that's the Cardinal sin, that's unbelief, that's the one sin that keeps you out of heaven -- unbelief! And your name is blotted from the list. So make sure you don't go through your whole life and not receive Jesus Christ because if you do you won't be in heaven.

James: And hell was not created for us, it was created for the devil and his angels. And if you look at the word *angel*, too, it is a messenger. So the people here that reject the truth that sets us free, he goes to prepare a place for us, comes back to get us. He is the way to the Father. No one comes there and the Father's in heaven in this place, the way, the truth, and the life there. So this is the way to heaven. This is the way to have your name there and never ripped out. So the fact is that the hell that's been prepared, was prepared for people who did not receive that who in

essence joined the messengers of the devil to carry Satan's message against Jesus, against receiving the salvation he freely offers and they actually become unwittingly, perhaps, a messenger of deception and destruction. And they're contributing to this rapid race into the pit of destruction. Whereas, when we come to Christ we find life. Is this decent preaching right here, sir?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, I'm not your homiletics professor but the fact is probably more than ever before in my whole life it seems like people are hell bent on taking people to hell.

James: Exactly! They become the messenger.

Dr. Jeremiah: The Bible says they say good is evil and evil is good, and they turn everything upside down. And it is almost maddening to watch it. It's never been like this before.

On the other hand, the gospel is still being preached and people are still finding Christ and they're discovering that not only when they become a Christian do they get this life, but they get the life to come as well.

James: One of the interesting questions that people ask and you pointed this out in the book is, well, when we die, do we just go and just rest until the rapture comes? We just... like this for however long until he comes? This didn't really look like a lot of fun. Boy, I don't look like I'm just jolly over here.

Dr. Jeremiah: James, you probably do need to get some more sleep.

[Laughter]

But let me answer this question.

Here's the deal. I had a little girl ask me this one day after church. She said, "You say that when we die we go to heaven. And then somebody dies and we bring them to the church and put

them in a box and then we put them in the ground. Which is it?"

I said, "Well, it's both." Here's what the Bible teaches. When you die your soul and spirit go to be with God. Your body goes in the grave. One day the Bible says Jesus Christ is coming back and when he comes back the dead in Christ, those whose bodies have gone in the grave shall rise first. And the Bible says when they rise from the grave they're going to be reconnected with their soul and spirit that's been with God; they'll be in their new body.

James: The corruptible becomes incorruptible. I'm going to help you with your teaching here.

[Laughter]

Dr. Jeremiah: "So shall we always be with the Lord." Amen. The answer to it is, the Bible says the body goes in the grave, the soul and spirit go to be with God. So it is true when somebody dies and you bring their body to church, they're not there. Just their body is there; just the house they lived in. But it is still...

In our culture in California, we don't even have those kind of services. Most of the time they have a service at the cemetery then they come back to the church and they have a time of rejoicing over the life of the person who has gone to be with the Lord. There's a lot of confusion about that. I think the Bible is pretty clear about it.

James: What do you do in heaven? That's the question that people ask. Follow it up with that which you referenced yesterday about it not being boring. So do you have any idea what we're doing? You've already discouraged me about maybe I can't fish. You also, we ask you a question about whether or not there will be any pets in heaven. You had this unbelievable answer about that.

Dr. Jeremiah: Let me tell everybody something.

James: Settle down out here!

Dr. Jeremiah: We did a little experiment at Turning Point. We did some emails when we were teaching this to see what would get the most interest from people. You know what question got the most interest by a whole lot? It was the question: Are there pets in heaven? Everybody wanted to know.

James: That's an important question, sir!

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, a little girl gave me the best answer I've ever heard. This is what she said. She said, "I don't know why everybody asks that question because when Jesus comes back at the end of time he's riding on a white horse." So there you go.

James: And that horse came out of heaven!

[Applause]

Dr. Jeremiah: A lot of the questions people want to know answers to I don't have any revelation from the scripture. But what we're going to do in heaven, James, is what we've always enjoyed doing here, unfettered by all the things that have held us back from doing it the way we wanted to do it. We're going to sing like we've never sung before. We're going to worship like we've never worshipped before. We're going to serve like we've never served before. We will not have any restraints whatsoever.

When we go to work for God there won't be anything standing in our way. There won't be anything trying to hold us back. The curse of Genesis will be gone. And the work that we do will be so full of joy it will be like...

