

10/22/14
Week 43: Rescue Life
See it: Change Your Focus
Lisa Bevere

James: Hey! You're great. Thank you so much. We are grateful for the opportunity of coming into your home or wherever you are. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Lisa Bevere is teaching on Wednesdays. We refer to it as *Wednesdays in the Word*. Beth Moore is the one who really began to carry the Wednesday's program and Beth just loves what God does through others. She said, "*LIFE Today* has blessed us and our ministry at *Living Proof* and all that we're doing, and all the books that God has led me to write and all over the world." She said, "I want to encourage others that God has just put his hand on them whether it is Priscilla Shirer or Christine Caine or Lisa Bevere." And really encouraged us; said, "Why don't you let some of these others who are so gifted also share Wednesdays?" even though Beth is still our primary Wednesday teacher.

But Lisa Bevere is on and she is talking about *See It*; how you can have your view of life, your perspective changed when you begin to see things from God's point of view. No matter how dismal or bleak it is, you can see the brightness of God's glory if you'll just let him refocus. You're going to hear her talk about some real pain. Well, what a father said hurt her, how she dealt with it. It is going to help us guard our words but also help us know how to change our perspective.

Here is Lisa Bevere. Would you welcome her?

Begin video clip

Lisa: And because I'm so desperate to see the church be all that she can be, I hate it when people label the church as mean, and ugly, and judgmental. And I know that it's James' and Betty's passion to see the church be a light to the lost, to the hurt, to the starving, to the captive, and yet so many people in the world think the church is just the people that are against things.

During the break I asked a couple of people, "What was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah?" You here told me sodomy. You here told me it was perversion. Most people do think that is the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah. And we think, oh, it is homosexuality; that's what happens.

Can I read to you out of the Bible where it says in Ezekiel 16 verse 49 what the sin of Sodom was? It says: Behold this was the guilt of your sister Sodom; she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease but they did not aid the poor and the needy.

We are a nation of prosperous ease. We are a nation with excess of food. We are a nation where people are always finding ways to entertain themselves. I don't want to end up this way. You say, "But I thought there was homosexuality?" Any time we think it is just about us, we will do things that gratify us. They just lived for gratification because when we have a culture that is self-focused, that is all they do. And all of us can be selfish at the flip of a switch.

So I have learned that any time I want to make a big change in my life I need to make a big leap.

Romans 12:1-2 says: I appeal to you -- this is Paul saying -- I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your body as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I believe there is a generation that wants to present themselves for service but they don't know how to make the transition from captivity to consecration. So I want to talk to you about what that begins to look like.

When I first began to make my shift, I had God speak into my spirit that a diet changes the way you look but a fast changes the way you see. I was at a season in my life where what I looked like defined me.

Now I didn't think I was all that and amazing, what happened with me was I was 15 years of age and I came in from school one day and my dad said, "Come here." I remember as soon as he said, "Come here," I was like something is not right. He said, "Turn around!" And I did the awkward turn around as a 15 year old woman can do. He said, "How much do you weigh?"

I was like, "I don't know. At camp last summer I weighed..." and I gave him a number.

He was like, "Well, you're not at camp anymore. You weigh a whole lot more than that. You go back and you weigh yourself right now."

So I remember making my first of many treks to my parent's bathroom scale. And I got on that scale and I weighed myself and sure enough I weighed 20 pounds more than I had at camp in the summer. And I came out and I said, "I weigh this..."

And my dad was like, "You're fat." He said, "You'll never have a boyfriend. You need to lose this weight."

I remember at 15 thinking for the first time that I hated my body. I remember going back into my room, taking off all of my clothes, I didn't have a full length mirror, and I stood with my bra and my underwear on and I saw my headless reflection and I thought, that is an enemy. That needs to be controlled. That needs to be stopped!

And I began to run. I began to cut back on my eating. I remember I dropped like 20 pounds. And with every five pounds that I dropped my dad reinforced my behavior. He was like, "You look better. All right! Awesome!"

So I began to think in my mind, if you're thin you deserve love. If you are thin you're in control. If you're thin you have value. My dad had no idea what he had started into motion.

