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Week 40

James: I want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. It is such a privilege to share this time with you. I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to be with you.

Lisa Bevere is with us. She is one of our favorite people. She and John, we absolutely thank God for the friendship that we have; and really, we're co-laborers.

Lisa has a new book called *Girls with Swords*. She has gone all over the world, as has John, in relationship with our mission outreaches. They have not only supported it, and they've not only prayed for us and stood with us, but they've traveled, so to speak to the ends of the earth for the glory of God and with *LIFE Outreach* and *LIFE Today*.

Lisa has a new book. We're going to talk about it but then we're going to actually... literally you're going to see where she has been and we're going to talk about how we together make an indescribable difference in impossible situations. You'll want to hear about this book first.

Welcome Lisa Bevere to *LIFE Today*.

Lisa, good to see you here. I want to know because you know, we had you earlier in the week and you told the story of your dad. It was phenomenal.

You can always go back. Remember this, you can go back on line LifeToday.org and scroll back and watch a program. This will be well worth watching, as any of them would be, but this in light of what we're talking about.

Tell me what you hope and basically, what is the gist of *Girls with Swords*?

Lisa: I really had such an awareness that young girls, and actually women, are being targeted right now. We're going to be talking about sex trafficking and just the assault on that. But there is also pornography, there is misogyny, and there is something called gendercide.

They're saying right now there is between 50 million and 160 million women missing off the earth -- 50 million women missing in China, and India, where they just would

abort it before they are born just because they were women. And you have to say, why are they a target? What is it that is targeting the women right now?

Before the birth of Moses, they began to kill the infant boys. And then before the birth of Jesus, they killed all of the young boys two and under. And now Jesus is coming back for a bride and we see an all-out assault on women. So you have to think, if there is such a target, could it be that they just might be a hero? Could it be that in these last days, God is going to put his hands on his daughters to come alongside the sons with such vibrant strength. Could it be, together they would be unbeatable.

So this is really about what it means to carry your cross like a hero, because we don't respond with fear. Because before we're ever targeted by the enemy, we were chosen by God in Christ.

James: You know what I was hearing in my spirit and in my heart while you were talking? It is not women taking over, it is not women being taken over anymore by some force here, sinister or otherwise -- or women trying to forcefully take over or assert themselves. It is God taking over and really becoming the king and we really become conscious of his kingdom purpose. And women, in my opinion, are the greatest source of inspiration apart from Holy Spirit work. I believe this is the hour, really, for women to...

T.D. Jakes said years ago right here on the program that he believed that women were going to be a part of adorning the bride, of getting ready because they're all a part of that -- that's part of what they do in a natural wedding. I really believe this is an incredible day for them and I'm excited about what you're writing.

You believe that when people read the book they're going to come to understand just how important they are in the eternal kingdom purpose of God.

Lisa: I believe the purpose of *Lioness Arising* was to wake up the women to what is going on in the world, and this is to arm them for battle.

James: That's great!

Betty: Because women... God gave women certain characteristics in them, a sensitivity, and a knowledge of him and how important God is to our lives and what part we can play in that.

Lisa: And the Word of God is the sword. And it is interesting, there is only one sport men and women are the best... there might be another one but there is one sport in the Olympics that is called fencing and it is because it requires intuition, strategy, and endurance. And women are as good at fencing as men are. So handling the Word of God, we can be just as good as the men are.

James: Well, I'm telling you, really we're not really supposed to be competitive in the first place in the sense of trying to prove one is greater than the other. We're really supposed to be one in the truest sense of the word and the church, the family of God is going to have to learn what it means to be rightly connected, each member important.

You don't tell the member that you don't see, like my feet, my hands may look pretty active but I can't do much if I can't stand on good solid feet and solid legs. We really need one another. I think there is going to be that great coming together.

I want to take you on a journey back where you were because we are talking to our viewers. And again, we do what you so often inspire us and encourage us to do. We go all over the world and we're in connection with missionaries around the world who have both the heart of God and a personal desire that God put in their heart to be involved in certain situations that they believe are important enough that most of them leave all the comforts of what we call "a normal life" in an advanced country and they go to the ends of the earth and plant their lives in the midst of misery and pain to lift people up out of the despair.

