

3/11/14
Week 11: Water for Life
Kevin Sorbo

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

James: Do you ever pray for Hollywood? I've said to all of our viewers for years it's really a waste of time to criticize Hollywood if you don't like some of the things they put out. You may not understand what's going on and why they happen to be the way they are but pray for them. Incredible talent!

I've never watched any of the award shows, which is getting harder and harder to watch them because frankly, they get basically what you might call obscene and distressing, the things that they seem to be promoting. But I've often wished that I could just hold them still and preach to the Academy Awards.

Robert Duvall said after he had won the Academy Award for *Tender Mercies*. He said, "I want you to go preach at the Academy Awards!"

Johnny Cash said the same thing to me, "Preach to all those people at those awards." So I'm waiting for the invitation because I would love you and care about you.

But every now and then a prayer is answered. Hercules has fallen in love with Jesus, Kevin Sorbo. True Strength -- and he knows what it is; it is so much more than physical muscular strength. It is much greater. As a matter of fact, you might be amazed to know that Hercules nearly lost not only his strength but his life. He was fighting for his life. Incredible story! And right now he is telling the story in a dynamic way in films with a message. *God's Not Dead* is one about to come out; you

don't want to miss it. As a matter of fact, the trailer has hit so many millions it has astounded everyone -- beyond the big budget films. You'll see a little clip a little later.

I want you to welcome a man that I consider to be a living demonstration of the power of God's grace and his love. Welcome Kevin Sorbo to *LIFE Today*.

Kevin, good to see you -- really glad to have you here.

Kevin: Good to be here.

James: I would really, really like for you to tell us about your journey and we're going to talk about where you are now in that journey. But as a guy that was strong you really faced some challenges that could have cost you your life and yet I think it actually probably worked for the ultimate betterment in your life.

Kevin: Oh, there's no question. I was shooting Hercules in New Zealand. I lived down there for seven years with that series. We actually became the most watched television show in the world. It was amazing to be part of something like that. Most of my crew went on to work on the Lord of the Rings when we finished shooting. But Hercules was a big hit.

At the end of season five, last three months of season five I kept having problems with my left shoulder. I couldn't figure out what was going on with it. I'm doing all my stunts; my ego says I can do all this stuff and I'm not going to worry about it. I call my doctor in L.A. I said, "Hey, I've got something going on. I've got cold sensations in my fingers; I've got the shoulder pain."

He said, "You could have hit your ulna nerve. Don't worry about it. Don't worry about it."

So I get back to the states, I'm going to shoot this movie in Atlanta. I go see my doctor in L.A. He finds a lump in this shoulder. He said, "I want to do a biopsy on this." At the time he thought it was cancer. He didn't want to tell me.

But I said, "Okay, we'll do what we've got to do." I went to see my chiropractor.

Now in eight years of seeing this chiropractor friend of mine he's never cracked my neck because I don't like my neck cracked. I don't like that sensation; I never liked that feeling.

James: I've never been able to keep them from doing it though because I wasn't as strong as you.

[Laughter]

Kevin: He's never done it! I'm laying on the table and he finds -- he says, "Yeah, you've got something going on right here."

I hear a voice, my eyes are closed. I hear a voice inside my head say, "Don't let him crack your neck."

I opened my eyes, I looked at him and said, "What did you say?"

He said, "I didn't say anything."

I closed my eyes again and it said, "Do not let him crack your neck."

I said, "Why is this voice telling me not to crack my neck. He's never cracked my neck." He cracks my neck.

Within minutes, what had happened -- what was this lump was actually an aneurysm in my left clavicle. It opened up completely, sent hundreds of clots into this arm. Unfortunately, the force of that crack sent three other clots in my brain, I suffered three strokes.

A lot of people aren't aware of this. The studio wanted to keep it quiet because I still had two years on my contract. And you want to think that Hollywood cares about

you but they care about the show. And really, it was a blessing in disguise because it gave me that light at the very end of a dark tunnel that I still have this work to go to.