And for a while I was okay, I was in Indiana; Indiana, it's cold there -- women are a little bit more padded. But what happened was I moved from Indiana, where I was kind of a corn fed heifer to Arizona. And now in Arizona all my sorority sisters were about this big around; and all the sudden there was a new standard. And I began to go on a downward spiral until I was thinking that 83 pounds would be a good weight to be.

Looking back I realized now the reason why I had picked that number was that was the last weight I remember weighing where I actually felt comfortable in my body. I got to the place where I was dependent on laxatives, diuretics, I starved myself, and then I became a Christian.

When I became a Christian, I hid the fact that I had an eating disorder. I didn't know that God would even care about that. I thought he'll think that's just carnal. That's like fleshly and carnal and he doesn't care about this kind of thing. Christians, they have different dysfunctions than non-Christians.

Now all the sudden it wasn't starving myself it was eating every moment of my life. We weren't drinking anymore so I was eating all the time. And I remember then I went from too thin to back to the overweight again. Then I blamed God, like he was the one that force fed me that entire Domino's pizza. Or he was the one that made me take the chocolate cookie dough and nuke it and eat it as though it was soup. I was like, "God, I became a Christian and now I'm fat. This is your problem!"

And he was like, "You know what? It's you. You have just displaced it from one place to another."

And my wake-up call came when I went to try on my wedding gown; I had bought a wedding gown by faith that I would be able get into it that was a size 9/10. And I remember I went to try on a slip with it and they said, "We cannot close this. This is not ever going to fit your body."

My wedding was three weeks away. And I began to panic. I said, "Oh, my gosh! This is out of control. I'm not going to have a wedding gown! I've like eaten myself out of my wedding gown. What was I thinking?" And I was just like, "Ah!"

And so I hit my face and I heard God say, "Give this to me. Give this to me. I'm the one that made you, not Shape, not Glamour, not Vogue, not Woman's Fitness -- I'm the one who made you. I'm the one who knows what you should weigh. I'm going to tell you what you should weigh. Not them. You stop measuring yourself by everybody else." And he gave me a number. And I wrote that little number on a piece of scrap paper and I shoved it in my Bible. And he said, "Now, no more dieting, no more weighing yourself. You're going to walk with me. And I am going to perfect those things that concern you." He said, "Anything that's important to you as my daughter is important to me because I'm your Father."

I remember I put that number in, climbed into my parent's attic, hid the scale. My mom was like, "Where's the scale?"

I'm like, "I have no idea." I had put it in the attic because it could not be near me. I knew I was going to be like climbing through the attic in disobedience to weigh myself so I was like that will put a stop on it for the next couple of weeks. We don't need to be weighing -- nobody needs to be weighing anybody here. So I began to walk and worship and read God's Word and ask him to begin to reorder the disorder that was in my life.

And on the day of my wedding, I remember I pulled the scale out and I weighed myself and I weighed that number that was on the piece of paper. I pretty much weighed that number for the last 32 years, except for I believe in a minimum of 45 pound weight gain for a good baby.

[Laughter]

So I did go all out with my babies.

But you're thinking, oh, this is not -- it is not about size or weight, it is about losing the weight -
- it is about why I ate. See, I allowed my soul to rise up in preeminence in my life and say that I

was worthy of love if I weighed a certain thing. I allowed my soul to measure myself by affection from men. I allowed my soul to look for approval from my father when really I needed to look for approval from God my Father.

So I believe a fast is a time that shifts your perception. So I'm going to go from the weight dynamic of it and I'm going to go to the general dynamic of it. David talked about his turning point.

In Psalm 69 verse 10 he said: I wept and I chastened my soul with fasting.

Maybe your soul doesn't need chastening but there are times my soul needs a but spank. My soul is like, "Whoa, I'm so out of control here." My spirit is like, "I'm grieved by your soul right now." It is just -- people are like, "What are you talking about?" Well, we have bodies, and our soul is our mind and our will and our emotions, and the spirit is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is, "What the heck is going on over here? You're out of control!" And you know there is a conflict because your spirit is willing but your flesh is driving you because your soul wants to do what the flesh wants to do unless you chasten it.

