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Week 41: Rescue life

Christine Caine/Sheryl Brady

Chris: Hi everyone! Thanks so much for joining us at *LIFE Today*. As you can tell I'm neither James nor Betty. My name is Christine Caine from Sydney, Australia, and I'm your host today. James and Betty are off changing the world as usual and it is just my honor to be your host today. I'm so excited because I have a very dear friend here that you're going to grow to love. We have Pastor Sheryl Brady joining us today. Why don't we welcome Sheryl?

Sheryl: I miss you!

Chris: How are you doing?

Sheryl: I'm great!

Chris: It is so good. Thanks so much for coming in. I'm excited because I have read your book, *You Have It in You*. I've read it cover to cover many, many times. I tell people, actually, Sheryl, that you're my favorite Christian woman's speaker; that I actually steal all your messages and then I redo them. I put an Australian accent on them because that's very important! Because you've sort of got like a bit of a southern drawl in you, and then I tell people they're mine. And if you go and speak somewhere where I've already spoken, I tell you, you can't speak your messages, if I've spoken them there. So now I'm confessing on international TV that this is where I get my messages from. So tell me why you wrote this book.

Sheryl: I'll tell you why I wrote it because I was -- I grew up as a preacher's child and so I come from a very stable home. My father passed away when I was 12; a couple years later my mother was in a serious car accident. So it kind of sent me through some stages of just making poor decisions. One of the decisions I made was to drop

out of high school. I was 15 years old and dropping out of high school was one of the worst -- don't do it! If you're at home, do not do that!

But I always knew that if I was going to make it in life that I was going to need somebody other than myself. I knew that there was going to -- it was going to take a God in heaven to help me make it through life. So I really became hungry for the purpose of God. I wanted to know what my purpose was. The reason I wanted to know that was because the Bible said that all things work together for the good -- but it doesn't say it happens for everybody. It says -- that verse is somewhat discriminating, at least it was to me. It said works together for the good to those that, number one, love the Lord. Well, I knew I loved the Lord. But then it goes on and says, "Those that are called according to their purpose." So I always knew, Lord, if I can just land in my purpose. If my feet can hit my purpose you're able to take all of the bad decisions that I've made and work them together for my good.

So I just always cried out for purpose. Well, in order to know purpose you have to know your creator because he's the one that knows everything about you. He's the one that put destiny inside of you. So it gave me a real hunger to know God. So I really became a worshipper; I love to worship God. I wasn't an only child but I was a lonely child because I was the little accident that came along in life, or at least that's what they might want to say, "You're an accident" but I was really the purpose of God. So I was alone a lot. My sisters were grown and married. In that loneliness, and out of that lonely state of mind, I started reaching for God. I became real desperate for him. I just wanted to know my purpose and I started worshipping God.

The great thing about it is the more I told God who he was, "You're holy, you're worthy, you're awesome," the more I declare unto you he told me who I was. And little by little God began to wake the sleeping things up in my life. Here I was a 15 year old high school drop out that really should have been a huge statistic but I watched God reach into my life, connect me with the right people at the right place at the right time and just started making a way for me.

Many times I felt like I was Ruth who the Bible said she stumbled onto Boaz's field. I tell you, there are so many things in my life that I feel like I might have stumbled into but it was really the goodness and the mercies of God.

Chris: I love that! As you're talking I'm kind of thinking of my own life; I was left in a hospital unnamed and unwanted when I was born, and was abused for many, many years, and grew up in the poorest zip code in my state. So I had a whole lot of things that would seem in the natural would disqualify me but if we truly believe that we are God's workmanship and that we've been recreated in Christ Jesus for good works that he prepared beforehand, I think a lot of people, and probably a lot of viewers watching us right now think that they're disqualified from being able to do anything great because they've either made poor choices or they've got a failed marriage or maybe a business broke down or just they squandered so much of their youthfulness. Would you say to those people that God still has a plan for them -- God still has a purpose?

Sheryl: Oh, absolutely! The greatest thing is I remember one day driving down the road and tears were pouring down my face and I said... I heard God say to me, "Sheryl, I got the plans." And I was like, "God, I sure hope you've got the plans because I don't have any plans!"

And Jeremiah 29 became -- the book of Jeremiah became so real to me because he let me know, "Before I formed you, I knew you. I knew every decision you would make. I knew the good ones, I knew the bad ones.

