

2/24/15
Week 9 WFL
Al and Lisa Robertson

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

James: And we've got the Robertson's, Al and Lisa Robertson, *Duck Dynasty*. And Al just told us something interesting. He said that people used to think that *Duck Dynasty* was a restaurant. Then they found out that wasn't the case.

Would you welcome Al and Lisa Robertson to *LIFE Today*?

Good to see you, buddy.

Al: Good to be back.

James: I see you've got a little stubble here. You feeling left out?

Al: Yeah, dad calls that the Yasser Arafat stage. Yeah, I like to grow a little bit during the off season when we're not filming and we're hunting. So I don't have to put as much face paint on. Dad is like crazy about concealment. You're like a sniper when you have to put on, like a Navy Seal, because you don't want the ducks to see you.

James: It's very important. They're dangerous!

[Laughter]

Al: So I like to grow a little beard but it won't last long because when it gets longer than this, Lisa doesn't like it so it goes.

James: Well, I want to really cut to the story because I want to look both of you in the eyes and say thank you so much because you really opened up a part of a person's life, relationship, marriage, failure that most people never want to touch, and yet we have a world of hurt in the church, as well as outside the church. It's tragic what's happened in marriages.

If you find all the reasons you can get a divorce, they're pretty easy to come by. But one of them they think is really big is when someone has been unfaithful, even feel like Jesus sort of gave us a pass there; and really, that's not the truth because he can heal anything -- and that's a serious wound. I believe that a divorce is a catastrophic collision and you've got to minister to people who have been through that catastrophic event. But people who have had an unfaithful situation, it's oftentimes curtains.

And you all have been open and honest to tell something that I think heals broken hearts. Tell us what happened. Just whoever wants to pick it up and take off; just tell us the journey that you really talk about and then how you break out the miraculous healing power of God.

Al: Well, go ahead.

Lisa: I'll start. I think probably it started whenever I was a young child because whenever I was -- the earliest memory is seven, and I was molested by someone in our family. So I think that really took me down a path of not knowing who I was or what my purpose was. It also started me down a path of dishonesty because it wasn't something that I could share and I couldn't tell anybody about it; I felt the guilt and the shame of it.

James: Did you feel you were responsible even in some way? -- Because so many do.

Lisa: Right! I thought it was my fault. So I think that's probably what started some darkness, even at that early age and it just began to grow. It grew through my teenage years and that's when I met Alan, whenever I was a teenager. We had relations

together before we were married. Then once we were married, it really just came back up again; just the darkness was almost like something that overtakes you.

And so five years into our marriage we had a breach. It was not a sexual affair, it was more of an emotional affair but we didn't seek out any type of help. It was just a near miss. Wow! We don't know what happened there but let's move on kind of thing.

So ten years later, which was 15 years into our marriage it happened again but this time it was a full blown sexual affair that lasted for 14 months.

James: And the impropriety is on your part; right?

Lisa: That's exactly right.

James: You're not telling the world about Al. This is you talking about what is happening to you that you could actually trace, let's say the initiation even back when you were a little girl to where that point of vulnerability and that shame or that hurt or personal guilt carried on out to where there's this like you said this dark spot.

Lisa: And it is not an excuse. I would never give an excuse. I take full responsibility for my actions. But we have to understand that there are reasons for the way that people react to situations, and reasons for why they wake up one day and go, "What is wrong with me? What have I just done? And how did I get here?"

James: And there are reasons too that people don't talk about it. Like you said you didn't seek any help. The things that are going on that have bruised us, I don't think any of us are comfortable. The fatherlessness affected my life; I'm not comfortable about talking about the negative aspect of that. And oftentimes we feel like the very people that might help us would be the first ones to put us down.

Lisa: Right. It really led from the year of seven up until I was 14, that was whenever it stopped, but although the abuse stopped those feelings that I had and just the messed up mindset, that didn't stop. I wish I would have told someone just so that I could have had the healing I needed. But it is so important -- so important that they do.

James: Is this what you're encouraging people to do, too throughout the book to get that? Can you find someone you can trust and download?

Lisa: We talk about lots of stuff in this book. We talk about molestation, we talk about abortion; when I was 16 years old, I had an abortion. We talk about unfaithfulness. All of those things, you have to have help for. You have to have some type of counseling or just leadership, wise counsel that will help you through those things. That is not something you should have to carry by yourself.

James: Alan, where was -- I want to bring you in, when you found out, or however this came about, where were you although when this affair that she refers to that lasted a period of time after y'all had been married for quite a few years, where were you in your let's say your spiritual walk or relationship with God?