So David said he chastened himself with fasting -- chastened his soul. So your soul sometimes just needs to be recalibrated to the Spirit of God.

Ezra was a leader who brought people through transitions and again, I just feel like we are such a people in transition. So whenever there is a transition in my personal life I like to fast. When I say "fast" I want to redefine this for you. It's not just food. When I was a nursing mother, I couldn't fast food but I could turn off the TV. I could fast certain friendships that I knew that I was going to be saying things on the phone I shouldn't be saying or hearing things on the phone I shouldn't be hearing. I could put the magazines that made me feel like I needed to redecorate my entire house. I could put away the magazines that made me feel like all my clothes were ghetto. I could do that. I could put the things away that fed the wrong thing. It isn't just what we eat, it is what we feed on. I could push those things aside.

Sometimes my boys will be fasting secular music. They'll just say, "Hey, we're fasting secular music. We're just going to only listen to worship music." I love it when they do that. They just say, again, we don't have music in our house that dishonors God, dishonors women, dishonors men, dishonors marriage but sometimes kids like music that they can work out to and it is their pump up music or whatever. But my boys will go through a time period where they're like, "We're not listening to any secular music." They will just say -- and I don't tell them to do it, they just say, "There is something that God wants to do" and it is about creating an environment for transition.

Ezra said, "I proclaimed a fast." So that actually means we can proclaim a fast. You don't have to wait until your church proclaims a fast. You don't have to wait until your husband proclaims a fast. He said, "I proclaimed a fast so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us, and our children, with all of our possessions."

You know I want God to do something for me, for us, for our children, and for all of our possessions. I believe the church has lost way too much. I believe God is saying, "Let's not just fast about you, let's make it all-inclusive." Fasting acknowledges that God is the one who provides safe transition from what is to what might be. It communicates to him that he is our source.

I can't help but think every time I read the things about Iraq and Syria, we have a friend who is a pastor over in Erbil, Kurdistan, Iraq right now and what he is seeing. The days that are so plagued with fear and torment that we who maybe have an abundance of food can maybe fast and pray for those that are running for their lives right now, and believe that God would begin to shift and change our perspective because fasting changes our perspective by changing our focus.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, I bless you, Lisa. I think probably, many of the things she touched on we can relate to. I'm not sure most of us as believers really understand the real beauty and importance of leaving something off to spend time with God.

Father, I pray that you will enlighten our minds to understand that which is more important than we ever imagined and see the importance of things from your point of view. In Jesus' name I pray.

I hope you will get the series that Lisa teaches and also, the book that she wrote that really is what inspired it, *It is Not How You Look, It is What You See*. Change your perspective, change your life. Get this.

Here's what we're asking you to do. We're asking you to help us rescue girls, many of them children from sexual bondage, slavery where they're being literally captured and held in bondage and turned over to sexual predators for a profit. And it is so destructive but we can rescue them. We can reach out to them, we can reach many before they're trapped, we can rescue them and we can restore them.

I want you to listen to a model who was trafficked, who was trapped and now she is a missionary to those who are trafficked and we support Giselle. Watch very closely.

On the mission field

Giselle: Behind me you can see the beautiful mountains of Nepal, this beautiful lake, this amazing land here.

But what you don't see is that little children are being lost. Little girls are being tricked and trafficked and all around us all day long we're losing our children from here. This isn't just happening here; this is happening all over the world every day. Women and children being completely forced and tricked into a life of sexual slavery -- the little girls, their innocence being completely robbed from them.

I share the pain of all these little girls. Not being able to play, not being able to do all the things that we want our children to do; all of that robbed from them. When I was 14 years old, I was tricked and I was trafficked.

I'm so blessed to be able to be here. I got out. These women that we work with, they were not able to escape. They're trapped. We want to do everything that we can do. I want to do everything that I can do to help these women to have the life that they deserve, to have the life that God wanted them to have but I can't do this by myself. Together we can give them opportunity, give them freedom and be able to put those smiles back on their faces.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We thank God for what he's done in Giselle's life. It is a miracle. And she has not only gone into those areas, and with us and with the support to help establish centers like *LIFE* Centers and a place, a haven of safety and security. But she, Betty, has been able to teach these women that we've been able to get out or head off before they're trapped into a trade to teach them how to make a living, to teach them how to provide for their own future and that security.