Now you don't need to get downtrodden if you don't feel the call to go there. But what you do need to feel is the call of God to enable them to be effective where they are. So when we see something that a missionary brings to our attention or we see what they're doing that is effective and we bring it to your attention, we can only do it and fulfill the call or accomplish the concern that we have, the compassionate expression, the only way we can do anything about it is for someone out here to say, "I want to help."

Lisa, you wanted to help and you went in the midst of hell, you went into the pain, and you have been an inspiration to get people out. But we can only get them out with your help.

Let's look at this, Lisa, when you were literally in the bowels of hell, so to speak, and pain. Watch this.

On the mission field:

Announcer: During their recent trip to Southeast Asia, the *LIFE* mission team met a young girl whose history is all too common in the world of human trafficking. Shranee grew up in a poor village and was suddenly orphaned at eight years old. She lived on the streets, picked through garbage, and eventually worked as a household servant.

One day an older woman persuaded her to go to the city with her for a better job. As in most cases, this offer was a lie and Shranee was sold to a brothel when she was a young girl and thus began the lifestyle of pain and abuse that has left Shranee broken and desperate.

Lisa: I'm sitting here with a very brave young girl, Shranee. I have to realize that she represents the two million children that are at risk. If we don't rescue the children, they're going to end up right where she is at, trapped in the chains of human trafficking.

Announcer: After sharing her story with the team, Shranee said she had a question for Lisa.

Lisa: All right, so the question that she asked was, before I had a family, and before I got married, if I ever went through anything like she's been through? Because you know why she is asking me that? She's saying, "I want to know that you know how I feel at some level. I know you're not where I'm at but I want to know that you're not judging me and you understand my pain." And what she is saying is, "I want to know I'm not alone. I want to know there is somebody out there that understands me, will not judge me, and can be touched with what I have gone through."

Will you tell her that not the same struggles but that I was a very broken sexual woman and that I have made a lot of bad choices but that Jesus Christ came into my life, he healed every broken place in my life, and he gave me a new beginning. Can you tell her that?

This young girl has a dream. God has a future for her and we are so excited that you want to be part of this, establishing this, and rescuing life.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Oh, boy!

I know you've heard... and Betty and I did take the time to share with you about our youngest daughter, Robin that we lost right after Christmas to the destructive force of cancer... and the broken heart. And the thing that I kept hearing from Jesus, it had never jumped out at me before, "setting captives free." I had preached it and experienced it. But I just kept hearing -- it was an uninvited sentence. I didn't just start thinking it. I kept hearing Jesus say, "I came to bind up the brokenhearted."

And Lisa, as I watched you put your arms around that precious girl, and she was embraced -- she moved into your embrace the way God wants us all to move into his arms. See, it is one thing for God to want to put his arms around you, it is another thing to move in to that embrace. It is one thing to want to embrace, it is another thing to long to be. And she felt that love and she moved toward it.

I believe this is what God wanted me to hear through what we experienced, that he can bind up the brokenhearted and the world is broken. People are devastated and downtrodden, they feel overlooked and unloved -- and none of that is true when it comes to God looking at them. It is just that God is looking for arms and hands to do what you did. There you were and you heard her heart, and you let her see the heart of God.

Now we're coming to the viewer and we're saying okay, we want to get them out but we need to put them somewhere. So we've moved the missionaries from rented quarters to where we are building centers. We've got a *LIFE* Center in the Ukraine where the missionaries there lost their first child there, in the Ukraine, and yet said, "We won't leave now. We have buried a child but we're staying here to get these people out of death and destruction." A devastating fire, it is going to cost us \$275,000 to restore it; we must restore it because it is an incredible center of life -- rescuing so many people!

I'm praying 275 people will just step up and even today say, "I'll give \$1,000." Somebody say, "I'll give \$1,000." And you be one of them. But we need to do that. And that's an emergency situation.

