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Week 29: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Dr. David Jeremiah #3

Studio discussion:

James: Hey! Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Have you enjoyed these days with Dr. David Jeremiah? Have you enjoyed it big time? Well, I hope you have. We're really starting the year getting you ready for forever.

Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven. Doc, we're really glad to have you here. Thank you for all you're doing. Thank all of your staff. Thank all of the people who are setting the situation for you to communicate the greatest truth the world will ever hear. I think you're doing it as masterfully as anybody I've ever seen.

I've been on television more than 50 years, I don't know how long you've been on, but I've been on a long time. When I was on it was just -- when I first went on it was Oral Roberts, Rex Humbard and me. I didn't have as much competition. You weren't there. I probably would have been out of business if you'd been there. But the deal is, where you were right now, I see it as a powerful point of influence as I've ever seen. The love and the poise and the confidence in the Word and the way you present it with love and clarity, it's really breathtaking.

Betty: It really is. I hardly ever miss hearing you on Sundays. I'll say, "James..."

James: We go to church on Saturday. We worship on the Sabbath. You get a little bit more spiritual...

Dr. Jeremiah: We have one of those.

[Laughter]

Betty: So I'm very regular at listening to you and I always come away blessed because you do speak God's truth in love and confidence and in the wisdom that God's put in your heart. So thank you.

Dr. Jeremiah: It's my joy. It's what I love to do.

James: You told me that one of the questions people ask about is what about the children in heaven? And probably people want to know too, if they lose a child, you know, what will they look like in heaven? By the way, let's answer that question, will we know each other in heaven?

Dr. Jeremiah: Absolutely, we'll know each other. What would heaven be if we didn't know each other? When Jesus met the people on the Mount of Transfiguration they were known. When Jesus came out of the grave in his resurrection body Mary was a little bit stunned, but she recognized him by his voice. When the two on the road to Emmaus walked with him after the resurrection, they recognized him by the breaking of the bread. They saw the scars in his hands.

We will know each other because we will have memory and what would life be without that? We wouldn't -- it wouldn't make any sense. We are going to know even as we are known says the scripture. We'll know each other better than we have ever known each other on this earth.

James: People want to know, will I look a little bit better maybe?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, we'll get to that.

[Laughter]

James: Okay, what about children?

Dr. Jeremiah: James, one of the first things that ever happened to me as a pastor was, I was a young associate in Haddon Heights, New Jersey, and my pastor went away for two or three days

and left me in charge. When he was gone, something happened that I didn't know what happened to me, and I didn't know how to deal with it. A young couple in our church, I remember their name, they experienced a crib death for their baby. They called me and asked me to come. I don't think there is anything more overwhelming than that. You've lost a child, but losing a child of any age is tough, but that little baby. Then I had the funeral, and I can't imagine how bad that must have been. I didn't know what I was doing. I did the best I could before the Lord. But I remember after -- we had long conversations about where my child is? So I did some homework on that.

I think I came to the answer the scripture gives us, and it's found in the Old Testament in a story about David. Most of you know the story of David and Bathsheba and that there was a child born to them and that that child died because it was punishment for their sin; and Nathan communicated that to David.

The Bible says when the child was sick and looked like it was going to die, David dressed in sackcloth and ashes, and he mourned, and he wept, and he wouldn't eat. Then seven days later the child died, and David got up from the ground, he anointed himself and put on his clothes, and nobody...

They said, "Well, while the child was dying and still had hope, you dressed as if the mourning was here. And now the child is dead, and you stand up and you come..."

And here was his answer. He said, "While the child lived, I mourned if perhaps God would change his mind and let him continue to live. But now that the child is dead, I cannot bring him back to me, but I shall go to the child." And in that little phrase is the hope for every young couple who loses a child. David said that that baby that was born and died someday he would see that child again.

And I've said this to people who have gone through abortions. It is such a sad thing. Abortion is terrible for the loss of the child, but most people don't realize the pain that it brings to the mother and the father when they finally realize what they've done, and many of them have lifelong crises

over that. What I've said to parents, one day if I understand this correctly, one day because that child is a person, and the child is a person at conception, it is not a person when it is born, it's a person at conception, when that child goes to heaven as a person, one day moms you may hold that child in your arms again. And it's such an overwhelming thought to so many mothers who wish they could go back and rewrite their history.

The Bible tells us that we have a gracious God, and the reason people don't go to heaven is because they don't believe, and they reject Christ. And when a child is little, they have no possibility of doing that. So they're saved under the blood of Jesus Christ. And I believe David's statement in the Old Testament is an exclamation point against that?

James: I agree. Don't you appreciate what you just heard? I agree 100 percent.