But I spent the next four months and obviously, I could have died. The voice in my head, I know it was God. God was trying to warn me and I didn't pay -- I paid no attention to it.

As my mother said to me, she said, "What did you learn?"

I said, "I learned to listen to the voice."

I've got atheist friends who said, that wasn't -- "No, that wasn't God."

I said, "You know what? How many times in your life have you walked by yourself late at night, you're going to cut down an alley way and something inside of you says, 'I better not go that way.' Call it what you want. You can call it a gut feeling but a guarantee you that it was God telling you not to go down that way."

I spent the next four months in rehab. I went from a guy that was in his 30s, in better shape than most guys in their 20s to a guy that was... well, you think strokes are for 90 year olds. You don't think it is for guys that are physically fit like I was at that time.

The only good thing about it, two of the strokes went to my balance center, one went to my vision. I still have a 10% loss in both eyes. But I spent the next four months learning to walk again. And talk about beating up on your ego in having to go through that frustration -- just everything, and trying to fight back. I railed against God. I blamed God. I did the why me? Why-are-you-doing-this-to-me thing, when I realized he was just trying to help me, trying to warn me. And he gave me a very, very strong tap on my shoulder that I didn't pay attention to.

The book came out from years of my wife telling me I've got to write this book. She says, "You've got a voice. People know you around the world. You can help people's lives."

But the title, *True Strength* came from -- it's kind of a play on words because with Hercules, of course, I had a bunch of stunt guys making me look like a big stud.

[Laughter]

It's really finding your own true strength within yourself because what I find out, if there's any doctors in the house, there's a reason what they call you do a practice, you don't know everything. And doctors told me, the neurologist said, "After about three or four months, whatever you feel, you have to live with the rest of your life."

In three to four months I still wasn't doing very good. I had vertigo; I had the sensation of falling backwards 24 hours a day for almost two years -- every single day, whether I was sitting, laying down, I was falling, falling, falling. I had a buzzing sensation at the back of my brain that never stopped.

I wrote this book to inspire people that you know what? Don't let people set limitations on what you can do with your life whether it is recovering from physical ailment, whether what you want to become in your life as a profession to follow your dreams, whatever it may be. You have to follow through with your own dreams but don't set limitations on yourself because we do that to ourselves as well.

My wife gave me a mantra. She said, "I want you to say this every day in the mirror. I want you to look in the mirror and say, 'I'm getting better, I'm getting stronger' and say it every single day until you believe it." And I would say it every morning, every morning, because it was brutal -- it was tough.

For me to get out of the bed just to go to the bathroom was a triumph in that first six weeks alone. And then to walk a block, then two blocks and I kept sort of -- a little diary where I was getting in my life and where I was getting better, and every little bit reminded myself in the notes I was keeping, you know what? I'm getting improvement.

But it was two years until the buzzing stopped and the third year, the leaps and bounds were amazing. I prayed every day and I apologized to God. I think the biggest

thing was trying to forgive myself. I knew God forgave me but I think the hardest thing was trying to forgive myself for not listening to him.

James: Because you had wasted time in your life, you hadn't kept him first? Is that what was troubling you?

Kevin: Well, you know what? I've always been a Christian. I grew up Lutheran. I consider myself just -- I go to a place called Christian Assembly; it is non-denominational but it's always been a part of my life. My parents, both were very religious and so church has always been there. It's been -- but you know, you do, you fall away. I never stopped believing. I always believed in God but I know I'm human, I've done things that I'm not proud of and I've done things that I wish I wouldn't have done. I do, you ask for forgiveness and you have to believe that you're being forgiven. But this certainly brought me closer to God; it brought me closer to my relationship with my wife as well.

James: Where are you now? Betty has just seen a movie that she watched on television, *What If?* And she just loved it. You are doing a movie that has... as I referenced when I opened, the trailer has almost shattered viewers.

