

7/12/16
Week 29: Mission feeding
Sheila Walsh
Lisa Bevere

Sheila: Hello! Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm so glad you decided to sit down and turn on the TV. I pray that this 30 minutes will really impact your life.

One of the things that we're thrilled to be able to share with you at the moment is a brand new teaching series called Living: Your Destiny. I can't wait to hear it myself because we've got Beth Moore, one of the best Bible teachers that God ever deposited on the planet. We have Christine Caine, who is just like on fire for Jesus and sets fires all around the world and people get set free. Then Sarah Jakes Roberts, Bishop T.D. Jakes' daughter has such a powerful story. I get to share what it is like to live your destiny. And the fifth woman on this teaching series is my guest today. I'm crazy about this woman! Would you please help me to welcome Lisa Bevere?

Lisa: I love you, Sheila!

Sheila: I love you! I was saying to my husband before I came to the studio, I've spent so many years in ministry whether it is working with youth for Christ or working with the Dr. Billy Graham organization, with the 700 Club, or the 20 years of Women of Faith, I have never in all my years met a woman who is a greater champion and encourager of other women than you.

Lisa: Oh, thank you!

Sheila: Thank you from my heart and all the other women that you've encouraged. That's really... Is that something that has always been in you, Lisa?

Lisa: No! I didn't even like women. I hated them. When my husband proposed to me I was like, "You do not understand what you're getting because I am a woman's brain..." No! Wrong thing! Sorry about that. We need to edit that. I said, "I am a man's brain in a woman's body." He was like, "I'm not comfortable with that." I was like, "No, you don't understand. I'm not like a woman. I'm nice."

Sheila: Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! I'm not like a woman, I'm nice?

Lisa: I know! See that's how wrong it was. But you know what I'm going to tell you, Sheila? I had such a wound from my mother who tried so hard -- she did so much better than her mother had done for her but I just felt like such a -- I can't connect with women. I don't know how to do this. I don't know their secret language. I'm so much more comfortable with guys.

So I remember God talking to me and saying, "I have called you to minister to women." I was like, "No! No! -- Anybody but women! I'll go anywhere. Please don't make me to go women. They're so mean!" And he was like, "You are a woman!" And I said, "I don't like them." He said, "I do!" I was like, "Okay! Jesus likes them. I need to change my mind."

Sheila: I actually totally relate to that. So I want to know the journey that brought you from that place to the place where you're impacting more women around the world than most women I know.

Let's go back a little bit. You shared a photograph on Instagram the other day. As I'm flicking through my -- I'm thinking oh, there's my friend. And there's oh! There's Lisa Bevere's eye.

Lisa: Yes, I did do that. Yes! It wasn't just a selfie up close on steroids. It was my artificial eye. I had gone to an ocularist and you're supposed to get your eye replaced every five years and I had stretched that out to 15 where it was becoming a problem.

So I was sitting there and this man is painstakingly painting, looking at my eyes and trying to capture the color of my iris and painstakingly painting. I thought you know what? While I'm sitting here, I get so many questions about: Can you take it out? Can you see through it? Is it glass?

So I thought, I'm just going to write a little bit of this answer. Then when I started unpacking the answers, Sheila, I remembered. I remember in that moment the name calling and the things that had happened since I was a little girl that --

Sheila: So when did this happen to you, Lisa? When did you lose your eye?

Lisa: Five. So I lost my eye at five to retinoblastoma. They had to remove it. One day I was running around the house with a flashlight, the next day I was in Riley Children's hospital and my eye was removed. They normally catch it anywhere from eight weeks to a year and a half. So the fact that they had caught it so late was an emergency.

So I just remember being at the hospital and I kept saying, "Am I going to get a shot? Am I going to get a shot?"

So I was in shock when they were like, "Yeah. We're actually going to take out your eye."

I said, "I'm actually leaving." I tried to run away.

My world just became centered around that. People no longer saw me the same, five years of age. Kids can be cruel. So "Cyclops," "one eye" -- those kind of things.

In my high school, they wanted to prepare us for our future so you had to take either speech or debate because arguing and talking are important things. I thought, I cannot get up in front of people and argue. I'm so self-conscious. I'll try the speech class. I had over-prepared. I had my little three by five cards and I was standing up there and I looked down and I tried to get my breath. I look up and one of the boys in the back row mouths, "Cyclops!" And I remember, I just began to shake. I burst into tears.

I went running down to the guidance counselor and I said, "I can't do this. I can't do this. I'm handicapped. I can't do this. I'm not going to get a good grade in this class."

You know what he said? "You're right. You can't do this. You're right."

