

4/23/15
Week 17 Spring Mission Feeding
Shawn Michaels

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to have you. We have a world wrestling champion. He says all the championships; I know what name. Your dad, he used to like to watch the wrestling.

Betty: Every Friday night!

James: Oh, it was unbelievable. He just went crazy over it. I'm telling you. Here is Shawn Michaels. He was... he'll tell you. He will put it mildly and humbly, "I was the greatest."

[Laughter]

Now here he is in a book; he looks pretty tough right here. But I've been sitting and talking to him. I actually had a meal with him and he didn't hit me with anything, threw nothing at me, didn't throw any punches. By the way, this book is phenomenal.

I'll tell you how much I like it and how much I like you; if you'll help us feed some kids that are starving to death, we'll just send you the book. But now you can go online, go ahead and order it right now. Run to the phone, go to Amazon, whatever, to get it, go to one of the other web sites.

But here are the pictures in here that will absolutely shake you to see what this guy has done, what he's been through and all of the championship shots of when he was all muscled up. He says he's still real muscled up. Here he looks like king of the world here.

You know what happened though? His whole world got turned right side up and he's going to tell us about it. Here is *Wrestling for My Life*: The legend, the reality, and the faith of a WWE superstar. Would you welcome Shawn Michaels to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

Shawn: Yay!

James: Shawn, you've got the whole story here. I've already told our viewers I want them to get it. We'll even send it to them if they will just reach out to a child and help us give life. Tell us your story. Tell us what you want people to hear all over the world, about the journey, some of the tough spots or whatever happened and the highs and the lows. What happened in your life?

Shawn: Well, first of all I have to say it's somewhat intimidating being out here because I... you have many guests and their stories are very impactful and nothing short of amazing. There are oftentimes when I tell mine that I feel very foolish and very silly.

I was raised a decent kid. I just made a lot of really bad choices along the way. And quite honestly, nobody really screwed up my life but me. So sometimes to come on a show like this, and especially after other folks have been through really tough times, it's again, I feel a little silly.

But at the same time I also know that all of us have a story, all of us have a testimony. I had the opportunity in 2006 to do sort of an autobiography but it was obviously, it was more wrestling related and focused more on my wrestling career and the wrestling aspect of my life.

I got to touch on my salvation a little bit but at that time it had only been four years, still very new. I wanted to someday have an opportunity to truly tell of the most amazing, most impactful thing that happened in my life and that was coming to Christ in 2002. This was on the heels of having the what anybody would judge as a career nothing short of spectacular.

James: The height of success!

Shawn: And especially, it was the height of success -- I was headlining WrestleMania, I was the main event. I was a WB champion; I was making money. I mean at one time, at least I was doing my best to carry the company.

[Laughter]

But doing all this at six-foot one-inch, 215 pounds soaking wet in a business that is full of 6' 9" 300-pound guys, so it was nothing short of miraculous what I was doing. I created a great deal of success professionally.

James: Were people pulling for you because they saw you as the little guy taking over the impossible?

Shawn: Commercially, so to speak, and outwardly they were pulling for me. Behind the scenes, I wasn't well liked and I wasn't a decent person. It seemed the more successful I got, the angrier I got, the more bitter I got. It started when I was young just getting into this line of work.

I was raised a good kid but I was just so curious about what the other side was like. And then at 19 years old I don't really know -- I don't think I really had any idea who I was as a young man let alone trying to figure it out as I jumped into this world where every night I would pretend to be something I wasn't. By the time I was 30 years old I was neck deep in it and I honestly didn't know how to get out.

What was once sort of termed as fun was no longer fun but I was still doing it because I just didn't like where I was or who I was or what I'd become. So on television I had everything that one would assume one would need to be happy. But personally, I was just into drugs and drinking and partying but not even in a joyful way. It was...

James: So the party wasn't fun.

Shawn: You know, it was sheer misery. And in 1998 I got injured and the doctors told me I'd never wrestle again so I was forced to retire. I moved back to San Antonio and wallowed in my misery. I was fortunate enough to meet a woman. In our first conversation, we're talking on the phone, she says, "Well, I've got to know. Do you believe in Jesus?"

I said, "Listen, I was raised Catholic. Of course I do!"

[Laughter]

Of course! Just so you know, I met her two weeks later. I asked her to marry me two weeks after that, and we got married two weeks after that. So the entire thing from the time I laid eyes on her was probably six weeks. I married her, and then two weeks after that, and this is -- I know this is a Christian show but I am who I am -- I knocked her up, so now we're having a baby.