Somebody once told me if you get to do what you love 75% of the time you haven't worked a day in your life. That's kind of the way I feel about what I do. I love what I do and it doesn't seem like work for me. But in heaven, work won't have the connotation it has here. It will be the most joyous thing you can ever imagine. You'll be free to explore things you never dreamed of

and carry them out to their fullest extension. Heaven will be that kind of a place. It will not be a place where you won't know what to do.

Betty: I was sitting here thinking about being heavenly-minded. I've heard that said so many times. And to me at first I thought, well, does that mean that people are heavenly-minded that want to escape and forget about the world and get out of here? Well, I've come to look at it in a whole different way in that being heavenly-minded is being in this world but not of this world. And also, heavenly-minded is God's love, God's grace, God's forgiveness, God's trust in him and the things of God is being heavenly -- thinking heavenly-minded.

Dr. Jeremiah: Betty, I have a little thing I do that everybody teases me about in my family. When we travel out of the country, I refuse to reset my watch. I want to always know exactly what time it is in San Diego. I don't care what time it is in other places. I can calculate that. I think that's what God wants us to do. He wants us to set our watch on heaven's time and never let the earth and what's going on down here keep us from understanding that heaven is really the reality. We're not going from a land that's living to a place that's dying. We're going from a place that's dying to a place that's living. And heaven is where our mind ought to be.

James: Isn't there a line there we've got to be careful about that we don't become so earthly-minded that we're of no heavenly use, but could you become so there-minded that we're not making the kingdom impact?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, if you really understand the joy of heaven, how you get there, why God wants you to... The scriptures are very replete in the New Testament about the fact that Jesus wants us with him. He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you I'm going to come again and receive you to myself that where I am there you may be also."

Somebody once told me Jesus loves you so much that if he had a refrigerator your picture would be on the outside of it.

[Laughter]

And that means he wants you to be with him. Now I'm going to heaven. I'm excited about going to heaven. But what God's put on my heart is I want to take as many people with me as I can. So I have devoted my life to teaching and broadcasting and writing and trying my best to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with as many people. I want to get to heaven and have many people that are there because God allowed me to be an influence for him while I'm on my way to heaven. That's what my goal and purpose is.

James: You know, you and I have joined together in a goal to really make a let's say reveal heaven on earth by the love of God and concern. Do you believe that we, as Christians, have a responsibility not to turn any field like our own fertile field, Paul said our life is a cultivated field, it's supposed to bear and bring forth fruit. He's given us oversight over all that God has created. We're overseers and we're supposed to be heavenly-minded, making a kingdom impact. Do you believe that it is important for Christians to recognize as stewards and as representatives of heaven and the kingdom of heaven and the king of heaven that we want to give wise oversight to what God left us to oversee? And many Christians seem to have left that up to the deceiver as though it didn't matter; who runs the schools, ruins the schools, runs the country? How important is it for Christians?

Because you and I started praying together that the weight of God's glory, kingdom and truth would impact planet earth and I don't think we're praying amiss there. So what would you say to the church about our responsibility right there?

Dr. Jeremiah: Our goal is to bring the influence of Jesus Christ and the impact of heaven right into the world in which we live today. We are stewards of that influence and we are to do it with all of our hearts. Obviously, we've taken some steps in that direction that have been misunderstood and sometimes criticized by others. But if I'm going to be criticized I'd rather be criticized for doing something than for not doing anything.

Like one ol' boy said, "I like the way I'm doing it better than the way you're not doing it." What

that means is, we have to stand up and be counted for who we are. If we're Christians, we don't have to be ashamed of that. We can stand up and be counted. We need to do that with all of our hearts with grace and speak the truth in love and live out what we believe so that it can make a difference in our world. If we don't do that we're being unfaithful stewards in my estimation.

James: Do you appreciate this wonderful man of God?

Betty: Amen!

James: Jesus left us here to be witnesses for him. One of the main ways we witness is by sharing his love. Every person that I know that has become close to me and Betty in any kind of communication through the mail, through email, through personal interaction tells us they've never experienced any greater joy than considering the least of these. Those that are too often overlooked, giving them food or water and showing them Jesus. And to think, Dr. Jeremiah we've saved millions and millions of lives by giving them food and clean water but leading them to Christ. The missionaries have pointed out to us in the areas where we have saved maybe 10-15 million lives, more people than that, because of the influence, have trusted Christ as their Savior because they saw it.

