

Week 14

3/29/12

James: It's such a joy to be with you and to come into your home. I'm James Robison.

Betty and I feel blessed to be with you and to have wonderful guests. I think most of you have -- you have kind of enjoyed watching a real phenomenon in our day and that's the ministry that God raised up. It is such a God thing, and nobody knows it any better than Joel does, but Joel Osteen's ministry, it's really a supernatural miracle of God's grace and the love and the encouragement that comes from him. I'm smiling now just thinking about him smiling. You can't hardly say Joel or think about Joel and not smile. I think Joel might smile when he cries.

But there is a real joy there that we desperately need that only God can give us in these challenging times, and he and Victoria are a blessing. But see, I've known John and Dodie back when John was leading Lakewood, that's Joel's pastor, if you don't know, and Dodie is such a beautiful, beautiful person, and what a pastor's wife, and what a church leader. What an example of the grace of the mighty healing power of God. But this whole family is wonderful.

We've got a guest, you talk about beautiful, I'm telling you what, Joel, I'm sorry, but you got short changed right here. This is Lisa Osteen Comes, and she is absolutely a beautiful person. Now we could have lost her because a mail bomb was delivered that she just happened to be the one to get out of the mailbox. This is the story that she waited a long time to write. The title, *You are Made for More* -- Made for More -- Made for More. All of the people who have endorsed this and been blessed by it from Joyce Meyer to Bishop T.D. Jakes and then of all people Donald Trump.

You say, well, why would he endorse it? Because people are searching -- they're searching for something more. I believe that Lisa is going to talk about that explosion but she is going to talk about the lesson she learned that perhaps are far more important even than any she learned then.

Would you welcome Lisa Osteen to *LIFE Today*?

Lisa: Thank you so much! Thank you. So glad to be here.

James: And your name is Comes. I'm getting a little --

Lisa: It's Comes.

James: Mine is mispronounced a lot.

Lisa: It is a lot but I don't care. Just call me Lisa.

James: I'm Robinson and row-bison and...

Tell us about why you finally wrote the book. I'm really interested because you waited quite a while. How long ago was the explosion? How many years back?

Lisa: That was 21 years ago. I wanted to write it and I kept thinking now is the time and it wasn't. The last time I really asked the Lord, "Lord, when do you want me to write this book?"

He said, "I have one more chapter for you to write." And I just waited. I didn't know what he meant by that but within the next two years I went through some things and I was able to know what that chapter was and it was the book on what to do when you fail, because there are so many believers that fall in life; they sin, they're addicted to different habits and they don't know how to get out. And they're ashamed, they feel guilty, they feel condemned and the last thing they want to do is go back to the church and say, "Look, I'm struggling with this."

You're all about this, James and Betty, and I am too. The church is not a museum to display perfect people but it's a hospital for the hurting. We need to know that when we fall, that Jesus is right there for us, and that we can be restored and we can recover and we can move forward to our destiny.

I think also, that we as believers need to get more mature in this area and we need to reach out to the fallen in a different way. Not -- I think sometimes we have this religious attitude where we want to judge, we want to condemn, and we want to throw stones and we want to gossip.

But the truth is, if we want to be like Jesus we need to reach out, just like Jesus did, lift the fallen, encourage them, love them, and say, "What can I do to help you get back on your feet?" Think about this, sometimes we're so easy to forgive the sinner. They may have done terrible things but they come to the Lord and oh, it's all passed.

But then a believer falls and does something and we just want to throw stones at them.

James: Well, we do. We kick the dirt in on them while they're in the pit.

Really, this is a shame because when a person fails they feel ashamed.

You say, "Well, they should!" You see how I got that religious -- "They should! Shame on you!"

But God is saying, "I took the shame." Jesus for the joy endured. He could see the joy of what grace will do. He endured the cross because he could see what the application of that grace does.

I think it was very important, especially in this day and time, that you waited to write that chapter. I think, really, the beautiful thing is, Lisa, I don't think it was written so much because of your failure. I think you could say I've got plenty and I would want to be able to tell you and you not make me feel bad if I told you, that's what I'd like.