Kevin: It's insane what this trailer has done for a small budget movie. *What If* is made by the same company called Pure Flix. If you get a chance, please see *What If*. It's a wonderful movie. It's on Netflix, it's on Amazon. And *God's Not Dead* will be in theaters on March 21st.

James: And it's -- the trailer, can we -- I want to talk about it. But you feel like God wants to use the impact that movies can have with a real strong message and there's nothing corny about this. This is hard hitting and there are an awful lot of wonderful endeavors on the part of godly, caring people to produce inspirational films that people will go to and watch and yet they will be impacted by the message. Thank God for the Lord of the Rings, the Chronicles of Narnia, anything that will get messages out.

But you're trying to get the message out and I want to let people see this trailer because it's quite powerful. Let's watch this.

Begin video clip

>> All this stuff is temporary. Money, success, even life is temporary. Jesus, that's eternal.

>> And that's it?

>> That's it! That's what we're going with.

>> I'm Professor Radison. This semester I propose that we refuse to waste our limited time together debating the existence of the big man in the sky. Fill in the papers I've given you with three little words, "God is dead."

>> I can't do what you want. I'm a Christian.

>> The answer is simple. Drop the class.

>> I feel like it is something God wants me to do. I just can't turn away from it.

>> If you cannot bring yourself to admit that God is dead, then you will need to defend the antithesis.

>> You're here because that voice inside of you isn't happy with the choices everyone else wants you to make. It is not easy -- not simple.

>> Do you think you're smarter than me, Wheaton? Do you think there is any argument you could make that I won't have an answer for? In that classroom, there is a God in there. I'm him.

>> I think you're here kind of hoping that this stuff is for real.

>> To me, he's not dead. He's alive.

>> My point is for them to make their own choice, that's what God wants.

>> You just want to ensnare them in your primitive superstition.

>> Science supports his existence. You know the truth. So why do you hate him? Why do you hate God?

Song:

He's not dead he's surely alive

He's living on the inside

Roaring like a lion

God's not dead

He's surely alive

He's living on the inside

Roaring like a lion

End of clip

In the studio

James: I hate to shock you but you're not God!

[Laughter]

Kevin: I was a half God!

[Laughter]

James: You're playing a rough part there. You know, I told Betty when I saw the trailer. It reminds me of me when I was in college because I was like that kid. And it really is the truth, not exaggeration. I was so consumed as a teenager with the love of God that it became -- it penetrated -- everybody around me, every athlete. It's totally, I've never even read anything, I don't care whether it is Charles Finney walking

through a factory and people left behind save; that happened to me all the time. I watched God move because of that zeal.

So I want to ask you this question because this kid is pouring it on you. I know you're not going to tell us what happened to you, you sorry outfit in there, but he was laying it on you and you're not God.

I don't want you to give us -- I don't want you to give us the ending but I really want to know, is this movie going to inspire people to have some of that holy, love-filled boldness that was characterized in the New Testament Christian?

Kevin: No question! There's no question this movie is going to inspire people.

James: I sense that.

Kevin: What I like about these faith-based movies that are coming out now, they are not the cheesy movies that used to come up before in the Christian world. As I've said, I mentioned to you backstage earlier, there's no reason to preach to the choir. The reason these movies are made are -- hopefully the choir comes to watch them but you want to reach people that are the pole sitters, the independents, sort of speak. Like the professor who plays -- he plays an atheist.

I find it interesting because I've had these talks with my atheist friends before. I say, "Why do you rail so much against God if you don't believe in him? Why do you fight and get so angry about something that you don't believe in? I don't believe in vegetables, I'm not going to make you stop eating them if you want to eat them."

James: Why do you fight nothing so hard?

Kevin: It's interesting. If you fight that hard about something that you don't believe in then you believe in it.

Betty: Just from watching this, I'm excited, I can hardly wait to see it but I think it will

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Kevin: We've got picked up for 1100 screens across the country and for a movie of a small budget like this, that's outstanding.

