

9/10/15
Week 37: Christmas Shoes and Smiles
Sheila Walsh #1

James: It is a pleasure. Thank all of you. It is a joy; it is a privilege to visit with all of you wherever you happen to be watching. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison;

Betty and I are thrilled to have Sheila Walsh with us today. She is going to be introducing a concept and an understanding that I think could probably be in just a matter of moments about as high an impact, in a positive way, as has ever been made in your life, and one that can just go on and you build on it.

I do want you to know from Betty and from me that Betty and I are here in the family room for a very specific reason. I spoke in coliseums and stadiums for 25-30 years and then the Lord impressed me to sit by my wife and the mother of our children, and grandmother, and now great grandmother -- great grandparents we are -- because the Lord revealed the importance of calling the family into the family room so they could get to know the Father -- the Father because we've got a lot of fathers missing or dysfunctional, and it's been a very painful thing in our world and in your nation. So you're here to experience the Father's heart and His love and that's why Betty and I are here -- for you -- and it's why Sheila is here.

So please know, if you've ever felt like nobody notices or no one cares, it is simply not the truth because a Father that numbers the hair on your head is focused on you. And that Father not only wants the best for you, but he knows how to deliver it, get you to it, get you beyond whatever is hurting and lift you above the pain and the hurt. And you can see the glory and the grace of a loving Father. That's why you're here.

Would you right now welcome Sheila Walsh to *LIFE Today*?

Sheila, glad to see you. I am very excited about what I'm holding in my hand. I'm excited about what God has put on your heart. You know that Betty and I have great appreciation for the gifting that God has given you and the way that he's used you to be a blessing. And we count it an honor to be here with you. But I believe you're here by divine assignment just like the people that are watching, they have a divine appointment for something that will mean something in their life. Tell me what's going on in your heart right now that leads us to what we'll talk about today and another day this week.

Sheila: Really, for the last two years I have been on my knees asking God, because I knew I was about to turn 59. I knew our son is about to go off to college and I felt also there is a shift in the spiritual realm in our nation. I know I've learned a lot about that from you, as well. I wanted to know, Lord, what is the unique thing that you have called me to do because I want to do it well. The more I thought about it, the more I felt compelled to do something that would ignite a fire in the hearts of women to come closer to Jesus and to his Word. Because over the 20 years that I've been with Women of Faith we've had five million women come.

But when I read on my Facebook posts, I hear the same thing over, "I want to study God's Word but I'm so busy." "I want to be closer to Jesus; I'm not doing it right." So I wanted to write something that was doable. I thought I could ask people to go five minutes.

So what I've done in this book is there is a five minute devotional and one real major takeaway point, a meditation point, and then I've written out five scriptures so you don't even have to -- if you can't find your Bible, the cat ate your Bible, I've got it all written out there. Because what would it be like if every believer on the planet, the minute they opened their eyes spent five minutes at least in the presence of Christ?

And it's not really honestly about my book; it is a bigger thing than that. It is a call to we are living in different days. This is not the way things used to be. Things are changing. The only thing that will keep us strong is the Word of God. So I really want to start... we'll start with five minutes with Jesus but my prayer is you'll be hungry for 10, for 15, and it will grow because that's what will change our nation -- radiant believers sold out and in love with Jesus Christ.

James: I've actually looked very, very carefully at the layout and the presentation. I don't think there is any way we can actually get you right in here close on all the pages and the way, like she said, if something has happened to your Bible she's putting the verses here. I think she is exactly right when she suggests the possibility that once you get in the Word and the Word begins to get into you, you're going to tend to spend more time in the Word and you're going to find the Word rising up in you like good leaven, you're going to find that it's producing a fruitfulness and a bountifulness spiritually that you had not experienced before. I think getting people started is key.

Betty, you were convinced somehow, growing up in church that preachers knew more and could get it better. You actually experienced what was a revolutionary moment when you got in the Word and realized the Word can come alive in your hands.

Betty: Absolutely! And like Sheila says, five minutes is like -- you hear about all these five minute workouts; it's like working out an hour if you do it the right way. Well, I'm telling you,

you'll get so much more out of this five minutes than you will out of five minutes on the treadmill.

[Laughter]

Sheila: Amen, sister! Amen!

[Laughter]

Betty: But to start there -- it's not overwhelming. But it's that moment of time just being still and reading God's Word and then meditating on that. It will make the difference in your day because you will be mindful all day long of what you read through God's Word and you'll see it in action. I promise you, you it works!