So what we're doing right now, giving people Water for LIFE is given because of the water of life and the transforming effect. We're asking you right now to help us drill water wells because of God's love flowing through you. Betty, you're going to be especially moved when you hear Sheila tell what a mother shared with her. And we are the miracle answer to what you see. You! Listen to me. You're the miracle! I promise you. Watch.

Transition roll-in:

Sheila: In the driest regions of Africa, there is often only one place to find water, deep underground. So deep in fact that it takes two people a full week of digging to reach it. Well, despite their efforts these hand-dug wells aren't deep enough and the water remains unclean causing widespread illness from waterborne diseases. Recently, we learned of another danger we

did not expect.

Open Captions:

>> My daughter went to the hole to get water. She was gone too long, and we began to worry. I went to check on her but only found her bucket. When I looked further down into the hole, I saw my daughter. She had fallen in and drowned.

Sheila: It's an unimaginable tragedy. A mother's worst nightmare! And yet the reality surrounding Merci and her family, the utter lack of safe water sources demands that they live with the risk.

Open Captions:

>> I feel so much pain when I think about what happened to her. It's crippling. And I have so much fear for my other children. If I send them to draw water, will the same thing happen to them?

Sheila: I don't want one more mother to go through what Merci has gone through. But this is something you and I can do something about. This did not need to happen. And that's why we're here. She's not asking for a lot. She's just looking for a place to send her children to actually get for the first time in their lives clean water.

Studio appeal:

James: Lord Jesus, I just want to ask you to please become the miracle that will stop the tragedy that we just witnessed trying to get water from an unclean source, drowning in the very source that gave them hope for life. Please help our viewers to be the miracle answer and to rejoice doing it; in Jesus' name.

Sheila Walsh is such an incredible blessing. Betty and I marched into hell for a heavenly cause over there in those areas for more than 20 years. It is one of the greatest joys we had when we saw the pain and the heartache and knew what love could do because viewers of *LIFE Today* all

over the world decided not to love in word only but in deed. We didn't have any idea if you would become the answer to their heart cry and their prayer.

Those people dug a borehole that was not safe and not clean and contaminated leading many to a slow death. Here's a child that fell in that source of water and drowned. Listen to me, when I say "we" you've got to understand, it's not like me and Betty, it is we, the people together, the family of God joining.

We drill a well, you paid for the drilling rigs; a tremendous sacrifice to pay, nearly a half million dollars for many of them, \$300,000 and some odd for the least expensive. You paid for that with love. We can drill the well. We seal it; it's safe. We give them a manual pump that they can work -- a child can work it! And they get the water out and it's safe and it's clean.

Even at schools where we know children need water, we put a merry-go-round in many of them. They play on that and it pumps water up into a holding tank. Very creative these missionaries are -- and it's your love that makes it possible.

So we're asking you right now to join us and help us drill wells, \$4800 is the average cost. That in itself is a miracle. Some of you can do that and many tell us, "It is the greatest joy of the year for us!" You can give part of a well. You can give \$2400 and pray somebody joins or \$1200 and pray three will.

But Betty, most of the people give like \$48 and that gives ten people water the rest of their life. You can triple that and give 30 people water for the rest of their life. There is a level at which everybody can participate. Betty and I are going to be sitting here praying right now that you'll be moved by God to go online or dial that number and take your bankcard and make the gift God puts on your heart.

We're going to send you Dr. Jeremiah's book on heaven, revealing the mysteries of it. You're going to be blessed mightily by it. A great source of comfort to you and others you love. But you're going to be giving life and not only life because of the water they get but they're going to

hear about the water of life and they too can experience the joys of life in the presence of God. Experience his love now, be with him forever.

Would you please go get that card? Go online or make that call? Thank you so much for doing it.

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!

Studio good-bye:

James: Well, you've given the greatest gift, you've given life. Thank you so much. We want to send you this incredible book. Betty and I say Dr. Jeremiah is one of our favorite people to listen to. We're not exaggerating. He is a gift from God, what he writes! Boy, you talk about love dedicated to bless you, here it is. We'll send it to you just to say thank you for giving life to someone else and pointing them to the way to experience heaven forever.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to Dr. Jeremiah. What a blessing you are! It is a joy to have you here with us.

Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*. Tell your friends to watch. Tell them Dr. Jeremiah is here.