As a matter of fact, I believe there were some years that God knew that I would mess up so he put a little extra grace in those years and said, "I'm going to cover you even when you make bad choices." That's why finding my purpose was so important. But here's the thing. I married my husband, which I've been married to for 37 years -- consecutive years, praise the Lord.

[Laughter]

Chris: You know that's a modern day miracle!

Sheryl: Yes, it is! No kidding! That's the grace of God. We have three wonderful daughters. We began to really move in ministry but I was really content to just be a worshipper. I would sing. And they invited me -- my church that I grew up in invited me to come and lead the praise and worship. Well, I was really upset about that because I went to God and I was like, "Why did you tell them about us? This is our relationship and you told them about us!" And God just opened the door and gave me the grace and the courage; I started leading worship.

I went from that, Christine, to where God began to wake up the songwriter in me. I always say it's kind of like the Bible says when he sat on the earth; he sat on the earth for the purpose of brooding over the earth. And he brooded until fish began to swim, until birds began to fly, until darkness had to back up. He brooded until he woke everything that was in the earth, he woke it up; like a mother hen would sit down on her eggs for the hatching purposes. I just went to God and said, "God, if there's anything in my life, sit on me."

Don't ever ask God to sit on you if you don't really want him to, but God knows how much pressure to put on you, and he knows when to back up so that he can bring those things that are inside of you, so that he can bring them to the surface. Like I said, I didn't know that all of that -- I didn't know a preacher was in me, I didn't know a worship leader was in me but at the age of 32 God began to wake up the preacher that was in me.

Now I was quiet, I was shy; I would have disqualified myself just simply for that purpose because I wouldn't have talked to three people, let alone this audience today or someone watching from around the world. But whenever God's calls you, he qualifies you and he'll give you what you need to do what he's assigned you to do. And at the age of 32, I became a preacher; at the age of 38, they laid hands on me and anointed me as a pastor. Through my 40s I started traveling around the world preaching, done most of my Bishop's conferences, Bishop Jakes conferences and then I did Women of Faith, and just traveled around the world. At the age of 52, I released that book and the whole purpose of that was, is I wanted people to know that here I am, a high school dropout; it looks like I wasted my life but God has a way when you

tap into purpose, he has a way of causing everything to work together for your good. I didn't know any of that was in me but God reached in.

Listen, that author that wrote that book, was in that 15 year old high school dropout. The day I walked away, that author walked away, the preacher walked away, the songwriter walked away, the pastor walked away. I walked away from school that day with all of that inside of me -- never knew it was there.

So I went to God and I said, "God, is there anybody else or am I exclusively the only one that had things in them that didn't know was there?"

And he took me throughout the scripture and character after character, man, woman, out of the scripture I began to read and realize, they all had stuff in them they didn't know was there. But the purpose of that is, Christine, is that when God wakes up those things and he brings them out of us, it makes you honestly live a life where you say, "to God be the glory!" Because you realize, you couldn't have done it on your own. Adam had Eve locked up inside of him; he didn't know she was there. But God said, "I'm going to reach into you boy and I'm going to pull her out and I'm going to show you the good things that you had inside of you."

Chris: And I love how all that is there. What happens, say, even in your own life as you have -- have you had any setbacks and how --

Sheryl: Oh, my Lord!

Chris: Because there will be people listening going, this is just so inspiring but I'm sure there's been challenges and setbacks.

Sheryl: Oh, absolutely! And every time you go to a new level in God, you always face certain challenges.

But I wouldn't -- I tell you what. The other day I made a statement and I said, "Lord, I thank you for the long road." Everybody wants shortcuts and I did too when I was really coming along but the older I get the more I thank God for the long road because

on the long road I found out who Jesus was for me. And it was no longer just my momma's God or no longer my momma's savior but he became mine. I had to believe him and I still do but even in the earlier days, I had to believe him for healing for my children. I didn't have Tylenol money, I didn't have money to take them to the doctor so I would just take them in my arms and I would walk up and down the halls of my house and I would worship God because I believe that there is a praise that will get God under house arrest. And I would sing and I would be like, "You are coming to my house today!" And I would just worship until I would watch God blow into the room.

I've literally watched him heal my babies. I've watched him break fevers. Sometimes you don't know much Jesus -- really how important he is until he's all you've got. And man, when he becomes all you've got, you realize he's really everything you ever needed.