[Laughter]

And if this isn't love, I don't know what is! The thing is I was crazy about her. But it wasn't long into this marriage that she said, "Look, you may know who Jesus is but you don't know him."

[Laughter]

Really, the cat was out of the bag at that point. I did my best to sort of hold on. Of course, I realized, I've got nine months to change. Buddy, you're going to be a dad in nine months. You've got to get your act together. So I'm going to change; I'm going to do this.

From her standpoint it was okay, I'm going to be a mother. I need to get myself together. She was already far more together than I was but as you might imagine that isn't saying much.

[Laughter]

So she got back to Bible study, starting to try to find a church. Of course, me wanting to be the supportive husband, "I think that's awesome, honey! I will attend with you and everything."

I really worked on trying to get better. I would cut down on little things but it's -- it wasn't -- it was still the same.

James: Like most folks who trot into church now, there's not a whole lot going on in their life.

Betty: You're trying to make the change yourself instead of God doing it.

Shawn: There you have it.

James: I bet you were doing a poor job.

Shawn: I wasn't doing good!

[Laughter]

I'll be honest. She never pushed, unbeknownst to me on nights when I would pass out, she would go in the closet and pray for me. And all she ever prayed was, just for him to get off that stuff. Not to be saved, not to be anything, not to become the Jesus freak that I am. None of that stuff -- just clean him up a little bit. She was -- she even prayed for a low bar.

[Laughter]

She wasn't -- "If you could just make him presentable it would be awesome!" So of course, I'm trying and I'm trying and I'm not doing very good. One Christmas she leaves out a study Bible but then she leaves out this book by Dr. James Dobson and it is called *Straight Talk to Men*. I

met the man. He's -- if I ever meet him, he's somebody that I always go, I'm not sure if I would just give him a big hug or I'd punch him because I read this thing and I've never been so nicely and sweetly dressed down. But he was just letting me know what a horrible human being -- horrible man I was but saying it in the nicest way.

[Laughter]

I mean it just cut me. I thought my goodness! I've got to try to get a hold of this.

Finally, it was one night, I'm on the couch and again, I've cut off just about everything but it was just like, Lord, it's just Friday nights now. My son and I, at that time, he's now two years old. So I've missed my nine month bar, I've missed his one year bar, now he's two years old and I still haven't gotten myself together. Cut down but not where I need to be.

I'm on the couch and I'm half in the bag and he and I, at that time, we still do it now, just different but pizza and cookie night. As I'm half in the bag he's crawling on me and I hear him, his little voice say, "Daddy's tired."

It hit me that finally, at two years old, he can see it now. He can see who I am. And who I've allowed myself to become. And to this day I tell him now, he's 15, he's 6, 2, and I say, "Boy, you ruined me!"

[Laughter]

I was so tough before you and now, every time I talk about it I... it cuts me to the quick because it was -- and nobody knew about it, it was a private moment between us but I knew that I was failing him. And I knew that the only way he was going to have any idea, and I'm hearing Dr. Dobson, the only way he's going to know how to be a man is by seeing it in you, and I was desperately falling short.

That was the night that I did, I cried out to the Lord and it was please, it was... that's why, in the back of the book, it was my looking at myself in the mirror and having to be honest with myself and say, Mister, you need... all that other stuff, all that other "man stuff" that you did means absolutely nothing if you fail in this area.

That was the day that strangely enough, I went to the church the next day and I... It was Cornerstone, I'm sure you know Pastor Hagee. I didn't know this, years later, Pastor Matt tells me, they thought I was in there doing some kind of punked thing.

Well, the Hagees, they wouldn't come out of their offices because like they heard, "Shawn Michaels is in the..." I was in there looking for a Bible study.

[Laughter]

They wouldn't come out because they thought like the wrestling... there's something crazy going to go on out there! And thankfully, the other gentleman stuck his head out and said, "You can come to my Bible study!"

I went there and he said, "Shawn, would you like to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?"

I said, "You know, I think I would."

He said, "Well, have you ever said the sinner's prayer?"

Of course, in my Catholic mind I'm going through this rolodex of prayers. I'm thinking to myself, well, I've got the Hail Mary, Holy Mother. I said, "Nothing that I can remember."

[Laughter]

He said, "Well, to be part of this Bible study you need to be born again. Have you been born again?"

I said, "Nope! Just the one time."

[Laughter]

And just so you know, I've been entertaining my entire life; that didn't change with my salvation. I said the sinner's prayer and wept like a baby, and my life has never been the same since.

[Applause]

James: Isn't that great?

Shawn: My mother is watching and she'll get mad at me. Well, because five years after that, I baptized my own mother.

