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Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

The Family Room #1

In the studio

JAMES: I want to welcome you to *Life Today*. In a way, we're going back about 30 years. Betty, I was doing crusades and coliseums and stadiums all over America, and we did set attendance records and broke many famous people's attendance records. So we were being mightily blessed by God. And Billy Graham was one of our greatest encouragers, as were many other respected preachers and leaders. And I'm very grateful for that.

But God spoke very clearly to me. He told me, Betty, that you and I were put together by him. You were the one that God used to change my life. By the way, as a girl without understanding the full ramifications of it, she said, this body is yours. It is not somebody else's. Interestingly, coming from a broken home, I lived where everything around me was the wrong example, and girls were too often a target. They were a prize. They were something to be had or conquered. That even bothered me in a bad situation.

But when I met this girl after I had left home because my drunk alcoholic father who raped my mother, came back into our home and tried to kill her, thought he did, told me he was going to kill me, and I nearly killed him in self-defense. Thank God! Thank God for prayer. That's what saved me. Anyway, I left that broken home and came back to a pastor and his wife who had me when I was little, and I met this girl. We went out together. The thing that blows me away when I think about it because I kind of checked her out. I found out because she is pretty outgoing. She's sharing the love and so forth, so to speak. And this is the purest person I'd ever talked to.

And Betty, I went home to Brother Hale's house where I was staying and got down on my knees and said, "God, thank you! I met a pure girl." And that very pure girl that I dated for four years, and boy, was she spotless, she changed my life. And I can't help but think that if all of us as members of the body of Christ, the church, would say this body is yours, I'm a member of your body, the church, and I want to do your will because you said that, Betty. What made you make that kind of commitment?

BETTY: You know, I'm not sure. I did grow up in the church. My mom saw that we were always at Sunday School and church, in the middle of the week for whatever was planned for young people, and children. She wanted us to be involved. So I was involved and I loved it very much. But you know, I thought that I had to be in church to find God. And that's—don't get me wrong! Church is very needed. Church is very important for that love and communication for everyone to come together as Christians and worship him together. But I felt like I had to work my way into that relationship with God. Yet, I had such a desire in my heart not to do anything to make him mad at me. I wanted to please him.

JAMES: Or to disappoint him.

BETTY: Yeah! Or to disappoint him. I wanted to please him so, so bad. So I worked at that, James. And in my heart, I feel like God did give me a pure heart toward things in life, and to keep myself pure and clean. I don't know why. Because later on, after I met you, God used you to lead me to him. And so God works in strange ways, miraculous ways.

JAMES: I'll tell you what, the thing I want to point to was 30 years ago, God spoke to me while I was doing these crusades. And we had a television program. There were three of us on weekly television; Rex Humbard, Oral Roberts, and me. And later, Charles Stanley and many others came in, but we were there. But God told me to go on daily television. And he told me I was to get Betty to sit by me. Now listen to what I'm saying

because this is just as clear as anything I've ever heard from anyone, and certainly from God. He said, "I want you to call the family in the family room. And I want you to help them get to know the Father."

Now, not my family in the family room, not families in the family room, *the* family. Betty, I don't think I've understood it as fully as I may have even needed to. But I certainly understand it very well now. He said I want you to call the family, His family, the family, the church, the body of Christ into the family room and help them get to know the Father.

You'll know a lot of different preachers, and Christians, and witnesses, and entertainers, and singers, and well-known people, and writers, authors, and you've met them here. God showed me I was to bring the great diversity of the church together so that you could see all the family members and the members of the body of Christ, and how uniquely gifted and blessed they are. And how important it is that we be together connected, and submitted to one another, all of us submitted to the one head.

So 30 years ago, God said, "Call the family in the family room and help them get to know the Father." We've been doing that, but here's what I want you to understand today. For the next weeks, when you do see me and Betty, and you'll see Randy and Tammy, but when you see Betty and me, we're going to be talking very directly to the family about the Father and the family, the church, the body of Christ doing the Father's will.

Right now, Betty, the church of the living God has to come together in supernatural unity. So we're going to be talking to you about what it's going to take to protect and preserve the future of freedom. But also, what is it going to take to get the gospel of the kingdom to all nations? Because he said the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all nations. And I don't think that means for one moment it's in word only. I think it is in demonstration of the power of the spirit on the family of God coming together like the family that inspires you to want to know that Father and have a relationship like you can see in that family in your own family.