Betty: It looks like it will answer some questions that young people especially have.

Kevin: It does. It does. You're going to see... Four separate stories are going on. It's like the movie, *Crash*; it's sort of a faith-based *Crash* where these stories all meet at the very end. I'm not going to tell you the ending because you're going to be very shocked at the ending. People are going to go, "Oh, my God!" That's right! He is your God!

[Laughter]

James: Are you grateful for what you hear coming from Kevin? Isn't it exciting?

[Applause]

There are so many things that people with god-given ability could do if they would recognize the greater reason for life.

Kevin: Do you know Ted Behar?

James: I just know him by name.

Kevin: Ted Behar does the movie, *God Awards*.

James: Oh, yeah, he's been here. Oh, yeah, now I know who he is. He is in Atlanta.

Kevin: Yes! The movie, *God Awards* -- he looks at all movies and he rates all movies and tells people. He definitely is pushing the faith-based. And this is a movie he has already seen. He sent me a wonderful e-mail, how much he loved it. He saw *What If*; actually won the best actor award for *What If*. If you get a chance, please check that out.

James: He is a reliable critic.

Kevin: He puts out some great stuff. Here's the deal. If you look at the history of Hollywood, the most successful movies in Hollywood have been G-rated movies. The ones that make the most movie, the Pixar movies and whatever down the road.

If you want more movies made like this, tell your friends, go to them, because trust me, Hollywood is called "show business." They will go and make more of the movies, maybe begrudgingly, because Hollywood, as you know, doesn't do a lot of movies in the New Testament. So they pretty much think it is just the Old Testament.

[Laughter]

But God did have a child and he mellowed out a little bit.

[Laughter]

He wasn't quite as angry in the New Testament as he was in the Old Testament.

James: That's great! What you've got to understand though, is the war in the realm of, the spiritual realm of darkness, the invisible realm that influences the visible realm and assaults it is not just a war against Christmas and Christmas holidays and references to Christ, it is a war against Christ. It's a war against the manifestation of God with us, Christ dying for us so we could be connected to God the father as the family that he longs to love and have not only fellowship with him but fellowship with one another. We've been born from above. It's family.

This studio is full of people who know hey, we're family and God wants everybody to be his family. Somehow we've got to get that message out. Somehow it would be more effective if people who go to church would just really seem to love one another. That would be a big step in the right direction. I think it's happening. I think you're an answer to prayer and you're going to be a part of what I believe is going to be another great awakening in our country.

You want to say thanks to Kevin? Thanks to God!

Kevin, we are doing something that I know you'll love. You're going to see someone here in a moment that is going to really touch your heart. This is no act, this is reality.

The thing about you, the viewers all over the world, you change the despair, the darkness and the hopelessness into a brand-new day. You give through love the greatest gift. I want you to watch and see if you wouldn't like to be an answer to this heart cry.

Begin video clip

Announcer: She moved so slowly. No, she hardly moved at all. And no tears fell because that well had run dry. While no picture of health, Roen has been drained of life -- the kind of life found in your role as a mother. Death came. It took from Roen but then it took again and again and again.

Subtitles:

>> I had 12 kids, but seven of them died. I only had a little breast milk, it wasn't enough. I had no choice but to supplement with water.

Announcer: In this heat, the average person can survive only a few days without water. Though this water might extend a life, it eventually takes it, especially children because their immune system is too weak for that fight.

Subtitles:

>> This is our only water source. It feels like something has been taken from my heart, like I have no more soul. I think I'm going crazy.

Announcer: Trauma has taken its toll but because the water which took her children is still their only source, Roen knows that unless something is done to provide clean water that at any moment she could lose all that remains.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Our beautiful daughters, several of our grandchildren born with beautiful black eyes like that little girl. And when Betty and I saw Roen and heard her story we immediately drilled a well in her village. But there are so many other areas right there with her where we need to drill another one. But I wanted to tell Roen and that little girl with those big black eyes, honey, God cares and cares through us and shares through us.

