

Week 29

7/12/12

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*; I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: We had a couple here with us some time ago, years ago, one of the fastest growing churches, one of the most dynamic pastors. Tragedy came. He had a fall; failed in his relationship with God, of course, and his relationship with his wife. The repair never was completed. His wife who is our guest today did everything she could. Whether the church leaders responded exactly the best way, that's up to others to discuss but he never did change. His life came to a horrible end.

His wife, going through the tragedy of losing a church, a pastor, her husband, wrote a book, *When It All Falls Apart*. We've had people who have heard about the announcement of the title say, "How do I get that book?" -- Because so often people's worlds cave in. It doesn't just have to be a tornado or tornadic wind; it can come from on the inside.

She has a little statement at the top: "For any woman who has walked through loss or betrayal." Far too many have. And Riva Tims handled it appropriately but her world still caved in.

Would you welcome Riva, a very bold and loving woman?

Riva, glad to see you.

Riva: Thank you for having me.

James: Expressing sorrow is totally inadequate but you know through it all, people like us and so many others cared deeply. I know that you've been devastated. You know what it is like for it to fall apart. So what were you trying to do when you settled in and wrote this book because I know a lot had to happen in your life for you to write it.

Riva: It was a lot. When I went through the most horrific time of my life I did not really know how to maneuver through the journey. You get so many people speaking

so many things into your ear, you're not sure what to do. So I would often go to bookstores looking for specific needs for me and my ministry.

We were in a mega ministry. We dealt with a lot of different things that often some other ministry may not have dealt with but as I began to realize my story was not just isolated to me or to the ministry, people all over the world go through so many hardship and pain. And even though they live right, they do everything they're supposed to, still tragedy visits them.

So the book is really a way to go step-by-step through the process when you either lose a loved one, either lose someone through death, lose someone through infidelity, whatever your loss may be there are steps that you can actually take through the Word of God to bring healing and success.

One of the first ones I found was confrontation. Oftentimes people don't want to confront the issues and they have to confront it in truth. They can't walk in denial. They have to confront it head on. And oftentimes in church or in ministry, you're taught just to be quiet, "Don't say anything. Just be quiet. It will go away." It won't go away. You have to deal with it.

James: Ignoring it will not drive it away.

Riva: No! And when God reveals something he does it because he wants to heal it. So even when someone falls into sin, someone falls into immorality, it is not because God doesn't love them, it's because God really loves them. So he will reveal it so that they can get healed so that their testimony can make it be overcoming for others.

I believe that if we as the church would take that when someone falls to confront it, let his healing come in, let whatever he needs to do to be uprooted, talk about it, and then watch God manifest his glory even in a greater dimension.

Betty: So many times we want to hide it because we don't want it to mess up what we've got going there. We don't want it to mess up our lives or to take up time that we want to be doing other things.

Riva: The word hide though, the enemy lives in darkness, he lives in deception, he lives in darkness but Jesus is truth and I think sometimes if we just face things head on, the truth hurt sometimes but it's powerful when you walk in the spirit of truth.

James: And God uncovers it or allows it to be uncovered because he wants to cover it

appropriately, correctly, and that does mean repentance but it also oftentimes means a process.

I experienced incredible defeat in my life as a minister, highly successful ministry. I've said to leaders and people who are being blessed and whether they're in ministry or just in any walk of life, that one of the greatest tests in life is great success. There may be no greater test than great success connected with spiritual life or ministry.

I failed that test; really did in many, many ways. But I failed it with lust burning in my heart, with arrogance and pride. And when I failed the test, I knew I failed it in my heart and I got right with God, I confessed it before anybody even thought something was wrong because I missed the fellowship with God. And when I did, Betty, of course, she moved in to minister to me like you did but the thing that happened is we laid everything down. We didn't try to hold on to anything because we had reached a point where nothing was holding on to us. And we said to God, "We want you." That started a process of healing to where God was renewing my mind and that took time. It didn't happen in a short period of time.

I think a lot of times people look for the instant fix. And when you've had a crash, or a crash and burn, or a devastation or you've had a reoccurring situation that's been repetitive and it's taken you addictively and compulsively leading you into that type of behavior, it's going to take a process of healing.