Chris: I love that! And he really really is! I'm hoping that you're catching this on the other side of that screen; that there is so much faith in this room.

I sit back and when I was reading that book, *You Have It in You*, I just thought, when I was a child left unnamed and unwanted in a hospital, and yet today I look at what God is doing, it's a process, it's been a long road, many, many years but if you're watching this and I just feel right now there's some people and you're in a lounge room and you're just wondering could God use you? You can't even see any gifts or talents on the inside of you.

And you know it is one thing to kind of see us at this stage but at the end of the day, you don't have to look at what you don't have, you need to look at who he is and what God does have because he is the God of abundance and all of our potential actually lies on the inside of him. There is nothing that you've done right now that is too big to disqualify you from the purpose and the plan of God.

The Bible says you know what? Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. He loves you; he's got a plan and a purpose and a destiny for your life. And I know you may feel like you've squandered that. You may feel like you've been unfaithful and you've been immoral and you've walked away from the promise of

God. But God has put this program on today to come into your lounge room so that you know he is chasing you, the hound of heaven has come after you to say that he can work together for your good. It is not saying that all things that happened are good but he can work them together for good and there is a life beyond your past. You can move beyond your past into the future that God has for you.

You know what? The enemy may have sent an assignment to try to steal, kill, and destroy your life, he did that in my life through abuse and pain and suffering but the fact is greater is the God who is in you than anything the enemy has set upon you. And God can redeem you and deliver you from that, and the enemy does not have the power to destroy the future that God has for you.

The good news is, and I learned this from you, that the devil on his best day didn't have the power to take you out on your worst day. You're still here, you're still fighting, there is still a future and there is still a hope.

[Cheers & Applause]

I want you, Sheryl... you're a grandmother of how many?

Sheryl: Yes -- seven!

Chris: Seven children! We call you the Brady Bunch! Because really you do so much, and Bishop Jakes is your Bishop and you and your husband get to pastor a church, and you oversee so many people. But I've heard you say so many times, your primary love is being a mother and a grandmother and you love that; don't you?

Sheryl: Family is everything to me. I always said I will never offer my children on the altar of the church. I made sure that I invest in them. It is not easy today. Everybody is working two or three jobs and everybody is trying to make it. And life just punches at us. But the greatest investment that I think people can make is in their families. That's what I love about you, your girls, and your husband, and just to watch you value family. It can be difficult.

But I was just sitting here thinking, I heard Bishop Jakes preach a message one time, I don't know what he called it; he's the king of titles and content. But he was preaching about how there is life beyond regret. When you were just speaking to the audience at home or wherever they are, I felt like I wanted to tell them today there is life beyond regret. I don't care what you've done or where you've been, it's like when you make a cake. When you make a cake, if you try to eat one ingredient by itself it will nearly kill you. If you try to eat a stick of butter, it will nearly kill you or a cup of flour. But when you start mixing all of that together, that's why that verse is important to me because God can take that regret and that regret and that failed marriage and that failed business and that poor decision and he puts them all together and he works them together. Then he'll put a little heat on it, and the next thing you know you've got your cake and you're eating it too.

And I wanted somebody to know -- I want somebody to know God has great things for them, Christine. Maybe you don't feel like you have anything in you. Maybe you're like, there is nothing for God to work with. But the earth was void; it was formless until God brooded. And so I just –

Also, the scripture says that we have a treasure. Where is it? It is in the earthen vessel. So there is something in you. When he pushed you out into eternity and gave you your birthday, with your eyes, your brown eyes, your blue eyes, your hazel eyes, he also stuck purpose inside of you. You have purpose wherever you are, wherever you have been, whatever you've been through and whatever stage of life you have found yourself living in.

Chris: I think that. I think that no matter what the enemy can take from you he can't take your purpose and people can't take your purpose because God put it in there. I love that in Ecclesiastes it says that God has placed eternity in our hearts. I love the Amplified! It says: A divinely implanted sense of purpose that's been working through the ages, which nothing but God alone can satisfy. Only God!

So the fact is every single person watching this, God has placed that sense of purpose and destiny on the inside of you. Every human being is created in the image of God and created with God-given purpose and destiny.

The tragedy is though, there are millions of women and children around the world who Satan has tried to steal their purpose and destiny from them by taking them and putting them into sex trafficking, and they are the victims of human trafficking.