[Applause]

James: Don't you love this guy? Open, honest testimony! I'm telling you, when you were talking about your little boy and he's up here, "Daddy's tired." That little boy looked down and saw your soul -- the soul that Jesus wanted to rescue.

We've got a picture here. Isn't that an incredible picture of that little boy right there? You see he's got daddy's clothes on.

This is my friend; Dudley Hall is an old football player at Alabama and he came and heard me preach when I was so young, and he was, and just really sold out to God. I preached, filled with the spirit, and God knows Dudley is filled with the spirit, *Heirs to the Kingdom*. Dudley talks about, Betty, orphans no more; put off the orphan mentality.

He said, "Most churches look like orphanages rather than the children of the Father in heaven and the King's kids."

This is phenomenal. We want to give this to you. We want to give you the book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. Shawn, I want to give people something that blesses them in Christ and I want to give them your book, *Wrestling for My Life*.

I want to tell you something, buddy. This is one of the clearest testimonies that we've ever heard anybody give. I want to turn right now to everybody listening.

Now listen to me. If you haven't met the Jesus that Shawn Michaels is talking about, when all the success the world offers still leaves you empty -- is that right, Shawn?

Shawn: Yes, sir!

James: Empty! And Jesus has given you a joy; hasn't he? And boy, it's all over you.

Listen. This is what God wants for you. I wish I could get your attention. I wish I could reach out and just kind of pull you up and just say, "Please listen!"

Or I wish I could take your broken heart and say, "Let's let God put it together."

You see if I want that, just as a human being, just as an old guy that's been preaching a long time, three children, 11 grandchildren, going to have a great grand baby; we've got 11 grandchildren, they're all great grandchildren in my eyes -- we're going to have a great grand baby. I tell them that.

Here's the thing. I've been out a long time preaching but I'm going to tell you something, if I care about you, think how much more the father in heaven cares about you. And if I want to help you and I'm so limited, the one who is unlimited and who loves you, would you let him help you heal your heart, your hurt, literally give you a new future, a new life?

He came that you might have life and have it more bountifully and abundantly than you ever imagined. Ask him right now. Just ask him like he said a while ago.

Shawn said, "Yeah, said the sinner's prayer. Jesus, boy, here is a sinner. You've got one. You've got a needy person, Lord, here I am. Would you cleanse me, forgive me, save me, give me your life? The life you offer, give it to me!"

Just tell him in your words, tell him. And he says you don't have to beg. You don't ask the Father for bread and get a stone, he gives you life.

Why don't you call the phone number there on the screen and say, "I just prayed"?

Somebody will thank God with you. I'd like to send you the book, *Knowing God as Father*. I wrote it because I didn't have a father until I met God; He's my Father. He wants to be your father, even if you've had a dad. I'll send it to you. It's a simple Bible study as well as just the testimony of what it is like to know him as Father.

Shawn, you have blessed us so much. I want to show you right now some children that don't have what kids over here have and they need just a chance. I want you to look, I want you to watch. But then I want you to say, "God, how would you want me to respond if I were your hands?" Because you are -- yes, you are! Watch!

On the mission field

Announcer: When you look at the hardship facing many in Africa, their struggle to survive, it is easy to think it's all they've ever known. We might even been inclined to think they are accustomed to pain. But to believe that, removes us from the reality of their plight. For Aluel suffering and tragedy are things she has come to know only recently.

Open captions:

We used to have farming before the attack on our homes.

Announcer: There was no warning. Aluel lost almost everything in one dark night. Bullets flying and fire raging, defenseless and helpless she witnessed the unthinkable.

Open captions:

They killed my husband and two children...

Announcer: It's not something from which you recover quickly, especially when it was just the beginning. Though she lost two children that night, five of Aluel's children escaped the attack. But what they couldn't escape is the malnutrition attacking in the aftermath of lost crops, livestock, shelter.

Open captions:

Three of my children died because we have no food...

Announcer: As Aluel watches children play nearby, her mind drifts to sweet memories of those little ones she lost.

While she'll never forget, she can't dwell there long. The desperation of her two remaining children calls to her and it calls to us. We can't change everything Aluel and countless families like hers have experienced, but we can help them on their road to recovery by insuring no more of their children die of starvation.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And yes, we really can.

Father, I pray that we will.

Because of the horrors of what's occurring there and it can occur here, in any free country where you live like the United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom, wherever you are, horrific things happen. But there in Africa where so much crisis, and then the plunder, and then the absolute devastation of crops and food, we've got 400,000 precious children and their family members throughout Africa that have been hit hard. They hurt, and only love can heal the hurt. But they're hungry.