Riva: Absolutely. And you said it, you have to pull away. I think for ministers, especially, I think a year or more is necessary. I often say God will handle his church. It is his church and you get someone in there but make sure the family is taken care of. When it starts at home, everything starts at home first, then you can minister to others. I think sometimes ministers go back prematurely and that's why it doesn't stick or it doesn't really work because they're so busy trying to keep it all together when in actuality the family is the most important.

James: Other people are trying to keep it together too for whatever reason they have. They may think they're good reasons.

A lot of people who are watching us don't know exactly what happened to you so when you talk about it all falling apart, there will be some people saying, "Tell us exactly what happened to you, Riva." Can you do it in capsule... ?

Riva: Sure, our story is very -- it's amazing, it's very quick. I grew up in church all my life. I met my husband when I was in college and he came from -- not going to church

but he was on fire, holiness or die. We get married. We end up getting sent out by our pastor to Orlando, Florida to start a ministry. We start it with four people, it grew to 8,000 people in five years -- very quick growth. But it was a ministry for outreach; a ministry to heal the hurting, the lost, the hungry.

And as, as you said, as success started to enter in things started distancing as far as the family was concerned and the enemy did infiltrate through the success test as you said. That's when things start to fall apart.

In my mind I kept saying, "Why me? I'm living holy. I'm doing what I'm supposed to do."

But the Bible is clear, it says, "Count it not strange when you're faced with tribulations and trials." If something strange has happened to you, it may visit your door no matter who you are, where you are. You could be living holy, doing everything right but then when your world falls apart, what do you do?

Oftentimes you get the wrong advice. I know people would tell me, "You're the first lady. You won't be the only lady. Just don't worry about it. You have money in the bank. You'll be all right." And I could not wrap my mind around that. I could not wrap my mind around that. I didn't care about that. I wanted my family and I was willing to let things go in order to have my family.

But the book is just that, when your world falls apart, how do you maneuver through? And we have the different processes within the book that really gives you step-by-step. There is an ending stage in life where your world falls apart. The life you knew before is no longer. If you lost a loved one, if you lost a job, if you lost a spouse through infidelity, it's gone, how do you deal with that? Sometimes people stop, they get stagnant, they fall apart, and they think that their life is over.

But I'm a living witness that God is real. He is true. He loves you. Your purpose, your destiny doesn't end with a person. It doesn't end with someone betraying you. God is still on the throne and when I really began to realize that my God... my purpose in life didn't stop, it's still alive, I began to just walk through the valley.

The Bible says, "You fear no death when you're walking with God in the valley season." You can go through the fire, you can go through -- all through the scripture and that's what I put in the book. I began to show people even in the worst times of your life, that word becomes living and it will bring you through.

James: Well, when you've had a husband betray you and you've had a church leader that's failed and then your world literally caves in and you've been the focal point and been the example and you've seen wonderful things happen.

Then you see because of the addictive potential in the compulsive behavior that the healing doesn't come, and the change doesn't come, and then that person's life comes to an end, life in so many ways had already ended as far as church life and leadership and the way things were for you even though you held on.

And I want to say to you that I'm convinced with all my heart that as a wife, you did the right thing in those circumstances. I don't know what all the counseling and other things were like but you can look back on it and I know you saw him before he died and he questioned the process that had gone through that maybe it could have been different, and could have been restored.

I think one of the things is a lot of times, we in the church family, in the Christian family we don't know how to handle failure. And when a person is battling something, compulsive behavior or weaknesses, how do we help a person walk through it? It is a process. You can have an instant deliverance.

Betty and I experienced some miraculous deliverance but then we both went through the renewing of our minds and our process where there was the washing with the water of the word and this took time and it was over a period of time.

I know for my own life, I'm going to say that I probably after the need for my deliverance and what I could have totally crashed and burned, and that I went through probably about 12 months really, with no exaggeration, it was 8-12 hours a day in the word, and the word just welling up in me and renewing my mind. And I would share out of that overflow of the word from a testimony standpoint of the process.

And other people would say, "I need the process. I need the break point. I need to start the process."

It really is a healing process but a lot of people don't get there. But you still, even though you weren't part of that cause of that crash, you felt the effect of the crash, you felt the effect of the wreck, the life wreck and you had to do the rebuilding process.