What I love is that I partner with *LIFE Outreach* so that we can help both to reach, to rescue, and to restore the lives of women and children across the earth that are trapped in the prison of this horror. Each one of them also is full of potential. Each one of them also has it in them and it is up to us, as men and women of God, to go and to be the hands and feet of Jesus; to go into those dark prison cells, to literally reach them, to rescue them, and to restore their lives.

And in a moment I'm going to tell you how every single one of us can do that -- every single one of us can help to save a life, to rescue a life. I want you to watch this with me. I want you to lean in to incline your heart. You're going to be moved but you're not going to be moved to inaction, you're going to be moved so powerfully and then I'm going to give you some keys on how we can help to reach, rescue, and restore these girls. Why don't you watch this?

On the mission field:

Announcer: This is a prison. Not a real prison run by a government and police officers but it is a prison nonetheless. Room after room contains not much more than a bed. Depraved visitors to these types of prisons pour millions of dollars into human trafficking worldwide. The prisoners are scared young girls held captive by violent slave traders but the prisoners that live here did nothing wrong. They have broken no laws. The girl in cell 4D is innocent.

Open Captions: I have no control over my own body. I don't want to do the things they make me do. I feel trapped here like I'm in bondage. Even my heart feels like it is in bondage. My life is over. I have no more hope. When my life gets really bad, I cry out, "If there is a god, please save me."

Jesus was sent to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, and that the oppressed will be set free.

End of clip

In the studio:

Chris: Well, it is so easy to become overwhelmed by looking at that. I think of my own daughters' bedrooms and then I look at those prison cells and I think no girl was designed to live like that! And just said, "God, if you're there, please help me."

Right now we get the opportunity to answer that girl's prayer. For only \$128, you and I can make a difference. We can help to reach, to rescue, and to restore the lives of those young women. We can literally pull them out of those prisons and put them into a place where they can know their dignity in Christ, where we can help to see every aspect of their lives restored. Only \$128! What wouldn't we do if this was our own child? Well, she is God's daughter and she is our sister and we have the opportunity to do that.

I wonder would you partner with us? Would you partner with us to go into those places and to help to pull those girls out of that pit of hell and bring them into the life and the light of God?

They ask, "Is there a God?" We get the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I wonder would you help us perhaps rescue ten girls? For only \$1280 we could pull ten girls out of that pit and help to give them a new life, a hope, and a purpose and a destiny.

Sometimes you think maybe I can't do \$128. Well, could you do \$64? Could you help us and perhaps your contribution and somebody else's together, we can partner to help to rescue these girls.

She said, "Is there a God?" There is a God. We have the opportunity to show these girls right now there is a God. He has heard their prayer and we are going into the depths of despair to pull them out of the pit into the life, the light, the hope, the mercy, and the justice of Jesus Christ -- \$128!

Would you partner with us? Why don't you go right now? Pick up the phone; perhaps you could go online, do whatever you need to do. If you help us, we will keep going. We will go to the uttermost places of darkness to bring those girls into the light and help to restore their dreams and to help them fulfill their God-given destiny and purpose. Thank you so much for partnering with us and helping give somebody a future.

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

Begin video clip

Lisa: Human trafficking is a sin against humanity. We want to actually stop it before it starts by reaching out, going into the villages, educating the people there. But we're also going to rescue girls that have been trapped in the darkness that are desperate to come out.

But you don't just rescue because we want to restore these girls. We want to give them job opportunities. We want to make them whole again through the love of Jesus Christ. Can't do it without you -- we can't do it without your commitment, we can't do it without your prayers! But we also need you to go to the phone, go online, and be generous because we know that you want to be part of rescuing life.

In the studio

Chris: I know you want to help us. I sure hope you're reaching for that phone or you're going online right now! Together we can make a difference and help save a life.

Well, it's been a great program today. Would you help me to thank Pastor Sheryl Brady?

[Cheers & Applause]

A lovely woman! I love her! Thank you so much for joining us at *LIFE Today*! Bless you!

Announcer: Are you concerned about your family being ill equipped to manage resources when you pass away? Do you want to leave a legacy gift that impacts the lives of others? As a free service to our friends and partners, Life Planning Services, a ministry of Life Outreach International, is here to help with your estate planning needs and chart your financial future.

Do not put off this important step to protect your loved ones and leave a lasting legacy. Contact Life Planning Services today!