But I really believe you looked out and you waited on God and you saw these people hurting and you saw how desperately they need our help. Thank you for writing it.

Lisa: Well, thank you. As one of the pastors at Lakewood, you just deal with these brokenhearted people. They need someone to reach out to them. They've been burned in different places, different believers. And you know what? They just need to know they can come to the church and get healing.

James: I think we see that when we look at the congregation. I look at Joel and Victoria and they're both just radiantly attractive -- you are radiantly attractive. But you know what really blesses me? I love the way the church is lit. I actually told some of the technicians, you've made it just beautifully. You've been very, very effective.

But what I love is when I see the faces. I see hungry people. I see appreciative people. I see radiant people. I see people that were probably broken and now they've been put back together.

I want you to tell us about the experience though that you kind of held back talking about when you went out to the mailbox. Tell us about that day that really set up really the journey that you've been on and what happened.

Lisa: Well, it was on January 30th, 1990 and I opened my parent's personal mail for them all of the time. I received this box, this one day, went into the office about 10. But what's

interesting, before I went into the office that day I had on a little cotton skirt but as I touched the door, going out the door something just said, "Change." I thought, I don't like what I have on, and I went in and changed and put on a leather outfit. It was in, back then.

[Laughter]

But when I picked up this one box it was heavy and I didn't know what it was. I didn't suspect anything wrong. I put it down three times but finally I was just curious and put it in my lap, sort of like a shoebox sideways. And when I lifted the last piece of tape on that it just exploded in my lap.

That was the last thing I could remember for a few seconds. I was sitting and then the next thing I knew I was standing and I was shaking like I had been electrocuted. I talked to the Lord, I said, "Lord, am I dying? Is this death?"

And as soon as I said that, I came to my senses and I looked down. I didn't even know how I got out of my chair and my clothes were smoldering and I ran out of the room and I asked for help. And I said, "A bomb has exploded in my lap."

Of course, they took care of me; got me to the hospital. I did have surgery. I was in the hospital for 13 days because I had a hole in my leg and holes in my abdomen. The miracle is, the way I held that, those ten inch nails, that shrapnel just shredded my desk and the wall. It could have shredded my body. The paramedic on duty --

James: It could have penetrated every vital organ had it just been turned slightly and the leather dress had something to do with protecting you.

Lisa: It sure did. And the paramedics told my dad, "Somebody had to be standing between you and your daughter because there is no way she could have escaped that." So God did such a great miracle for me. It went all over Houston and all over headline news.

James: Well, it did. And we prayed for you. We were shocked and I think all of us in ministry probably went on guard wondering what's coming? Who is it that's angry at somebody in the church? All right, *You're Made for More*. What does that mean to you? *You're Made for More*.

Lisa: I believe God made us on purpose and for a purpose and he has a destiny for us to fulfill. The Bible says when we are in our mother's womb he formed us and every day is written for us in his book. So God has a book written about us. We have a purpose and a

destiny. And these trials come into our life and sometimes they stop us, just in our tracks, we get stuck in an event.

James: You can get stuck at almost an age in your life; when certain things happen it's almost like people can't get out of that particular place.

Lisa: God made us for more than just being stuck. He made us to fulfill our destiny. He has more to do inside of us and he has more for us to offer to people around us because he not only wants us to get through, he wants us to turn around and be a blessing to other people.

James: One of the things that I think many people might be surprised about, but you share it quite openly in the book, and by the way, this is a treasure. One of the things you share many people have experienced, you know what I'm talking about. A lot of people wouldn't know that.

Lisa: I say often that this was a literal bomb in my life but people have bombs going off in their life all the time: A divorce, loss of a loved one, losing a child. And so there are bombs in our life that we all have to deal with.

When I was in my early 20s, I married a minister, thought I'd be married forever and just excited about the ministry. But, you know, he sort of deceived me. He sent me home and he sent me divorce papers in the mail. It really devastated me. I was embarrassed, I was ashamed. I had a wonderful wedding and had to go back home defeated, living in my old childhood bedroom.