So it is a true love extension to not only rescue them from but to take them on to something. It is a real picture of what God wants to do through the transforming process of his redemptive love and grace. You, our viewers are responsible.

Betty, we get a lot of things on our heart. People bring to us things that need to be done but we can do a little but when there is something great, the only way we can do it is for you the viewer to say, "I identify, I see the need, I see the possibility of changing it." And you're the ones that show us, really in so many instances, the way of God and the will of God relating to particular issues that need to be addressed because they can't be addressed unless the love of God is flowing through you. And we want to thank you for that.

Here's what I want to ask you to do. Help us in the Rescue Life effort. In countries all over the world we're establishing safe havens, we're building *LIFE* Centers for them, and we are literally giving them a way of escape and we're heading children off by educating people in impoverished areas how the predators work, and the false promises they make, and the damage that will come, and we are showing them a better way, an honest way. So all of this is the process.

Betty, the wonderful thing is, the average cost to rescue someone -- this is when you look at the overall picture, and right now we are trying to reach 6,000 that the missionaries have said, "This is what we can handle, this is what we can oversee, this is the need. Will you enable us?"

It takes \$128 per child, per woman, per person to get them out, to get them started in a new way, to provide for them at whatever basic need there is. You are the ones that make that possible. Would you simply today reach out?

I want to ask you to do this right now; reach out and touch someone with love. You say how? I want you to dial the number that's on the screen. You can go online LifeToday.org but I want you to touch someone with love by saying, "Here's what I want to do. I want to rescue someone. Here's my gift of \$128."

If you say, "James, I can't do that." Could you and would you give \$64? And pray, "Lord, help someone else to do this" and we've got another rescue, the amount necessary. Would you do that?

I'm grateful to say that God has blessed us with people who will say, "You know what? Whatever it takes, I'll go the second mile." Could you give \$1280 to rescue 10? There are many people who do that because God's enables them to do it. If you can, please do.

We have a wonderful inspirational teaching series to send you by Lisa Bevere where you will learn to See It the right way from God's point of view. It will bless you. We want to send you the teaching series by CD or DVD, or even a flash drive, and also the book that she wrote where you will understand how to see things from a better point of view. We say thank you and we want to bless you. But we're asking you to make that gift right now to help us rescue lives from the sexual trafficking that is trapping and destroying so many innocent and precious lives.

Thank you for making the call. Thank you for making the gift God put on your heart. Use your bankcard, write a check or go online. Thank you so much for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Human trafficking -- it is 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. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their destiny forever! With gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your support with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of this existence.

Today with your gift of any amount, we'll send you Lisa Bevere's powerful new series, *See It*, on audio CD, along with her companion book, *It's Not How You Look, It's What You See*. In this new series, Lisa equips you to see a new perspective for your life, one

of great possibilities, not limited by the world but defined by God who sees your future and created you to be a unique blessing to those around you.

With your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child, you may request the book along with *See It* on CD and DVD or choose U.S.B. flash drive, which includes all of the messages in both audio and video.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may request our 2014 commemorative glass sculpture, "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Lisa: Human trafficking is a sin against humanity. They are saying that 2 million young girls will go missing this year. I actually had a hard time believing that until I came here and I heard consistently the stories of girls that nobody has records of.

As painful as the image and the scenes you have seen today, they were actually filtered. I want you to be generous. I want you to go to your phones, go online, I want you to give. We can't do it without you. We can't do without your commitment, we can't do it without your prayers. Thank you for partnering for *Rescue Life*.

In the studio

James: Well, Betty and I just say thank you in behalf of so many who will be rescued and many who will be reached before the predators get them and make all these false claims and promises. Thank you for making that call.

By the way, if you ever call for prayer or to help, be persistent if you should get a busy. It means a lot of people are hurting and need prayer or a lot of people want to help. So you be determined because we want to help you and we thank you for wanting to help others.

Do ask for the wonderful series and the book and thank you so much for your love gift. Thank you for being with us here in the audience.