And I'm telling you, Betty, we've seen that in our family. We have a very large family. We're about to have our 30th grandchild when you take 11 grands and now 19 great-grandchildren. They're coming fast. It's not going to stop. There are plenty of them still coming. But our family is amazing. And it is amazing not because of this father or this grandfather. But our children saw that Father, and their children saw that Father, and that is the Father that we must all see.

Now please understand this. The only way we're going to create the movement of the Spirit of God that brings people to the relationship with the Father and one another that is essential for life to be enjoyed in fullness and fruitfulness; the only source of power and influence on the earth that can bring about that necessary Great Awakening is the church of the living God, the family of God, the church, the body of Christ that will look like him.

Betty, I believe God told us to sit down together and let people see the deep love he's given us for one another. We've been in love 65 years. We've been married 61. And most marriages don't last that long. By the way, we're saying goodbye to a lot of our friends. We're saying goodbye to a lot of people. We have a very, very close friend who just said goodbye to his 17-year-old kid who was killed in an accident. When you see this sorrow and the heartache, you realize how—they couldn't believe how the church was packed with so many people who loved them, and who cared about them. It is just so beautiful to see what love does.

Betty, the only hope we have to have the freedom essential to take the gospel of the kingdom to the ends of the earth is for the church to inspire the next Great Awakening. And if everybody listening to me, if you'll please understand, you were drawn to us because you're being drawn by the Father to a family that is connected with respect and appreciation for one another, each member supplying the needs of the other and what they're called to do. And as the body of Christ, I've said this many times, put the arms of God around a broken, groping defeated world—groping in darkness, and deception, and

defeated. But when we show them the Father, and we show them his love, and we put his arms around them with a compassion that is undeniable, we can see the next Great Awakening.

Betty, I think the stage is more perfectly set for it. I think we can see clearly how ugly the fruit of the devil is. Do you see a hope right now springing up in the hearts of people that you know what? We don't have to let the enemy continue to prevail and destroy our country?

BETTY: Absolutely, James! We're seeing places all over the country now where young people are gathering together and they're praying. They're calling out to God. They'll spend hours on their knees in prayer. I think that's what it is going to take—that kind of commitment.

James, it is also going to take us getting out of our comfort zone. That's not always easy. It wasn't easy for me. When you said hey, I want you to be on television, sit there by me.

I said, "Are you crazy?" I said, "My comfort zone is to be a wife and a mother and to care for the home." That's what I loved doing. That's what God called me to do.

But you know sometimes on our journey, which we've been on for 80 years now, because we're 80 years old, God takes a turn in our journey. He is not surprised! But we're surprised a lot of times. He doesn't always lay out all the plans of what he wants to do. I think it's because he said we might get in the way or we might back up. We've got to follow him on the journey. He is our leader. He is our guide.

So when you said, "be on television," I thought, oh me! I'll just sit there and won't ever have anything to say. Because I'm just not that type of personality. God says you trust me and you watch me work in you. And I have been amazed. Nothing that I have done. I said, God, this is your vessel. It is empty. Fill it up with your love and your compassion for this world.

And we started on a journey, James. When you said, "God told us to go to the mission field, and you're going with me, Betty." I was like, oh, my goodness! I prayed from the time I was a little girl, God doesn't call me to be a missionary. I didn't want to be one. But God says when you come to me, you are my child. You become a missionary. Every one of us. And so I trusted him, I trusted you for what he wanted to do in our lives.

It hasn't always been comfortable. It has had pain along the way. But I thank God wholeheartedly for the journey that we have been on and continue to be on. I think that's the place God wants his family to come to. He wants to take us on a journey that we've never been on before. But we will be blessed and we will bless others.

JAMES: Everybody has said that Betty amazes them. Our guests say it, our viewers say it, because it was not something easy for Betty to do to come and sit here, totally out of her comfort zone. But you saw the glory of God on someone who felt like I just needed to be in the background and came so into the foreground because God was so in her heart like you see right now. But people saw in Betty a person more content to stay out of sight. But they saw how God was using her and they realized God can use me. And people began to say my whole life was changed by looking at Betty being willing to be used. And then, to see how mightily God flowed through her like a river.