Al: I was in a good place. I was pastoring a large church, our church, very engaged and involved. But as that -- I think as my spiritual life was doing what it was doing and blessing other people, I did what a lot of guys do, I didn't really look at the people closest to me and realize where they were. I missed that.

I knew something was going on, I knew something was wrong with us because you don't have this kind of breach in your relationship and not know, but you really don't want to face it. So I think I knew but I didn't want to admit what was going on. And I would respond in anger, when I thought I did know something.

So that is the way I was treating Lisa. I thought if I made it rough enough on her, she would tell the truth. What I didn't realize, James, is that I was not a good receiver of honesty. I was wanting Lisa to be honest and other people in my life as well, but then I didn't receive it very well. When someone was honest with me, then I was very harsh and hard on them. Well, I'm encouraging people really to be dishonest.

So a lot of it was how I was reacting and not reacting during this period of time as well. When Lisa finally told the truth about the affair to me, after a lot of layers of

dishonesty after a long time, I felt relief first. Relief that okay, I'm not crazy. I know now what's been happening.

Then I started that process you go through when there's been a betrayal like that in a relationship. So we were apart for a couple of months, but I realize that I still loved her and I also realized that she had made a huge spiritual change for the first time in our lives.

Lisa had always had me in this place that I really should have never been. I really was the Lord of her life. Jesus really never was. She had been infatuated with me since we were in middle school and I knew that. I knew that she had me in that place. And I was like a lot of guys, I think it's great if your wife worships you. But you know if she worships you above Christ that's not good at all because anything that takes the place of Christ is going to cause problems for you later on and it did for us. So when she finally made Jesus her Lord, that changed not only her but then it changed the potential for us.

So over a couple of months, I kind of went through that process, realized that I wanted us to be together. And so I made a decision that if I was going to forgive her for the affair, and any other thing that she had ever done to hurt me, and things I'd done to hurt her, that we were going to have to live forgiveness.

We couldn't just say it like, "Okay, I forgive you" and then a month later I bring it up and say, "Was this why you had an affair?" Then that's not forgiveness; that's just going back and going back. So I made a vow -- I made a vow to God, I made a vow to Lisa; I would never use her sin or mine to hurt us ever again. And I haven't; 15 years in, praise the Lord.

James: That's the grace and the full covering of God to know that people watching could get there and people here in the studio. I think that's what -- I believe that's primarily what you want people to read in the book. But you really need to read it because every chapter is built on this process. It is not like we tell the story and move on to something else. But the process continues and it is a process of amazing grace. It is transforming healing grace.

Can't you see it in their countenance? Can't you see God has done something here that is really supernatural? There is no way, I don't care if you're *Duck Dynasty* family, you ain't macho enough and man enough and super enough to work this out. This is a miracle of God.

Were you amazed at what God did with him to bring you through this?

Lisa: Oh, absolutely! Absolutely! In forgiveness, you don't do it for the other person you do that for yourself because that's whenever it releases the anger and the bitterness. But in essence it was the greatest gift that he ever could have given to me. No gift since then or I don't know that I'll ever receive one from him that was any better than him to say, "I forgive you."

James: And you know he meant it; it was so much more than words.

Alan, I can see it in your countenance, I see it with both of you. Why are you -- are you curious, Betty, as to why they would want to even share this, and have such a peace that passes understanding that our pain might be someone else's healing? Do you think that's what it is?

Betty: I think their testimony is sadly very common in relationships, non-Christians and Christian relationships. One of the main reasons is, and what I picked up on, is lack of communication. I think you were just dying inside because you wanted to get it out, you wanted to tell him, and eventually you just had to. But that communication, and that's what the enemy fights so much. He does not want us to relate to one another and to be honest with one another.

Al: He had us tangled up in that, you're right. It happens a lot of times with couples. That's really why we wanted to tell the story in this format. We've been sharing our testimony for about a dozen years, going back to after we were healed enough to begin to talk about it because it takes some credibility.

When we talk to couples today, they want to go from brokenness over an affair to complete healing in a month -- and that's not the way it works. You mentioned this process; it takes time. It takes time of healing. It takes time of understanding. You have to unpack some things and figure out why you made some decisions you made. There are a lot of things that have to happen. It doesn't happen overnight but it can happen with God's power. And you're right, it is supernatural is what it is.

James: Had you talked to anyone before you talked to him about what had happened or was he the first person?

Lisa: He was the first one.

James: And probably to you would be the hardest.

Lisa: Oh, absolutely!

James: How did the rest of the family, you're a real close family and I don't for one moment do I see preaching -- by the way, all America was, Sadie was our family, while she is showing us a sweet innocent girl on *Dancing with the Stars*. I didn't ever care anything about watching, watched Sadie. You're so beautiful! And mom and dad, grandma, y'all are so beautiful. But you're a really close family and that's not put on. That's not some reality TV where we're going to act like something so, this is really where you are. What happened when they found out?