[Applause]

I was a real prospect for abortion because my mother was raped at 40 as a hospice nurse. Most of you have heard it; caring for an elderly man, the alcoholic son forced himself on her, and she conceived her first child. And she went to have an abortion, and the doctor refused to do it. I got really scolded by somebody who heard my story, and that my mother went home and gave birth to the baby, and she was cursing me for thinking that that was good, that she went home and didn't kill the baby. And the doctor was crazy, and they made this woman who was raped have this baby.

Let's just listen to the whole story. Let's go ahead and listen to it because I really believe this is key. The preciousness and potential of every life, every little baby from the moment they're conceived, God knows exactly what they're like. He knows them. That baby has potential.

I believe that doctor, why would he look at that mother, 40 years old, no husband, no steady job, who had been forced and not do it? She said, "Oh, that's just terrible!" Maybe he thought possibility, potential, promise. You don't know what he thought. But let me tell you what the woman did. The woman who has been raped. She said she went home to the place where she was

working, and they had a porch. She sat on the porch and she bowed her head and she prayed. And this woman in a mess said God said, "Have this baby. This baby will bring joy to the world."

Who would have ever thought the two of us could bring so much joy to the world by pointing them to the joy of the Lord, Jesus? So you see, if people would pray about the potential and the promise in the womb, there would be a whole lot more decisions made like that. And that's what I'm really asking people to do.

So you have a message of hope and healing every time you stand up and speak. You know that people ask about what happens to our bodies in heaven. What goes on there, as though that matters, and it does because it matters to people. So if it matters to people, then you've been trying to find the answer for people believing God's given us the answer. What's your answer to that?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, you know the Bible teaches us that when we trust Jesus Christ as our personal savior, one day the Lord Jesus is going to come back and receive us to himself in the rapture. And the Bible teaches that when the rapture comes, those who have died before Jesus comes back will be raised first, and in their resurrection, they will have a new resurrection body, like unto the body of the Lord Jesus Christ when he came out of the grave. And those of us who are alive and still are on this earth, Philippians tells us our lowly bodies are going to be changed into the likeness of the body of Jesus Christ. So I have a chapter in this book called "The Extreme Makeover."

[Laughter]

I read someplace about how many billions of dollars are spent every year on cosmetics and surgery and everything, trying to make our bodies look better. And of course, as you get older, I used to have -- I had a friend who was my pastor in Fort Wayne or in San Diego, was Tim LaHaye. He used to say to women who were criticized for wearing makeup, he would say, "If the barn needs painting, paint the barn!"

[Laughter]

James: I remember him saying it.

Dr. Jeremiah: And what we all know is we hunger for that. When we get to heaven, we are going to have bodies that are supernatural bodies just like the Lord Jesus Christ. On the way up, we're going to be changed and we're going to be made like Christ, and that is a wonderful hope.

If you're going through stuff right now, some people, my daughter, my oldest daughter, has M.S. There is no really known cure for that right now. But one day, she is going to be made whole, and that's a great hope that we have.

James: When we hear that there's a new heaven and a new earth -- correct me, I'm ready for correction -- I think the Lord liked the earth he made. I think the enemy has made a mess on this earth he made, and we've allowed some of it to take place that we didn't need to. We don't need the enemy to ruin our marriages, our families, and ruin our subdivisions; we can be good overseers, and we should do that. But you know, the point is, is this new heaven and new earth, what do you see there?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, I think the best term to use for that is the Lord's going to renovate the earth. Donna and I have a little place on Coronado Island, and this last year we totally gutted it and renovated it. I remember walking over there one day, James and I walking in, and there's wires hanging from the ceiling, and the windows were gone. It's the same place, it's not any different, but we renovated that place and it's totally new. One day, Almighty God is going to renovate this earth.

Peter tells us he is going to burn up everything about the earth that is unrighteous and ungodly, and he is going to recreate it. The earth is actually the place where the city of God is going to come and dwell. So some people think that God's going to burn the earth up and totally destroy it and it will be gone. That's not true. He's not going to destroy it, he's going to renovate it. And

it's going to be quite a renovation, I want you to know.

James: The restoration of all things, and it will be beautiful. A lot of times, when you see restoration in process, it looks more like destruction, but it is actually things that need to be removed that are being removed so the more beautiful can be put in. Fabulous!

The thing about it is, the Bible talks about spending eternity worshipping God, and at least people ask about that. And then another question that's asked, have people been given a glimpse of heaven? We've actually had people here who tell us they have seen something in heaven. Some semblance of consistency sometimes makes you wonder, can you glimpse it? Sometimes, you think they've actually seen something that references something you've read about in the Bible. What do you think about people seeing heaven? Do you -- I know you're kind of shaking your head, is that wondering or what?