And here's what happened, Sheila. His compassion for my situation in that moment he said, "You don't need to take speech. We're going to waive that requirement for you."

I said, "Now there is another class I'm having a really hard time with."

And he said, "What's that?"

I said, "Typing." I said, "Typing is impossible for me!" Because back in the day you had your hands on your keys, you turned your head to the side. I'm like, "I can't even see my hands now." So I couldn't get above 25 words per minute.

He said, "We'll waive typing and we'll waive speech."

I walked out and I thought I'm free! I will never have to get up in front of people and speak. I will never have to type another paper. I think God was laughing. He was like, "Oh, baby girl! It's okay! We won't make you get up in front of those 20 people."

Sheila: 20,000 people --

Lisa: And we're just going to push you to the edge of diarrhea because we're going to put you on television. We're just going to keep it so that --

Sheila: There's the title of your next book! Yes!

Lisa: The Edge of Diarrhea; we'll put my eye on the front. [Laughing] But yeah.

So many women, Sheila, it was interesting the response, the engagement level on that particular picture was so high because so many women said, "I didn't know." Or they said, "My child lost her eye or his eye at eight months. I'm so thankful that I can see into the future that this is not going to limit their lives."

I had a husband who would not let me live small.

Sheila: I've met that husband. I love that husband!

Lisa: Yes, and you know what I'm talking about. He's like a tornado. I'm happy he travels because I can only handle him in small bits. It is the energy level. I'm like, "Oh, my gosh!"

He's like, "I don't drink coffee."

I'm like, "Thank God! Thank God you don't drink coffee. I have to drink coffee to be with you."

Sheila: When you met John, though, John Bevere, much loved here in this ministry, as are you, you are basically James' additional daughter. James and Betty adore you. But when you first met John, did your feelings about yourself impact your feelings about the potential for a relationship with him?

Lisa: Yes. I actually felt like he was getting cheated. That sounds terrible but no, this is what you would do. I remember saying to him, number one, I had come from a very different background. And John had kept himself pure and John had been godly for the last three years and I had been excelling in heathenism at the University of Arizona. Now John led me to the Lord on our first date so he was always going to be someone I admired. But the idea of marrying him, that was beyond my ability to even think that I could be -- I know this sounds terrible but worthy of that; that God would give me that kind of gift. So when he shared Jesus with me, I got born again.

When he asked me to marry him, I was like I don't know if I can have kids because they were saying that I was 100% carrier on this. And thank God that none of my kids did get it because

it is true. Retinoblastoma is genetic; then the chances of your kids getting it is 50%. So all four of my boys -- perfect.

But yeah, I did feel like I wasn't feminine. I did not want to come alongside him. I was great with being behind him but I didn't want to come alongside him. And he would say to me, "Lisa, there are young girls that need you in this youth group. They need to have you get up."

I'd say, "I'm not some package. Because you're the youth pastor doesn't make me a youth pastor. And you're not making me get up there."

He said, "Well, you just need to get ready. I'm going to call on you."

I said, "You just need to be ready, I'm going to walk out the back door."

And he would be like, "Lisa!" And so he would say, "You are not your own. You were bought with a price and you don't have the right to be comfortable when so many people need what you can give them as comfort."

I said, "Don't talk to me like I'm a congregation. I'm your wife. I'm your one-eyed, handicapped wife. You need to feel sorry for me."

And he would have none of it. He just kept saying, "No." So he would trick me and hand me the microphone in front of kids that I was terrified of. I was terrified of the teenagers which are kind of scary.

Sheila: Yeah, I get that!

But what happened in-between that and the "no, no, no" and the dynamic woman that I see on stage who gets up there with a sword and writes, Girls with Swords?

Lisa: A swords make me feel violent. [Laughing]

Sheila: But what happened in you?

Lisa: When you're married to a man like that, whether you wanted to hear it or not you hear it. I finally came to the place where I said, "You know what, God? This isn't about me. This is about you. And this isn't about me being comfortable or pretty or whatever. I'm going to be a more living testimony of your faithfulness than I ever would if I was perfect."

And the truth is the longer we live we know there is no perfect person. But God actually, really, and this sounds like he's mean but it's not -- he really loves to make us face what we fear because he knows that it's going to actually position us to be fearless. So when I finally began to get on that stage and speak and see women say, "Ah, when I saw you get up." Or "When I heard that..." I made the connection that it wasn't about me but it was what God could do through me.

Sheila, I'm so aware, I know that you're aware of this because I know what you've been through in your life that the attacks on our life, my losing an eye at five, you losing your father, the attacks on our life, they're not about our past, they're about our destiny. The enemy somehow knows, he can see patterns and he's like, "I'm going to take her out before she ever realizes who she is."