Al: They were very hurt. Lisa, we talk about in the book, Lisa worked for them and part of this affair she was taking money from the business. So there was more than just the hurt of an affair. There were other things, embezzlement, and things like that that will tend to go around something like this.

So everybody was hurt and wounded; and they were mostly hurt and wounded because I was so hurt and wounded. So they took their cue from me. Their advice was, "Al, we don't think she is going to change. We don't think she is going to be any different." And almost my whole family felt that way about Lisa. Mom was a little more on the fence, but everybody else was like, "We don't think she will."

I said, "I don't know. We got 15 years here; it doesn't look like it's going to change. You may be right."

But they took their cue from me. When they saw me say you know what? I love her and I believe she is who she says she is they got on board 100%.

James: We could wish if they ever wanted to be on board from the start, the one person you know is Jesus. You can always count on him. The miracle was he got in with you. You actually moved a family. It is just too bad they couldn't just all come in here and start ministering. But it is understandable that they didn't.

I really think that this is the thing you've got to get. You must go first to him. You acknowledge in your own heart and mind what is going on but go to him, but then find someone. I think if people listening, all of us, everybody here, if we would just find somebody to go to and say, "I'm tired of walking this alone. I know God's with me but I need somebody to walk it out." You called it "accountability," somebody giving you the counsel, the oversight, and the guidance.

I would just like to pray. Right now I think there are a lot of people watching. I want to pray for you.

Father, I think there's a lot going on. People are hooked on some kind of addictive substance, some kind of addictive practice, some kind of a fascination. Lord, just something that is compulsive that just got them. I pray, dear Lord, first to say, you know it. You know it, I know it. Now God give them the grace to say, "Look, walk this out with me. Walk through this." And find that person that will yoke up and join hearts and hands with them to make all the difference, please dear God.

And let me just say to you looking right at you, the telephone number you see there is paid for by love. There's somebody right now, you've not seen them, you don't know them, but they love you because God put love in their heart, that's why they're here. Share your heart with them and let them pray with you. Let's get this situation healed.

Father, I'm praying that for everyone that needs to do that, they just reached out even today. We always try to put God's arms around a hurting world but it starts with you.

The reason we're here talking to Lisa and Al right now is because you are the ones we're offering water to so we're trying to give water to people who don't have any clean water, they're dying of diseased water. But we're trying to give you water, water of hope and life and help and love, and the peace that God offers. That's why we're here. You're the first object of everything on *LIFE Today* and you need to know that God has his focus on you. So you ask for the help.

I want to say to you, Alan and Lisa, thank you. I've watched you as you've gone on the other programs and the secular media world and you've really lifted up Jesus, and you tell the whole family how much we love them. And we love them and we want to thank the family for sharing Sadie with us.

From the get go on Duck Dynasty, but also the way the whole world got to see a little girl that would look like this little girl looked to me, just a sweetheart, just a girl that was so innocent. The first date I was on with her I went home and fell on my knees and said, "I met a pure girl, I meet a sweet girl." I lived in such a rotten, gang-infested world where I lived in poverty. I didn't know there was such a girl. It was like I'd just met an angel and I saw that.

You know you said you all had been compromising. Listen, God wants to lift us up out of the compromise and lift us up into a whole new way of life and you're inspiring that. Would you say thanks to this beautiful couple for letting us go on this journey in the grace and the presence and the power of our God?

Let me say to all of you who watch... by the way, if you'd like to have their book, it is in the bookstores. You might want to get several copies because there is a lot of people that have challenges in their marriage and this one really cuts to the chase of reality and the healing power. But we'll send it to you. We'd love to just send it to you.

Here's what we ask you to do. Would you give a cup of water in Jesus' name? He says if you give just a cup of water you won't lose your reward. What does that reward

mean? I never even think materialism, I don't think riches, I think "The Blessing" of blessing to see someone blessed because we shared love. Watch and see if you're not moved to share a cup of water -- maybe a well of water.

On the mission field

Announcer: In the Hausa language, her name means joyful but a name isn't always a destiny. Fara has experienced very little joy in her brief life. Her mother and father brought her from the other side of Africa to Madagascar when she was only a child. But when she was 15, contaminated water they are forced to drink killed both of her parents leaving her an orphan.

Open captions: I am 17 years old. My parents brought me here from very far away. I'm here all alone since they died.

Announcer: Alone, afraid, and utterly vulnerable, young Fara immediately found herself the target of sex traffickers. Her life became a joyless nightmare.

Open captions: When my parents died I was only 15 years old and they captured me. They abused me and beat me all the time. They sexually abused me any time they wanted.