Dr. Jeremiah: Well, James, it's a really hard question because people tell you what they've seen. There's no biblical basis for people seeing heaven before they go to heaven; that doesn't mean that it can't happen, but I've never had that happen. I don't have any way to know whether it is true or not. I've read the books. A couple of them have sold 30 million copies and they're very popular and everybody wants to hear the story. I think if we're smart, we can read it and decide for ourselves.

But I like to focus on what I know. I know that one day I'm going to heaven and I know the Bible describes it in such glowing terms that I'd rather take what the Bible says is true, that we know is true, than perhaps rest upon -- let me ask you it this way. If you have a choice between having God tell you what heaven is like and somebody who says they've been there, whose opinion are you going to choose? I'm going to choose God's opinion. I'm going to listen to God and say, okay, this is what I'm looking forward to. Anything other than that, anything that comes short of that, we're selling ourselves short. Let's take what God tells us about it.

James: I don't have a problem, though, with somebody saying they saw something that gave them a sense of peace, because God is a God of peace. Would you agree with that? We don't

need to shatter somebody's hopes.

Dr. Jeremiah: If people tell me that they -- I mean you have some very famous people like Charles Wesley and Charles Spurgeon and others who said they heard the voice of God and on their way up they... I think it was Moody who said, "This is not something to be afraid of. This is life! This is wonderful!" I believe that can happen. And end of life experiences can often be like that.

I just, I don't know what to say about the others. I'm just trying to be as honest as I can be. I don't know how to say whether they're true or not. I know that the people who say that happened to them believe it's true, so I'll let it go at that.

James: One of our best friends passed away in his, almost mid-90s and they were rolling an iPhone tape, and he hadn't been able to speak quite as coherently for a while, but all of a sudden, he just looked up and he said, "Oh! Don't you see them?" And the interesting thing was, and it was just a beauty there, and it really moved his wife and her daughters.

But I sat with Johnny Cash, before we had this nice studio, he sat in a very makeshift studio; Johnny and I were very good friends. And I actually had him tell it to me, but I had him tell it with his mom, and it was in the movie, most of *The Man in Black* was not really typical of the way Johnny really was, sadly.

But anyway, at the house, Mama Cash said, when Johnny's brother passed away, cut with a saw through his sternum at shop at school, and he was going to be a preacher. He was unable to drink water or anything, and they just watched him there in the room. And all of a sudden, he looked up in the corner of the room, and Johnny, boy, this just moved Johnny.

Johnny just started crying the first time he told me this because he told me when we were alone, he didn't cry as much when he told me on TV. But he said, "My brother looked up in the corner and said, 'Mama, do you see them? Do you see them, Mama?'" And they looked in the corner, and Johnny looked. He said, "Don't you see them?" He said, "Angels, mama! It's the angels."

And that's where he left. I think that to me sounds like...

Dr. Jeremiah: That actually is based on a very solid basis. When Lazarus and the rich man died, the Bible says that the angels came and carried Lazarus to the bosom of Abraham. And then it just says, "The rich man died." That's what it says. He was rich in this life and poor in the life to come. Lazarus was poor in this life, but he was rich in the life to come. And the angels... I've shared that with many people at funerals, that when your parents died, did you know that the angels came and conveyed them to heaven? And they took him up through the first heaven and the second heaven, and now they're with God. That's how much...

James: Both glimpses were very biblical that I just shared, weren't they? That's what you're saying.

Dr. Jeremiah: That's what I'm saying. The Bible tells us that when a believer dies the angels come to carry them to heaven, carry their soul and spirit to heaven.

James: You know what? That's what we're doing here on *LIFE Today* and with you. We're trying to be angelic messengers of God to get people to heaven. The only way to heaven is through Jesus. No one comes to the Father but by Jesus. It is not religion. It is not a church membership. It is a relationship with Jesus who redeems us and connects us forever with the Father.

Do you appreciate the wonderful gift from God, Dr. Jeremiah? Doc, thank you for sharing this time with us. I pray every Christian listening to us will become the witness Jesus left us here to be until he comes.

Dr. Jeremiah: Our joy is to go to heaven and take as many people with us as we can. Amen!

James: And I mean make a heavenly impact right here on earth to the glory of God.

I want to show you how you can make one of the most profound impacts by sharing life. Listen.

When you become the perfect miracle answer to someone's need and someone's heart cry, this is it. We can actually give people Water for LIFE where they never had clean water because of the water of life. I'm going to promise you this: when we drill a water well where there's never been any clean water and we tell them it's because of the Water of Life, they're going to meet the Water of Life with gratitude for the water for life that you've given them in love.

Watch very closely because God is going to move your heart to be somebody's miracle.