Riva: And even though I was considered the victim, I still had to do what you said,

had to go through washing of the word. And I sat myself down for almost two years because I wanted to make sure that I was purged of anything that would cause bitterness, anything that had taken root so that I could be effective in healing. And because of that, I learned how to forgive. Through the process I learned how to forgive my enemies. I began to pray for my enemies. I began to show love to my enemies and that's when I found breakthrough in my own life.

And even now, we are working on an enrichment advance center for pastors in honor of my ex-husband, Dr. Zachary Tims because so many go through that, and they don't know how to maneuver through it. And like you said, people are just not given the right advice.

Betty: A lot of times they don't know -- there is no one for them to go to that they know of.

Riva: That's where we were. We did not really have anyone that could really minister to us at that time but we wanted to create something just for that specific need. Sex addiction, drug addiction, as you said the arrogance, the pride, narcissism, things like that, where it could be broken and they could have a safe place to come to.

James: And we have a tendency to want to lock things into formulas rather than the process of healing and the brokenness for whatever it takes. Don't try to reduce the supernatural work of God down to some finite formula of men.

Riva: Sometimes we want to help people in a cookie cutter manner. Some people may be a year, some people may be six months, it depends upon the person and where they are in their walk and how much they want to be helped. And even for us, for me, to go through the grieving process because people don't realize, and you may understand that when your spouse causes infidelity or betrayal in a marriage there's a grieving process that you go through and oftentimes we just want to push that spouse that's been betrayed under the rug and don't allow them to grieve, don't allow them to go through the process and they put them in a cookie cutter position in both cases.

I think this is where the church has to become aware, how do we bring healing to those that have been betrayed and how do we bring healing to those that are the ones doing the betrayal? If they can get that straight, I think we would see so many more in the body of Christ healed and set free. Think about that, the testimonies of those that you did see recover and how much greater their ministries are, how much greater the anointing is; that was God's whole desire, I believe, even in my case.

James: And I have seen many ministers that people would know -- you don't need to know who they are, but they have been as failed, as flawed as you can ever imagine and they are -- you look at the whole Bible, it is full of people who had failed, flawed, who were miraculously lifted up out of the horrible pit with their feet set on a solid rock who became leaders that we respected. It's been true through all of history. You can be that good story. You can be that good part; that's literally Riva is talking about right here, When Your World Falls Apart. We know the person that can put it all back together.

If you want someone to pray with you that phone number is there paid for by love. Don't hesitate to call. You're going to be talking to prayer partners who can identify with right where you have been in so many instances. Would you just join us in saying thanks to Riva for her willingness to share her story out of her pain, and on the journey that she's still on.

The book is in the bookstores. Don't hesitate to get it.

By the way, if someone wanted you to come and speak, how would they find you? I know of you have a church now that you are really leading and being such a source of inspiration in, in the Orlando area, I believe. If they want to know where that is or if they want to know how they can communicate with you or maybe ask a question or get you to come and speak, what web site?

Riva: It's MajesticLifeChurch.com. And they can do info@majesticlifechurch.com and they can reach me. We are also on Facebook as well.

James: We thank you so much. We're doing something that our viewers tell us they love everything that we do together. They love the guests that come on and the stories and testimonies they hear and the prayer partners that are always here, but they love to help. This is what our viewers tell us, this is the most exciting thing they participate in and the most meaningful. I want you to listen. You're going to see something. I frankly think that if you'll just watch for another minute or so, you're going to be as moved in the most profound and positive way perhaps you ever have been.

In the studio:

James: Now Pich, I know you can't -- you can't see me and Betty. We'll drill your well, and we'll do it with joy unspeakable. I don't want another baby die in your arms.

I don't want any babies to die in anybody's arms because they just need some clean water. All right, that's a well. But every time we've ever seen a mother, I feel like she is not only crying out for her child but for others and I think there are people watching that can drill a well for somebody else.

Betty: I know there are. That's one mother out of so many that are crying out, "Save my baby! I want my baby to live. I've seen one baby die, don't take my last baby. I need my baby." The solution -- the mother knows what's killing her babies but she doesn't have the source to help her baby but we do, we have to give our love, our care, and the drilling of the well. That's what she needs; she needs the fresh clean water.