Sheila: One of the things I read that Oswald Chambers said, and I wrote it down so I would get it exactly right. He said, "The greatest hindrance in our spiritual life is that we will only look for big things to do."

How many of us hold back because we think I've nothing great to offer God yet. Once I get something significant to do I'll do it. We could all start there. What a thing to introduce to our children.

Honestly, one of the reasons I wrote the book is I'm aware of the fact that my son and all his buddies who I adore, he has the best group of friends, are now going off to college to a different place. I know they're going to be busy and they're going to have all sorts of stuff but I'm saying, "Listen guys, I promise you this. If you will honor God, if he gets the first words in your day... I love to go on the stream.org in the morning and check out the news. I love to watch FOX News, I love to hear what's going on in the world but nobody gets to have the first word other than the Lord. Because when you allow the Lord to have the first word you view the rest of life and the rest of your day through that window.

Whereas if you just turn on the TV and you hear about the terrible news that's happening, you then view the whole day through that. Christ said, "In this world you will have trouble but take heart, I've overcome the world." So many people are struggling with anxiety, and depression and fear, and everything we need to build ourselves strong inside is in God's Word. But it's only when we really commit to that. And this is doable. It doesn't matter if you're 10 or if you're 96, if you have a pulse, and there's not a white chalk mark around your body, you can do this!

[Laughter]

James: Yes, you can! I'm going to tell you. There is no question God has given Sheila a divine enabling, a gift to communicate.

But she also has the gift of communicating transforming truth in an effective, applicable way. I have not been able to find a place in here that's boring.

Here's one: Your unique purpose. You are divinely designed and destined. A living sacrifice -- well, he made a sacrifice but we are to present our bodies, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto him, which is our reasonable service. The gift is just so obviously of God, and the simplicity of what you've been led into. I'm excited about it and I want everybody to know this is good! And it can transform your thinking, and your life, and everything that happens in the future. And that's what I know you're praying for.

Sheila: One of the things I wanted to do was it's one thing to read God's Word, it's another thing to study God's Word, but it's a completely different level to apply God's Word to your life. Because I, like you, I learned Romans 12:1: Be a living sacrifice. And I thought, what does that mean? Am I supposed to carve up the kitchen table and drag it around the neighborhood as a cross?

[Laughter]

But no, I thought, well, Lord, what does that mean? And when I get in the Old Testament, nobody consulted the little lamb or the goat and said, "How do you feel about being a sacrifice?" I mean it was slaughtered, it was dead.

But we are living sacrifices which means we can crawl back off the altar when it gets too hot. And for me that means, we have a commitment, an intentionality to say I will remain a living sacrifice no matter how hot it gets, no matter how difficult it gets. But I think the reason I'm excited about this, because I've written lots of books but so often books are parts of my story and parts of other people's story and I think that's great.

I love when Paul wrote to the church in Thessaloniki and he said, "I've determined not just to share the gospel but my very own soul." I love that! But there is nothing that will change you more than the Word of God because it's alive! It applies to every single situation that you're ever going to walk through.

Betty: Don't you think by starting the day off like this too, it helps prepare your heart for that day? Because every day is not going to be a bed of roses, every day is not going to go smoothly, but if you have that sword in your heart and in your mind, you're preparing for the day that God has set before you.

Sheila: And even with my neighbor; I'm always trying to give my books to my neighbor and he is never usually very keen to receive them. But I said to him the other day -- because he is a busy man! He's a businessman, he's busy. But I said to him the other day, "Hey! I've written a new book. It's called *Five Minutes with Jesus*. Would you like one?"

He's like, "Yeah! Five minutes, I could do that."

So I just think, I don't know, I want there to be a time in our nation when we start to live as the church. It's like are people rushing to our doors because we're so on fire? I read something about the head of the British Atheist's Association who ended up in hospital. A friend of mine who is a pastor went to visit him because the man was clearly dying. And the atheist said to him, "If I believed what you say you believe I would crawl over England on broken glass to tell every single person."

And he said, "The reason I've never seen any reason for Christ is because I can't see anything in you that makes me want to have that kind of relationship."

I don't want to live like that. I want to live a life that demands an explanation.

James: Boy, that's powerful!

When we were talking about the living sacrifice even a moment ago, my mind just kind of flashed back to when I was 19 and I was preaching like the first year, and the pastor of the church said, "Would you go to a home and visit a very special person?"