And now then for nearly 25 years we've been feeding the hungry. What you need to understand is that we're watching impoverished nations turned upside down, right side up miraculously.

One of them is Mozambique. The miracles we have seen there are indescribable. What we're watching happen in Angola, what just has happened in Botswana where freedom has been born

in a way that is reminiscent of the birth of our nation; various things are happening throughout the country.

What's taken place in Rwanda is nothing short of a miracle; the healing of the racism that has been there for hundreds of years. Miracles! It's the gospel. But it's demonstrated love. We're saving lives.

When you meet people at the point of their need, Betty where they hurt and you show them love, they're more anxious to listen to people talk about love and we've seen it.

Betty: They are, James. We've watched what war can do. It killed her husband and two children. But they're fighting another battle, a battle against starvation, hunger, that can also take the lives of her other two children that she loves so desperately and wants to spare from death that surely is headed their way if something doesn't take place. That's what we can do. We can make that difference. We can offer hope to them through giving and love and supplying the food that they need, James.

James: It really is simple because the missionaries are there and they're sent by God but they're supported by us, people like us. When we talk about feeding and we talk about the costs, we're also talking about keeping the missionaries and relief workers in place. We're talking about you have invested in trucks, hundreds of them, and aircraft to move things around. You who have watched *LIFE Today* have been miracle workers now for decades.

Right now we're talking about the hundreds of thousands that we have located that have a need that the missionaries are ready to meet. All we do is keep them there and we feed the children and their families and we give them the food and the wherewithal. It takes an average -- think about this -- of \$30 to feed three children for the next months, \$50 to feed five, \$100 to feed ten. You can feed 100 children for a \$1,000 gift. I pray many of you will just say, "I'm going to the phone, I'm going online, I'm giving \$1,000. I want to help 100 children like that. I'm going to do it."

I don't think there is a person watching that couldn't help three, five, or ten. I don't think there is a person that couldn't. The issue is will you?

A lot of times we say, "Oh, I care!" But how much do we care? Do you care enough to share? I believe you do. Would you go to LifeToday.org and make the gift God put on your heart? Or dial that number, use your bankcard like a check. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you. The book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* is probably the most high-impact book I have read in many years, and I told Philip Yancey that. He said, "James, thank you."

This message from this incredible doctor on the body, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, to show the body of Christ what we're to look like, it is absolutely indescribable. We want to send it to you to bless you.

Dudley Hall teaching on *Heirs to the Kingdom*, right here right now for the glory of God. We want to bless you. We have gifts to bless you but you're giving the gift of life. Would you please right now, LifeToday.org or dial that number and make the gift of life? Whatever gift you can make you're going to be saving lives. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Disease, malnutrition, starvation -- all terrible human atrocities being faced every day by people living in remote and impoverished areas of Africa. Those at greatest risk are the children.

This month, 400,000 children are depending on us for survival. And now in South Sudan the suffering has intensified and our feeding efforts are desperately needed by an additional 25,000 children. Our mission teams are in place but your support is critically needed to replenish and distribute food supplies immediately. When you call or go online today and make a life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100, you will provide urgently needed food to three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

As our way of saying thank you, we'll send you *Heirs to the Kingdom*, four powerful messages on audio CD or U.S.B. flash drive. You'll also receive the award-winning book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children please request *The Story*, a running narrative Bible to help you engage with God's Word more easily.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children you may 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: I want to say thank you.

You remember I said you are God's hands? You really can be.

But Betty, the only way we're really his hands as they should be is if we have his heart. You're on his heart. That's why he has touched you today. Others are on his heart and he wants you to touch them.

We'll send you Shawn Michael's book to you. Say, "James, I helped. I've made a gift to give life to these kids."

We'll send it to you to say thank you, along with the other gifts. I want all of our audience and you...

By the way, you can go to the bookstores and get a copy for your friends or you can go online - - phenomenal story! A lot of people would listen to Shawn wouldn't listen to me, ol' sissy preacher. They'll listen to this old wrestler right here. I think Shawn likes me though. Maybe you do, but here's the deal, they'll like Shawn -- they'll like Shawn so get it.

Would you join us saying thanks to Shawn Michaels? Thanks to God.

Shawn: Thank you very much!

James: Shawn, I love you buddy. I love you!

Thank all of you for watching *LIFE Today*. Go to stream.org. You see it there on the screen? Google it in, put in stream.org. Go there every day! Get the news and then the good news. What do we do about the bad news? We want to help you. Thanks for watching.

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