Announcer: When she became pregnant those who had abused and enslaved her simply threw her away, thus the cherished young son she now cares for was a double blessing. Not only did his arrival give her a pathway to freedom, it gave her a reason to live, but also, a reason to worry.

Open captions: We have no choice but to drink the same water the goats drink. Many people are sick from it. We have no money to buy clean water.

Announcer: The dream of clean water means everything to young Fara and the infant son who is her only joy in life.

Open captions: I'm afraid for my baby's future because he drinks the same water that killed my parents. I'm crying out for help.

Announcer: Fara is crying out for help. Today that cry reached your ears. The question is will that cry now reach your heart?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, what do you think?

Betty: It's reached my heart. I think of that precious young girl, and now she's caring for her own child. She's having to give her own flesh and blood, her baby, the same water that killed her parents. What choice does she have? You have to have water to even survive a few days. So there she is in the same situation with her own baby and not knowing what to do.

But yet there is hope if we will reach out and make that difference. We can help drill those water wells, James. I know you and I -- we help with them because it is so important that we be a part of giving somebody an opportunity at life.

James: Well, it's been the most focused thing that we've done other than just share opportunities to love people. We have focused on that. It's been our joy to actually in some situations just say to the mission team, Betty and I, we will drill a well there because we've asked God to let us do it. We're a part of that.

But here's the thing you need to understand. When you take 500 areas that the missionaries are pointing at and that's one of the examples, and you take all of those areas, the situation is that way but we can't begin to do that. I don't know that there's anyone watching who could do 500.

By the way, if you are, why don't you make it a matter of prayer? Because I'd love to talk to you about it and show you how we might take it into drilling thousands of wells if people who have great means would just have that heart. What you heard there from the mission worker, referring you to the situation, it's reached your ears but

will it reach your heart? And then does it go to action? It is so easy to say we care but we don't share. There has to be a compassion connection for the change to take place. The missionaries are there.

People just like you have helped us purchase the drilling equipment and the drilling rigs, a number of them, and we're asking you then to send us in and enable them to go to these different areas and to have the means and all the equipment, the pipe, the drilling, the fuel, the petrol, everything they need to drill, to case it, to give them the pump that they need that is manual because they don't have electricity in so many of these remote areas.

Would you simply today go online, LifeToday.org? Just go there and just say, "I'm going to give today with my bankcard." So often you do things that make it easy for you to shop or get something you need or something to make a gift with. But today you're giving the gift of life.

Keep this in mind, the wells are \$4800. You can call the number there on the screen and say, "I want to make a gift." Use your bankcard like a check; that's how you should use it. But \$4800 is what they cost. Could you drill one or part of one with \$1200 or \$2400? Pray others match it.

Please keep in mind that if you make a gift of \$48 you are giving 10 people water the rest of their life; \$144, you're giving 30 people water the rest of their life. There is a level at which everyone can reach out and say, "I give a cup of water, a well of water in Jesus' name."

Father, I pray everyone who can help will move right now to action and give in your name life; in Jesus' name. Thank you for going to LifeToday.org or dial that number and say, "I want to make this gift." 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 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 you'll receive the brand-new *Free to Be Me* 40-day devotional where Betty shares the challenges, victories, and insights God gave her while struggling through fear and insecurity. You'll also receive Betty's book, *Free to Be Me*. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request *LIFE's* inspirational coffee mug set featuring encouraging quotes and scripture to brighten your mornings for years to come!

Finally, please 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 request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Please, if you called and you got a busy, there are a lot of couples calling, individuals calling saying, "I want my life healed, my marriage healed." But I'd like you to give life.

Now you can go online LifeToday.org, that's real accessible. Use your bankcard to make the gift God put on your heart. But if you want to call in, be persistent. Say, "I'll wait a few minutes; people are praying right now. I'm going to get through." We'll be sending you Betty's book and her devotional and the other things that we've mentioned.

And if you'd like to have *A New Season* with Al and Lisa, where they will journey with you through one of the most challenging things a person can ever go through to bless

you, and that is the reason they've opened up and shared. They have opened up a lot of pain that they found healing for so you can find the same healing, and that is really the reason they've written it.

I want to say thanks to both of you. Join us saying thanks so much. Bless you! Love you! Thank you for opening up your life so people will open up their hearts. Thank all of you. By the way, here is the *Duck Commander Bible*. That is nice!

[Laughter]

Thomas Nelson! And it is in the bookstores. God bless all of you. Thank you for being here. Thanks for watching. Thanks for sharing life!

Announcer: Be sure to visit stream.org, a rich and lively source for breaking news, analysis, and entertainment! Stream.org