Well, that's what we're saying to you right now. It is time for the whole church to come to the Father and get in his shadow and his shelter, and with the fullness of his presence and power to begin to make an impact on his planet because his will can be done on his earth. He taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come." It has come because the king has come. And the king that came said, "The kingdom is in you." And after the resurrection, he said, "It is in you in resurrection power."

So if we would just do his will by letting the kingdom that's in us, and the king in us prevail, we can make an impact on this earth. And we can see God's earth give glory to God and we can see his will done on his earth through his family. And literally, the

gospel of the kingdom in demonstration power be preached to all the nations of the world.

Betty, I'm convinced if a world that has never known a father most of the time there, a divided family, a divided marriage, maybe no marriage, people living together, all the things that are happening, if they could just see a family that loved one another because they got a Father that's put that love in them, Betty, I think they'll run to that family and they'll run to that Father. That's what I believe with all my heart.

So what I'm speaking to you about, and what we'll be talking about in the weeks to come, is you are a member of the family. You are a member of the body of Christ. If you will simply take what he put in you, he has gifted you in ways you cannot even imagine. Betty is amazed at what God does with her. Everybody—her children are, grandchildren are. This is amazing what Mimi does. It is amazing what mom does. It's amazing what God does with any yielded vessel, any yielded clay. He shapes us into a vessel of honor.

Please hear this! God, there is no way any one of us, however effective or gifted we may be to communicate can communicate as effectively as it must be communicated what you want to do with the people who are listening right now. They are uniquely gifted, they are called, chosen vessels. And if they will connect with the other members of your body and love one another, we can literally shape the world with your love and your power and your truth—transforming truth. Please, God, help them to hear it.

You know that when we get off this program today, God wants you to just sit there for a few moments by yourself and say, God, I give every fiber of my being to you, to your kingdom purpose. I want you to fill me with your spirit, your wisdom, your guidance, your divine ability, supernatural power, and divine enabling. God, anoint me. Saturate me with your presence and your power. And let us together, as your family and your body, put your arms around the world you gave your Son to redeem.

Do you realize God is talking to you about yielding your heart, your mind, your life, and

your abilities? Abilities you don't even know are there—and just say, God, flow through me. Flow through me like a river. I'm an open, yielded channel. Flow your life and your love through me freely. That's the call.

Betty, our viewers saw us go to the mission fields of the world, and every place we went they were at war. It was dangerous. You were afraid. I can't explain the peace and the fearlessness that God put on me. And Betty would kind of stand in that shadow and shelter. I told her, "I'll never leave you. And God's never going to leave either one of us."

But when we showed our viewers starving children, thirsty children, families that were dying, and the poor that needed a hand of love, listen to me, you responded the way he wanted you to respond. You said I give me to you for your will and your kingdom purpose. And you began to put his arms around the overlooked and the least of these.

I want you to look with our mission overseer, I want you to look in on a scene right now that is indescribable. Listen to me. Please don't turn away. Listen closely. Don't look away. Look up and say, God, we're going to be the miracle they must have to even live. And we're going to point them to you in demonstration power. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Open captions

"Do not cast me off in the time of old age: Do not forsake me when my strength fails."

Psalms 71:9 N.A.S.B.

Ethiopia fears of looming famine for 20 million people.

ISAK: We often talk about numbers and statistics. Numbers like 250,000 children die every month because of malnutrition; because of the impact of not having the food that they need. And yet today, I'm here amongst a community, many of them children who are the reality of those statistics.

We came to this community because our teams on the ground told us that in this area there are 190,000 people and more who are chronically food insecure. We came in here today, you can see the magnitude of people around me, the magnitude of children. That's exactly what they've spoken to us about. They've told us, one lady in this village explained, she said, so many have died that we haven't been able to bury them properly. We've had to dig what I would describe as a mass grave and bury them in there.

This community didn't gather today because we have food to give them, unfortunately. They gathered today because they knew we were coming, and that was just a glimmer of hope. The truth in this community is that if we don't respond to this crisis, the hope that they came with today is going to be empty. Their lives are going to be empty, and the graves she spoke about will be full.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Betty and I, in a way, have tried to put our arms around every one of those little children, the least of these. But I want you to notice something that as we've gotten older, we're 80, a lot of people we see that are 80, they have to have help to even get around. Some of them have to have full-time care. I looked at some of those older people there and I thought, God, they need to be loved. They told us there are 190,000 that they've found that have just gathered together and are starving—and that is not part of the 350,000 that we knew we had located. That's a whole new group. I said, God in heaven, God, we're talking about feeding the 350,000 we found, and now we've just got to find 190,000, many of them children, but we also saw a lot of older people. God, you love all people.