But our rescue, these people in the trafficking, it takes \$128 per child or per person to either rescue them before they get caught by the predators or get them out and take care of them. So we're asking all of our viewers, can you give \$128 to do it? You inspired us to do this. The missionaries brought it to us. You said, because we didn't think we could do it. We didn't think anybody would want to hear how people are being trafficked.

But you said, "Not only do we want to hear about it, we want to correct it. We want to be the answer to that dilemma." And that is actually why we're here as believers, it's really the reason you wrote *Girls with Swords*; it is about really helping people, putting the arms of God's love around a broken world. I believe that our viewers will experience an incredible release in their own life and a joy when they put God's arms around broken people.

Lisa: Absolutely! I have to be honest with you, James. I was undone just watching that. One of the things that she did in that moment, where actually I was holding her and she began to feel my tears on her head, she just stopped and she looked at me and she put her hands on my face and she wiped away my tears. And she turned to the interpreter and she said, "You tell her nobody has ever cried for me."

So many people need somebody to cry for them. And God is asking us to be his hands and his feet, and there is no greater way to carry our cross than to carry the hope of Christ, the love of Christ, the provision of Christ, the resources of Christ to other people that are yet waiting to hear.

I feel like you and Betty have been such a leader for John and I. This was one area, the loss of a child was never one I wanted you to be a leader for us but the fact that you are taking this and saying, "Okay, in eternity, but we will not let these young girls that are captive remain this way." You've made it so easy for somebody to do something, to love them, to reach out beyond themselves and to touch them. And again, I said it there, there is no way to say it better, she represents hundreds of thousands and millions of trapped people.

Betty: Lisa, what really touched me as I listened to you there, your heart... I could tell your heart was just broken for her. But she wanted to know if anybody understood her hurt and that she wasn't alone. And that's what all of them are asking, "Does anyone notice what I'm going through? Does anyone notice I'm dying here? Does anyone care?" And that's where we have the opportunity to step in and let them know there is hope.

Lisa: And this is something that is Christianity 101. Jesus said, "If anyone wants to be my disciple, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." When I was writing this book I began to have such a revelation that people don't know what it means to carry the cross. And it is really a personal directive; it is your cross, James -- your cross, Betty.

And I was climbing in bed one night, and I said, "I'm so tired." I went through the hardest year I've ever been through last year; my mother had some strokes and I was up late every night to make sure everybody was safe in bed.

And I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Lisa, what does it mean to carry your cross?"

And I said, "It means to lay down my life."

He said, "No, deny yourself is laying down your life. What does it mean to carry your cross?"

I said, "Well, sacrifice."

He said, "I don't want your sacrifice. I want your obedience. What does it mean to carry your cross?"

Then I heard, "Where do you keep your cross, Lisa? How much does it weigh? How do you know when you're carrying it? How do you know when you've left it?"

I literally sat up in my bed and I said, "I don't know. I don't know."

And it was Easter weekend and I had asked people, "What does the cross mean to you?" Love, hope, redemption, atonement, forgiveness, salvation, safety, security: I had made this big list and it was so scribbled that I decided to type it on my iPad; it was 36 different words.

And when I typed out the last word I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Behold, the cross. All that the cross has done for you, you carry out to others and you do it by following me."

When you guys let me go there, I carried my cross to that young girl. And I said, "Let me tell you, the cross has meant healing to me. The cross has meant love to me. The cross has meant restoration to me." The cross is not an ornament, it is an order. And we are charged with the name of Jesus and the light of God's truth to take into the darkest places. And that is what I have felt like I have been able to do as we have partnered with *LIFE Outreach*.

James: That is what we do together. This burden that you see, this compassion, this God squeezing my heart isn't something that just started because I saw some mission opportunities. It is what I've been doing 50 years. It's what Betty watched me start

doing when I was a teenager, started loving people and I've never stopped -- I've never stopped.

You know what Betty said when we lost our daughter and the pain? She said, "Do you think we're experiencing a little bit of the fellowship of Jesus' suffering?"

I said, "The very thing Paul prayed for. Man, we're feeling what he felt." We feel that.