And I went and visited with a girl that was paralyzed from her neck down. It was a very special time being there with her.

But something happened, a couple nights later. I had given the invitation in this church and it was in Shreveport, Louisiana and down the far aisle came this wheelchair pushed by, obviously, a father, to the front. The pastor leaned over and spoke to the girl in the wheelchair. And then he turned around and tears were coursing down his cheeks. And he motioned to me and I leaned over and he said, "Do you know what this girl just told me?"

And it was the girl I had seen and she is paralyzed from her neck down. She said... and I had preached, Sheila, on committing all to Christ -- really giving him everything to use us as living sacrifices. She said, "I want to give Jesus everything I have, everything I am. Do you think Jesus could use someone like me?"

The minute those words came out of his mouth, I literally dropped to my knees. You talk about broken?

She said, "I want to give Jesus everything I have. Do you think he could use somebody like me?"

Boy, listen to me. You talk about breaking a college student's -- a first-year preacher's life to where I said, "Lord, I want you to take everything I have, everything I am, and I want you to use it."

If that girl who felt like she had so little to offer could offer so much what would he do with any of us if we would present ourselves to him? I think that if the individuals that will really avail themselves of the opportunity of *five minutes with Jesus*, there are some people when you're around them you see Jesus so clearly it's an unforgettable experience.

And really and truly, that's the thing, Sheila, that's always attracted me to individuals is the greatness of Jesus in that person and their love for him because I see great talent everywhere. But when I see that relationship with Jesus, I find it a life-changing experience. I think if people will give Jesus the five minutes just to start the day, I think it's going to do what you're praying it will do.

Sheila: The other thing I think that's kind of lovely is that so often we come to God with our kind of list of everything we want. I think it's so lovely to be able to give a gift to our Father. If you think of everything that he's given for us, that he didn't even hold back his own son, that he passionately pursued us to the point of death; can't we at least start every day by simply giving a gift back to our Father?

And not just -- I love if people will read the devotions and read the scriptures, but then I would love to challenge you to stay quiet for five minutes and listen.

Do you know that our Father is longing to talk to you -- to communicate? So often you think, I can't feel the love of God. But do you stay there long enough in His presence and just say, "Father, I'm waiting."

Wouldn't it be tragic to get to heaven and the Lord to say, "Here is your house."

And you think oh, that's lovely! And you open the door and it's this huge pile of presents. You say, "Lord, why do I have gifts up here?"

And the Lord say, "Well, that's all the stuff I longed to give you when you were on earth but you just never waited or asked."

God has so much he wants to give to his children.

James: I have found that he's anxious to speak to people who anxious to hear. When you get in just the way you're starting, I've looked at enough of this to know, it's going to cause you to stop you in your tracks -- it's going to cause you to refocus and you give him a chance to speak to you. He is so anxious to speak to you.

Father, I pray every single person right now listening and watching will realize how focused on them you are, and how anxious you are to speak and share your heart with them. To bless them and enable them to be a blessing when there is such tremendous need for it; in Jesus' name, grant us this prayer.

I do hope you'll get the book *Five Minutes with Jesus*. Sheila, we're doing something I know you love. I still remember the first time Christian, your son who is on his way to A&M came right here; he came on and gave us a gift that he wanted to help us in our mission outreach.

Sheila: He'd been gathering coins for a whole year and his bag was so heavy and he was just a wee boy. I said, "Let's take them to the bank and put them into notes." And he said, "No Mom! This is what I saved. I'm bringing every coin!"

He could hardly walk up here. But you know you've had an impact in the life of my son because you've spoken words of life and words of encouragement; you're such a father to so many and I thank you for that.

James: Well, I would love to be. I'd love people to know the Father that became my Father when I didn't have one. If I could be any kind of representation of the Father to you, with all my heart I want to be that.

One of the things we find, Sheila, that's such a joy to people is we see a need and we meet it. And these little shoes here... you know how I got these particular kinds of shoes? You can buy some very expensive ones like this but a businessman here locally came and said, "I have found a way to get these made very inexpensively and they're really good shoes."

He said, "I'd like to see us give them to children all over the world that don't have shoes." That's how it started.

Then we came to you and said, "How would you like to give shoes and smiles for Christmas?" You know cleft palate surgery and shoes?

You know what you said? "We see those feet, we see that need, let's do it! We can help that surgical issue -- let's do it!"