But I found that during that time after I lived in self pity for a few weeks and cried my eyes out, I realized that, you know what? It wasn't worth living in self pity. And that just because I had gone through this tragic event didn't mean that my life was over. And that I just had to realize that God still had a plan for me.

In those few weeks I thought, my life is over. It looks hopeless. I'll never get into the perfect will of God. But you know what? That's just hopeless thinking from Satan our enemy.

James: Yeah, none of that is true.

Lisa: The fact is that God still has a plan and he knows how to get you through that tragedy and he can heal you -- he healed my broken heart. That scripture became so real.

I cried out to God and I said, "God, I want to go forward but how do I go forward when I'm full of hurt? But your word says you heal the brokenhearted and you bind up our wounds." And I said, "God, I've got to have you do that for me."

The night I prayed that, nothing really happened but the next morning when I got up and I walked outside, I'll never forget it, it's like God just touched me and all of the sudden I felt his presence and that heaviness and that oppression lifted off of me and he literally healed my broken heart. It was like he did surgery in me and there was a change, there was a difference and I went on with my life and I...

James: There is somebody watching right now, Lisa, that says, "Okay, what exactly happened inside of your heart that caused that lifting? Did you just say something? Did you think something?" Because they want to know, is there something I can say or do or just grasp that that will happen to me?

Lisa: I simply got on my face before the Lord the night before in a hotel and said, "God, I can't live like this. I want to go on. I need your help." That's all I said.

James: Did you believe he was able to help?

Lisa: I did. And even though nothing happened right then, but that's the way it is so many times. It doesn't happen overnight.

James: It is not a feeling necessarily.

Lisa: It's not a feeling. But when I stepped out, I didn't do anything. It's just that God chose that moment to answer my prayer. And it was a literal lifting, I think a depression left from me, that brokenness inside of me left and I felt like I can breathe again. I felt a literal touch from God. It was powerful.

Betty: It can be a quick fix because we like quick fixes but most of the time, isn't it more of a walk? It is a journey because I found in my own life as I look back, I'd have missed so much if I hadn't waited on him to help me take each step in coming out, and as you said, "getting unstuck."

Lisa: You know what? Maybe that's a better answer to your prayer. This didn't happen overnight. It was for weeks of me just talking to the Lord, walking out the Word of God saying, "God, I know you have a great plan for my life even though my life looks like a mess right now."

I kept going to church. I kept just filling myself with the Word of God, even though I didn't want to, I didn't really want to -- I didn't feel like getting up in the morning. At night I couldn't sleep. I was just depressed. But I just kept doing what I knew to do.

Then I just cried out to God and asked him to heal me. He did and so it wasn't just an overnight thing. It is just sticking with the Lord, just sticking with the Lord. Don't turn your back on him because he is going to bring you through.

James: I had a wonderful friend, you may have known him, John Wimber who said "The journey is the goal." You just said it, "We finished the course." I was out at Eagle Mountain Church and some of the pastors were here tonight in our taping and I heard Jesse Duplantis say, "When they set out on the course," when Paul said, "I finished my course," you don't always know where that course is going. You just know who is leading you and who is taking you. Just go with him and trust him.

I really believe that you have really, I think opened, I would say hearts and eyes by being so open and honest about your own journey. Even saying, I had to wait until I had one more chapter.

Even though you saw those points where you say, "Okay, I failed and I needed love" but I believe you had observed so many people who felt like they had failed and they were hopeless that you had to write that chapter.

I think the whole book -- this is so good. You can identify with her. You can tell, you know what? I believe she loves the Lord. I believe Lisa would love me and help me, and you're right. Well, that's what she is trying to do because she can't sit and talk to all of us. She has got us right now where we can listen, but she's written something about this journey that would be a real big help to you.