But Betty, we feel it for people all over the world. And it is not going to go away. Paul said, "I am daily bearing in my body the dying of the Lord Jesus. I want to know the fellowship of his sufferings... and his sufferings was what? Caring for others -- pouring his life out to give life.

And then he said, "Being conformed to his death that I may know the power of his resurrection; the abundance of life. Even without abundance and abundance not taken away life and stuff, not taking away what he gives us. And then when he has blessed us, whether it is meager or great, we release to others the extended hand of God, the love of God to embrace the suffering, to care for the dying, to pick them up. As the song says: Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave. Lift them up! That's what we're doing, and we're asking you to do it.

We're asking you right now to reach out and touch someone with God's love. If you'll dial the number that you see on the screen and just say, "I want to help. I want to see a life changed by the power of God," that's what we're asking God to do. Would you dial that telephone number? Would you take your bankcard and say, "Look, I can give \$128 to rescue one of those precious girls or children." "I will help you rebuild that Ukraine outreach *LIFE* center that has been devastated by a fire." We're going to do that together. And that's what we're asking you to do. Would you do it?

We want to bless you with some gifts. Betty wrote her story, *Free to Be Me*. She never thought she would be a part of writing a book. She never thought she would be a part of going all over the world to love people, to encourage people to care for others. We'll send you that for any gift you make. The *Life Application Study Bible* to help you grow. We're asking you to help us rescue these precious lives and rebuild that *LIFE* Center that was devastated by fire. Make the gift God's put on your heart right now.

Begin video clip:

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

Through *Mission: Rescue Life* you can help reach, rescue, and restore thousands of children from the horrors of the sex trade in Thailand, Cambodia, India, Ukraine, and many other nations. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their life forever. And with gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your gifts with others to help reach, rescue, and restore one more child from the horrors of their kidnappers.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you *Free to Be Me*, Betty Robison's updated account of how she moved from fear and insecurity to true freedom. You'll also receive the companion journal for your quiet time and daily reflections.

With your gift of \$128 or more to help rescue a child, be sure to request your copy of the *Life Application Study Bible*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help rebuild the *LIFE* Center in Ukraine destroyed by fire or \$1280 to help rescue 10 children, and you may request the limited edition bronze sculpture titled *Christian*.

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

End of clip

On the mission field:

>> So this is my first time in Southeast Asia and my very first opportunity to come face to face with the victims of sex trafficking here. The girls that I met in the brothel really express so much of feeling trapped, feeling hopeless, feeling like there was no way out for them. I can just remember myself as a young girl being sexually abused by my stepdad over and over again, as a child, feeling like there was no way out. There was -- I had no voice. I had a secret to keep and there was nothing I could do about it.

These girls are living through the same thing day after day, night after night. And I can just imagine how hopeless that felt. I even asked one of them what help looked like. What would it look like to be helped out of the situation? And she couldn't even -

- she couldn't even come up with an answer because to her, there was no help, there was no option.

My only answer is that I want to bring hope to these girls -- I want to bring rescue to these girls. They shouldn't be living through this. We can be the answer. We really can, I believe that. But we've got to become an army against this. The body of Christ could totally change the culture, could totally change the world when it comes to modern day slavery. But we have to be willing to let our hearts be broken for these girls.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: This is a child that was rescued literally, who lived in the sewer in Romania. This is Christian. We have made this into a 50 year commemorative bronze and for those of you who will give \$1,000 or will help us rescue ten children or more, we want to send it to you.

Betty's book, we're so glad to send it; the *Life Application Study Bible*.

But also today, if you'd like to have Lisa Bevere's book, *Girls with Swords*, you help us do what Lisa has talked about doing, what we have talked about doing together, let's do it together. Let's put God's arms around a hurting, broken world.

Would you join us saying thank you to Lisa for joining us?

We really appreciate you, Lisa. Love you.

Tell John hi. Tell him to come back soon.

Lisa: I will! I will!

James: Y'all are always welcome. Thank you so much.

Hey, thanks for being Friends for Life.