So I'm just saying to all of you, I'm saying as personally as I can, would you put God's arms around some older people too, the same way you would want it to happen if you could barely get by? I think people would reach out to help me and Betty if we couldn't

get around. But those are people there that need our help.

God, I don't want to sound like a beggar but I am pleading the cause of the widow and the orphan, and the starving and the thirsty. God, please give us a miracle.

Would you put God's arms around some of those older people and give them food? Would you reach out to another 100,000 plus? God, we need a miracle. We've got to finish out the needed funds for the 350,000. But God, I wish you'd just double it. I'm asking you, could you double it? Maybe you already gave a gift for this feeding but you say I'm going to give another one. I'm going to give one twice as big.

I don't know what you can do. \$30, \$50, \$100, three, five, or ten? Could you double that? Could you give \$1,000 to try and feed 100? Could you help us feed some of those who are older and suffering? Would you please? Do you think God doesn't love everybody at every age? Well, let's show that love. I think *Life Today* has been a wonderful example of what it is like to notice the overlooked, the least of these. Give a cup of water in Jesus' name. Give food to the hungry.

Would you go right now and get your bank card and use it like a check? Go get it, please! Go online and make the best gift you can or call that number and make that gift. We're going to send you the gift of understanding communion. It will bless you so much. And *Life Legacy*, you can start writing a new life legacy today with this incredible journal, and the pen that we send you. And then "The Cup of Living Water." Just a cup of water. Jesus, you're offering that today.

Please right now, if you get a busy, you call until you get through because you're doing kingdom work. You're giving life because of the unconditional redemptive love of God that's flowing through you. Don't let anything stop you. We're going to share life. We're doing it together like a family—his family. Thank you so much!

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Right now across the continent of Africa, children are suffering facing severe malnutrition and even death. Severe drought and famine, including in crisis areas like Ethiopia, means we must replenish food supplies immediately to keep feeding 350,000 children and help reach more people in desperate need.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach your gift of love can be an answer to prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months. With your gift of any amount, we'll send *The Blessing of Taking Communion*. In this book, discover how the sacred ordinance of communion helps to feed your soul and reminds you of the transformative power of receiving the Lord's Supper.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the LIFE Legacy Journal. This beautiful journal and pen will help you write your personal story and share the experiences that made you who you are. One day, the generations that follow will be able to look back and learn from the legacy you've left behind.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video**On the mission field**

ISAK: Tammy, as we were coming into this village, we've heard that there are over 190,000 people in this area that are chronically food insecure. There's been six years of drought here. So families have told us they've totally run out of food. They've even eaten the seed that they had. So even if rain was to come sufficient to be able to farm, there is no way they could even plant because they've eaten their seed to try and survive.

So this really is a crisis situation. It's a case of us having to respond immediately with emergency food, bringing it in, being able to save lives, particularly of young children. It is the little children like this that are the ones that are the most vulnerable.

TAMMY: We're talking about these kids starving to death because they don't have food, and truly, the reality of life and death.

If you are in a position to give today to this ministry, this outreach, I would ask you go online or go to your phone and make the best gift you could possibly give. It is urgent right now.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Well, I don't want to consider this a goodbye. I just want it to be a pause to the next program. I'm going to ask you not to miss *Life Today*. Betty and I are going to be sharing very, very often now about how we become the family of God that looks like him, love one another, and love all the people he gave his Son to redeem in a way that they're going to be attracted to that Father and to that family because Jesus is in us.

We're asking you right now, please, pray for the outreaches of *LIFE*. Encourage your friends to watch because I promise you, the future of freedom depends upon the church of the living God beginning to behave like the family of the perfect Father and the body of Christ begin to look like Jesus. That's the only hope freedom has. It's the only way the gospel of the kingdom will go to all the nations. Don't miss any of the programs.

Thanks so much for watching. Thanks for helping us share life.