Father, I just pray for broken hearts, for people who feel like they're stuck, Lord, for people who've had a separation, a divorce. It's like a death; sometimes they feel death would be easier to bear. Lord, would you lift that load? Would you heal the hurt and the broken heart? And would you show them that there is so much more and help them on their journey, in Jesus' name.

If you want someone to pray with you, there's the number. It's paid for by love. You call and you'll find someone anxious to share with you. They will bear your burden; they will take it to the Lord with you. The book is in the bookstores.

Do you have a web site if people want to see things that you have to share?

Lisa: Yes, LisaComes.com.

James: There it is. You can see it on the screen. You may want to say, "You know what? Does she go out and speak some other places and find out exactly what God is leading her to do. Get the book. Would you just say thanks to Lisa for blessing us so much?"

Lisa: Thank you so much.

James: Your family is a blessing. You give our regards to the entire church family at Lakewood and know that we're praying for you.

Your dad blessed me and Betty; I think it wasn't too long before he left us. He called and he said, "James, I want you to know I am," and John Osteen was, "I'm a mission pastor. I've got a heart for missions." He said, "You and Betty have brought the mission fields of the world into our homes and I thank you." That was one of the most encouraging calls I ever got.

Because see, the thing that got us in missions was we went and we saw it. We not only saw their compassion, Lisa, we not only saw their love, and we not only saw the need, we saw the impact and the transforming power of love released when you're not empty-handed. Missionaries' hearts were full but often they had so little to offer, and you have enabled them. Thank you.

The missionaries tell us you're the greatest Christians on the earth. I tell them we tell you the missionaries are. They say, "The ones that enable us!" Would you help us rescue precious children that are going to be taken into the sex trade as prisoners? Build a center, rescue their lives? Would you help us do that?

I want you to watch closely, because I think you're going to reach out and say, "You know what? I'm going to put love in action. I'm going to enable those missionaries and I'm going to see lives changed." That's what we do together. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Our missionary partners in Nepal are motivated by love as they seek to reach children who are at risk of being trafficked into the sex slave trade. Knowing that children are literally trafficked every day motivates them to travel into the far reaches of remote mountain areas and down to the depth of the city slums.

Giselle: We work together here. This is Dhruba and we come out to these slums with our team and try to go out and help all of these children that right now are in danger of being trafficked.

Announcer: This day was no exception for our team as they learned about a mother named Suma and her daughter Shepa who are in a battle to survive, not only grinding poverty but the dangers of human traffickers.

Giselle: Suma and Shepa are just barely surviving. It is freezing here. Their conditions are so horrible.

Suma, the mother is forced to sell herself. She has been selling herself every night to traffickers in the slum area just to be able to provide something to eat for little Shepa. The traffickers have already asked the mother if they could take her. At any moment, these traffickers could come through and steal Shepa from her and she'll never see her again.

This mother is crying out to us to help her, to take her little girl and put her somewhere safe. And my terror is that I'm going to come back and walk through that slum and I'm going to find Suma and I'm not going to see Shepa anymore. If we can just go in there and provide a safe home for her, we will see her again.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Betty, can you imagine a mother saying, "Please come take my child because some predator is going to get my child?"

Betty: The desperation of it -- and what mother would want their child taken from them? But she knows the danger in what can happen to her, that she will be taken away from her and put into this lifestyle, that the poor thing will just be abused and mistreated and taken advantage of, and never have a life that a child should have.

James: I'm just asking you to be an answer to the heart cry of that mother. We want to provide a *LIFE* Center, a haven, a safe secure place in Nepal, which is where children are most vulnerable because of poverty, to be taken as a prisoner, taken into India and used as a sex slave all their life. We're asking you to help us build that *LIFE* Center.

We need over \$200,000. There could be 200 people watching today that would say, "I will give \$1,000." Let me tell you some good news. Your gift will actually be matched that you

give today. It will be doubled. We're asking many of you to help us rescue hundreds and hundreds of children out of the sex trade, women out of the sex trade. We're actually putting them to work where they're making beautiful necklaces and giving them a trade. They are so thankful.