James: Sometimes we get some really, really unkind e-mails that question what we're doing and why we're doing it. They question why I love people that I may disagree with or I'm convinced that are not right about a lot of things. I love them so much I want them to know the truth that can set us all free and I know love never fails.

But sometimes we've had people say, "Well, you can just turn on the tears." There was a day when I would want to punch you out. I'm past that but I'm not past weeping and I'm not past trying to do what I can no matter what somebody would say. I hear not only that mother's cry, I hear the heart of God. I love the little children of the world and I touch them through people like you.

The viewers of our program, so many of you, you are the most beautiful examples of the love of God because you look and you hear and you say, "I can do that. I wish I could do more."

You know what? Some of you, I know if you had it to do you would do it, you would use it. I want everyone to know there's a level at which you can help. Betty and I, we're going to take care of that spot where Pich is praying and crying out and we do that so gratefully and joyfully. Would you drill a well where another mother's heart is crying out? Could you give the \$4800? That's what it costs now.

I don't know how long it will be at that level with the petroleum and energy costs rising but that's what it is now. But we've got 350 areas where the mothers are crying out like that where we will drill a well. Would you drill a portion of a well with a \$1200 or \$2400 gift and pray others will join you? But I want you -- please remember \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. That's basically the break down; \$144, 30 people water.

Don't you think because somebody can give a well and you can only give \$48, that may be the biggest gift given today -- given at this moment. That may be the biggest gift; that could be like the widow's mite. But you go to the phone. Take your bankcard, use it like a check. That's how you should always use it, write a check, and make it to *LIFE*.

Call us and tell us you're mailing it or go to lifetoday.org and you can make your gift right now online. Please, be an answer to that mother's cry. Be an answer to the will of God and expression of the heart of God. Reach out right now and touch someone with love. Would do you it please? If you get a busy, you be so determined and so persistent, I'm going to do my part in sharing the heart of God. I'm going to give a cup of water, a well of water in Jesus' name. I'm going to do it. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision!

The good news is there is a solution! *Mission: Water For Life* is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything! With your gift today, we can establish and drill 350 new water wells for remote villages in 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people. \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh, clean, disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request *Arise*, a beautiful new daily devotional featuring words of encouragement from inspiring women who have shared their faith on *LIFE Today*. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the *Arise* audio visual devotional featuring 40 days of inspiration from *LIFE Today's* favorite women guests.

Please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request the 2012 commemorative bronze sculpture, "The Lion and the Lamb."

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

End of clip

On the mission field:

Randy: Many of these precious children behind me have lost siblings, playmates to waterborne illnesses. We can stop that cycle of death. It is as simple as giving them a cup of clean drinking water. Each water well will serve about an average of 1,000 people. Look at all these kids behind me. We can reach into areas like this area and so many more just like it and save thousands of lives.

I pray you'll do what you can right now. Go to the phone, go online, make the best gift you can, and when you do, know that you will be saving precious lives. Join with us as we reach into villages all around the world with Water for Life.

In the studio:

James: I do hope you'll get "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze. This is absolutely beautiful. I've often wondered if our beauty shots actually capture the incredible artistic beauty of this bronze. It's a true collectible. You're going to see the lamb and the lion, the Lamb of God and the lion of the tribe of Judah in that time when the lion will lie down with the lamb. We're sending this to those of you who will make a gift of \$1200 or more toward the water well and pray others join you or give a well.

When It All Falls Apart; if you say, well, today I'd really like to have, I know I'm going to get the book with the lady's testimonies on it but the one Riva gave today is really great. Could I have that today if I make a gift toward water? Well sure! We'll be glad to send it to you because we want to bless you. We care deeply about you. We want you to drink deeply of the water of life and the refreshing, cleansing power of God's Word.

Join us again in saying thanks to Riva Tims for being a blessing. Riva, we love you. God bless you! Everything you put your hand to. Thank all of you. Thank you for your prayers for Riva and for me, for Betty, for the missionaries and all we do. Thanks for your help.

Announcer: Faith, family, and freedom are under attack. James Robison and Jay Richards encourage a divided America to stand together before it's too late. *Indivisible* -- now available in paperback and online and retail bookstores.

Announcer: If you're in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, come be a part of the *LIFE Today* studio audience. Call or e-mail today to reserve your tickets. You'll be inspired and entertained!