Transition roll-in:

Sheila: I've just visited the graveside of a nine-month-old baby boy. I'm standing right beside his killer. It was water from this exact well that this darling boy is now getting his water from. It is a hand-dug well. It's not very deep, and the water is filthy. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in there. Children get malaria; they get diarrhea.

This little one, this nine-month old boy died with diarrhea. The mom took him to the clinic to see if he could get some medicine. They gave him medicine but by that point he was so sick he couldn't even take the medicine. He vomited it up again and died in her arms.

It's unthinkable! I would never ever let a child of mine drink this, but they have no choice! James, Betty, this is your heart. It's been your heart for years. The need is urgent. I've never felt such a sense of despair. I've visited four children's graves and I've been here three days.

And I've asked mothers, "What do you do when you lose a child?"

And every single one of them said, "We are just simply praying. We pray to God that he will send help."

Well, here we are. We are the help. You and I are the help. So please help us change the world. This is their normal -- they need a *new normal* where for the first time in their lives they drink clean, fresh, life-giving water.

Studio appeal:

James: Boy, Betty, when you go from a scene of just seeing the horror of filthy water and that clean well there, and we know our viewers drilled that well and became a miracle not only for a few children but an entire village, and we've saved millions of lives. What do you hope and pray that our viewers will sense in their spirit and do? Because they really are the only ones that can make it possible.

You and I commit, every time we talk about drilling wells, we asked God to let us drill a well. We answered that prayer and we do it. It's been a tremendous blessing. What do you want our viewers to hear and consider?

Betty: Just as Sheila said, I would never offer my child or my loved one water like that. But would you if that's all you had? If that's the only choice you had? Of course, you would! Just to help them live another day, maybe. But when you see all the diseases that can come from that, it's heartbreaking for a mother to watch her child slowly pass away, knowing that she can do nothing, not offer any hope at all to them.

Well, we can be that hope that that mother's looking for. Won't you join with us? You've done it many times. We don't apologize for asking because there is so many needs out there. These precious little ones have no choice but to drink that diseased water. Please let's give them hope. Let's drill the water wells for them. Thank you for helping.

James: We talked with Dr. Jeremiah about losing our precious daughter, and you knew we were in a battle because she was battling for her life. You were praying for us. And Betty, I don't believe there is a person watching us right now or in this audience that, if they knew exactly what would have saved our daughter's life, whatever it took, they would have gotten to us. I know you would! I know that. You know you would.

Well, here is the perfect cure. And it's not wishful thinking. It's clean water. You paid for the

drilling rigs. Very expensive -- hundreds of thousands of dollars for those rigs. Love, through you, paid for it -- people like you.

We can drill the well. It costs \$4800 to drill a well. That could be the one of the greatest joys of your life to give a whole village a well. You could give part of a well. We find many people will give \$1200 and pray for three others to join them or \$2400 and pray for one to join. But most of the money comes from people who understand that... now this is not an exaggeration. If you break it down, \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. You multiply that out. This is a miracle, but it does work. It is not wishful thinking.

Would you go right now online or dial that number, and would you go get your bankcard and use it like a check?

By the way, that's the way you should always use a bankcard, like a check. But would you give the gift God puts on your heart knowing that you're giving someone a miracle? A miracle of life! Really to many -- changes everything. And they see the love of God in the missionaries, through you, and in the message they share about the water of life.

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. Thank you for going to the phone. Thank you for going online. God bless you for your gift.

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:

Announcer: Today a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable, give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice what's a mother to do?

With your help clean water is on the way. Mission Water for LIFE is the answer to a mother's prayer to save the lives of her children, to offer them a bright future free from the fear of death. With your gift today you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year. Your gift of \$48 will help provide water for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15. \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime. And a gift of \$4800 will help sponsor a complete well serving up to 1,000 people.

With your gift of any amount today we'll send you Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven. In one comprehensive book, Dr. David Jeremiah presents scriptures, references, and insights that will give you a better understanding about heaven and the glorious future God has planned for you. You'll get real answers to questions like: What will heaven really be like? And will our

friends and loved ones know us?

Sheila: I have to tell you that Dr. Jeremiah is one of my spiritual heroes of the faith. I love the fact that he works so hard, digs so deep into the Word of God. If you've ever had a question about heaven, this book will answer every single one.

Announcer: Please call, write, or make your gift online to provide life-giving water to people in need.

Studio good-bye:

James: We will send you Dr. Jeremiah's book to say thank you for giving somebody a miracle! And I promise you one thing, they're going to see the glory of heaven because of the love you share, and they're going to be pointed to heaven.

Join us in saying thanks to Dr. Jeremiah. Thank you. Thanks, doc. God bless you, buddy.

Dr. Jeremiah: Thank you! Betty, always good to see you. You're the bright spot.