We want to send one of these necklaces to you if you'll make a gift to help rescue someone, to say thank you. We're asking you to make a gift of \$128 because that's the average it costs to rescue someone out of the sex trade; then we want to build the *LIFE* Center. So we've got two goals: Rescue as many as we can, build a *LIFE* Center where we can help rescue little children just like the one you heard the mother talking about; give them a home, give them a safe haven. Would you help us do that?

Father, I pray every person watching, please, Lord, touch their heart to move. May they be moved with your compassion and reach out and touch someone with your love. In Jesus' name.

Your gift will give someone a chance. Would you take your bankcard as you dial that number? Would you make a gift to help us build that *LIFE* Center? Would you make a gift to help us rescue one of these precious people or children, one of those women? Your gift will be doubled; that means a \$64 gift will reach the \$128 that's needed. Would you please make that call?

We're going to send you the book, *Indivisible* that I really believe everything you care about, that you're concerned about, is addressed with answers and direction from God. I really do believe that. We want to send it to you to say thank you. Encourage others to get a copy, your pastors, your leaders, your church families and your friends.

We'll be sending the beautiful "Lion and the Lamb" bronze to those of you who will help us build that *LIFE* Center.

Thank you for making the call. You can go online *LifeToday.org* if you'd like and make the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's impossible to believe but at this very moment innocent children, many very young are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable, and someone must save them!

With your help today we can reach, rescue, and restore their hope for a better future and we can also build the New Hope Life Center in Nepal, which will be a safe house for children for years to come.

And now a miracle opportunity of \$384,000 matching gift with a cost of \$128 to rescue a child, that means your gift of \$128 will be matched to help rescue two children. And \$64 will be matched to help rescue one more child.

With your gift please request *Indivisible* by James Robison and Jay Richards, a soul-stirring read for every Christian who desires to restore America to the values that formed our strong foundation built on faith, family, and freedom.

With your gift of \$128, which today will help rescue two children, you will receive a unique and beautiful necklace handcrafted by women who are survivors of human trafficking and slavery.

Finally, please prayerful consider a gift of \$1,000 which will be matched to \$2,000 for the New Hope Life Center and you may request the beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Lion and the Lamb."

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

>> If you walk around the streets of India there are tons of people but you'll very rarely see little girls because by the time they reach two or three, they're taken and they're trafficked into the red light district.

I was talking to some of the little girls before. They told me that men that should have seen me as a child were abusing me and doing terrible things to me. They told me of stories of girls that they knew in the area that had been murdered there.

I was horrified when I learned that over one million children are trafficked every year. That's two children per minute -- that's unacceptable. We cannot live in a world that tolerates that. It's there because we tolerate it.

We have an opportunity to come in and help. We have an opportunity to stand in the gap and stand for these daughters. These daughters don't have fathers that stand up for them. They don't have men and women that stand up and say, "This is wrong." We have an opportunity to do that.

Please, if you can, right now go to your phone or go to the Internet and make the best donation that you can. By doing that you will be saving the lives of girls all over the world who don't stand a chance without you.

In the studio:

James: I really would like to send you "The Lion and The Lamb" bronze. I know some of you have heard me teasing. I know this day will come, but I've been teasing, I would like to have enough inspiration to just get the elephant to lie down with the donkey. Wouldn't that be a nice inspirational moment? Some day this will happen and we've gotten the lamb and the lion of the tribe of Judah, Jesus. We want to send this to say thank you if you'll help us build that *LIFE* Center.

We're sending *Indivisible* for any gift and the beautiful necklaces to say thank you.

Then I want to remind you of our beautiful guest, wonderful story, *You are Made for More*. God made you for more than you ever imagined. Get the book. Pass it on. Experience what she is talking about.

Join us in saying thanks to Lisa Osteen Comes for being with us.

Lisa: Love y'all so much and appreciate you!

James: Thank all of you for giving us this opportunity to share. You are really a blessing.

Announcer: Connect with Life Today through your favorite social media sites. Just go to lifetoday.org and click Connect.