Now Betty and I joyfully, from the time we started drilling water wells, asked God to always let us drill them. And right now it's gone up from when it started -- \$3600 when we started -- \$4800, could go higher. I pray God will always let us and enable us to do it. But we're asking you during this last week now of this emphasis to do all you can because we believe God has shown us the places to drill 500 wells. We're convinced the water is there.

Sometimes a bore hole will tell you, but we know we can do it but we need your help to do it. Let's do it together. And help the missionary that have pointed us to the place. Betty, I believe God is going to answer the heart cry of many mothers like that in behalf of their children.

Betty: I do too, James. I think you're a part of that answer. You're a part of reaching out and giving them hope. A mother knows what's killing her babies but what is she to do? That is the only source of water they have. And it might get them by for a few days just so it will quench their thirst for a moment but it's killing them inside. So help us reach out as maybe you've done many times before. We're going to keep asking because the needs are there. So please join with us and let's get some fresh water for them.

James: Betty, we not only do ask because the need's there but because we have the answer to the need. There are a lot of needs that we really don't know; there are diseases that we're still battling. That's why Betty and I support St. Jude's and other organizations that are trying to find a way and a cure and help those who need help.

Well, we have the answer to this need, it's fresh water. All we need is the resource to do it and that's your support. Would you right now dial that number? It's a lifeline. Would you reach out and touch someone with love, literally? Dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check. That's how you should always use them. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving.

If you want to go online, LifeToday.org and you can give the gift immediately there, but please, today, during this last week, please make that life-giving call. Please be an answer to a broken heart like you've just heard and heal that hurt and save those children's lives. We're going to point them to the love of God that led us to give them water.

We have some beautiful special gifts to inspire you and bless you to say thank you. But we're asking you right now, please, go to the phone or go online and make the largest gift you possibly can. If you get a busy, be determined, be persistent, because you're an answer to someone's prayer when you make that call. 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 500 new water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 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 the *Awaken Now* audio series, a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of 23 anointed speakers proclaiming a powerful message for every believer in God's kingdom. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Awaken Now* on both audio and video, along with the companion book containing the speaker's sermons and encouraging messages.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request our new commemorative sculptured glass statue, "The Blessing."

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today

End of clip

Begin video clip

>> Don't order them if you don't want to be changed because it will change your life.

>> If you're wondering about how can you make an impact and what is it going to take and why aren't things changing? This *Awaken* series is absolutely going to fill in all those blanks.

>> If you're a believer, you need to hear what has been said at this conference.

>> Absolutely! It is a now word for a now time.

>> A now word – that's a good way to put it! It's a now word.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We really want to send you the beautiful glass collectible, art piece; it's just beautiful -- "The Blessing."

Kevin Sorbo is a man who has a great love for children. He realizes we really have a lot of folks who need to be fit and you've got an organization that's training fitness. It's really impacted a tough place, California, in a profound way. But what's the name of the web site?

Kevin: It's called "A World Fit for Kids" is the name of the foundation. I've been the chair and spokesman now for 17 years with the number one afterschool program in the entire state of California. L.A. Unify is one of the worst school districts in the country. It has a 54% drop out rate, starting as low as fifth grade. The 12,000 kids we're able to -- we're constricted by budgets like anybody else. We're able to take in 12,000 a

year. In a school system with 54% drop out rate, we have a 98% graduation rate and a 67% higher G.P.A.

James: And you can do that.

Kevin: Yeah, and I've been -- I go to Washington, D.C. every year to show these guys what I'm doing. Both sides of the political fence, all you do is get a pat on the back, "You're going a great work!" But they don't do anything -- that program should be in every -- 17 years I've been doing this. It should be in every school district across our country.

James: Go to the web site, let's see if we can't get this going. This is one thing we can all do together. Thank you, Kevin! God bless you, buddy. Thank all of you! Thank you for your help. Thank you for being here, your support. Blessings on you!