I believe that the love of God flowing freely through people like you enables us to witness miracles. I want you to watch closely and see if you don't want to be a part of making some children indescribably happy. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Jeanne: We've been privileged to have shoes go as gifts during the year to many of our mission outreaches. I have wanted to do this for so many years. From the very first year to the first village, it's really hurt me to watch the injuries that they have to their feet.

But look! Those are shoes and we can get them easily. They don't need to go barefoot. It is horrible! They get diseases in their feet. They already have enough to deal with without that.

So this is an easy fix for them to get their feet protected. Let's do it. It's great. Look at this! It's awesome. They're so happy!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Does that put a smile all the way down in your heart?

Betty: Oh, it does! I remember so well our oldest daughter, she loved to wear her little black patent shoes. I got such great joy. Every day she wanted to put on her little black patent shoes with her white little lace socks and wanted them so perfect, not a wrinkle in the sock. That brought such great joy to me to be able to do that for my child.

But you know, we've been over there and we've put the shoes on the feet of these precious children like what you just saw. There is no greater joy, especially when we know what we're doing is protecting their feet; their precious little feet that God created and he loves so much. We have an opportunity to at least prevent some diseases from getting to them through putting shoes on their feet. They like it as you can see. It is just a gift they've never expected. But they really don't understand what it's going to do for them, James.

James: Yeah I don't think most of them even have an idea that we're actually giving them protection from some of the discomfort. I think a lot of the excitement that you were seeing in the little children there -- they're so cute dancing -- is somebody gave them a gift. Somebody gave them something they never had before. Somebody gave them attention. Bottom line, somebody gave them love.

It's no exaggeration to say that those missionaries plant their lives there on a divine mission -- on a divine assignment. It is not comfortable. They don't have a lot of the comforts we have when we're here. But they just ask, "Would you at least keep us here doing what we do? And don't just leave us here empty-handed. We're going to love the kids and hold them but sometimes we need to help them."

Sometimes we need to do something for them not just feed them or clean water, but sometimes just a gift that will improve their health. It's going to make them really happy. So the missionaries have said, "Please do this!"

I think Samaritan's Purse, Christmas in a Shoebox is one of the most beautiful things. Betty and I have been close to Franklin and to the mission workers that even help see that vision of what they can do in a shoebox. So I think you want to share love and this is one way we can do it and point them to Christ, and they see his love demonstrated, not just in word but in deed.

Then remember this and, Betty, you know you were talking about how happy they are. So many little children have facial issues and deformity and cleft palates and we've got surgeons that will work with us and we have can do these serious surgeries for an average of \$500 each. And I ask our viewers, for Christmas would you pray about giving two surgeries? Would do you that with a gift of \$1,000?

And then for \$36 you can give 10 pairs of shoes or \$144 you can give 40 pairs of shoes. Wouldn't that be great?

I don't know what level you can participate but please do. Go to LifeToday.org and just use your bankcard like a check or you can dial the phone number there and use your bankcard like a check. You can even text if you want to. You can actually -- that's a way a lot of people want to give. They just text and put in the shoes and the number there that's a unique number and just make the gift.

Father, I pray everyone watching will be moved by your spirit to express your love; in Jesus' name.

What a wonderful gift for Christmas -- shoes and smiles! We have some beautiful little gift ornaments, Christmas decorations to send you that will bless you. We want to be a blessing to you as you bless others.

Please now, go online, text, or call that number and make the gift God put on your heart. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it, children needlessly suffer not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children, they've never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

By responding today you can help *LIFE* immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will help provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

With your gift of any amount be sure to request this beautifully crafted green antique shoe ornament, a treasure to place on your tree each holiday season. With your gift of \$100 or more you may also request a special boxed set of *LIFE*'s Christmas shoe ornaments from past years.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries. And you may request our beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I do also want to mention, in addition to the beautiful little ornaments, remember they're conversation pieces. People are going to comment on them and you talk about where they came from and the love that made it possible.

If you'd like to have the *Five Minutes with Jesus*: Making today matter -- making life matter, we'll gladly send it to you. You just simply help us put a smile, put shoes on children's feet. And just as another expression of gratitude, we'll gladly send you the book or you can go to a

bookstore online and get it. But I hope you get it, get in it, and pass on the insight and the inspiration.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Sheila for being with us?

Sheila, thank you for being here. Thanks for sharing.

Thank all of you for watching. And you can follow Sheila on stream, the stream.org -- a source of inspiration. Thanks for watching!