And I think there are people out there right now that they've been going through hardship and they're looking at their past to figure out what's going on and it's not about their past, it is about their future.

Sheila: You told a story when you and I were together once and it was from one of those Arnold Schwarzenegger movies. And you start and I'm, "Okay, I'm trying to track with this. I don't think it is in Hebrews."

But actually the point you make is very, very powerful and it's about that, about the enemy maybe recognizing who you are before you do.

Lisa: Yeah, it's the movie that never goes away -- it's Terminator and it just keeps coming and coming. So you can see it at any point. It will probably come out again five years from now.

But basically, the whole idea of destiny and that the truth is, as Christians, we've been marked with the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead. So the moment we become a Christian we're a target. But we also need to understand that long before we were targeted we were chosen.

I love that tonight is all woven around destiny for women; living their destiny. And the truth is, none of us are going to be able to live our destiny if we pray small, safe prayers or live small, safe lives. I know each of these women have come through something and struggle can be strengthening.

So you and I always love to talk about praying scary prayers. God just dropped into me that most Christians don't pray scary prayers.

Sheila: What's a scary prayer?

Lisa: A scary prayer is Psalm 10. A scary prayer is when you begin to pray the Word of God and it is so overwhelming to you that it takes your breath away. Or maybe you begin to pray like... maybe you've just been praying... maybe there is a mom at home and they're like, "I just hope my kids get saved before they die." And instead, that's a scared prayer. That's not a scary prayer.

A scary prayer would be like you know what? My son or my daughter is a disciple taught of the Lord and great is their peace and undisturbed composure.

A scary prayer right now, for Americans right now, would be that this nation, her destiny is greater than her history and that we will have a great and glorious rising and that God will hear from heaven and he will heal our land because we're measuring everything by sphere. We're letting the culture drive our prayers when my Bible says that God watches over his Word to perform it. So when I begin to pray God's Word, he will watch over it. He doesn't watch over my worries. He watches over his Word.

Sheila: Say that again! Say that again!

Lisa: He doesn't watch over our worries, he doesn't watch over my whining, he watches over his Word. So we need to be fluent people who speak the Word of God into destinies.

When you read some of David's prayers, it's like: Break their right arm! Break their left arm! Search and destroy every sign of wickedness! God's rule wins.

I'm like, "Whoa! Can I pray that?" Okay, I'm going to pray the scary prayer. I'm going to pray, "Break their arms."

I'm not going to break their arms but God knows how to search and he needs us to find out -- you know one of the prayers I've been praying recently that's been scary is we all have been praying for the noontime prayer for what's going on in our world.

Sheila: Midday, baby -- midday!

Lisa: Midday baby! I was praying for the people that are captive and praying for the people that have been under the bondage of theology of rape and all of the other cruelties that we're seeing in our world right now. I had the Lord challenge me because I was praying Psalm 10. I had the Lord challenge me and he said, "I want you to start to pray that there would be a revival among Islam. I want you to begin to pray the way I've told you to pray, that you bless those

who curse you. You do good to those. I want you to pray," because he said, "if you're not praying for them, who is going to pray for them, Lisa?"

So I have been praying that Jesus, the man in white is going to appear to them, to not only the captives but the captors because we know they're just as much in bondage. That there will be a revival, that there will be an opening, that the gospel will go into places where none of us will ever go and they will search and destroy every sign of wickedness.

Sheila: That's powerful! That is power! Yeah! Wow!

My son Christian went to Passion this past year and we got to watch some of it online. John Piper gives such a powerful message. He said, "It is not your job to stay alive, it is your job to stay in love with Christ. And when you're in love with Christ it changes everything."

Do you talk about this in our new series?

Lisa: I do! We unpack the entire version of The Terminator, and the whole destiny and facing your fears. I'm the naughty version of that. That's my portion, the one fifth.

Sheila: No! No, no! I've heard the story and trust me, it is worth getting this just to hear what Lisa has to say. It is one of those stories you start to listen to and you're like where on earth are you going? And then wham!

I remember the first time I heard you share this, I literally had to get out of the building and sit down and say, "Lord, what was that?" Because it was so impactful and it makes you want to rise up. There's something about when you hear the truth, you want to rise up.

Lisa: Well, and people do need to live their destiny because it isn't about them, it is about all of us and it's about their legacy. It is what we were saying, the attacks are not about our history, they're about our destiny. And people need to get a little bit of an attitude. If they're going through something, say, "What is so frightening about me that the enemy has launched a full scale onslaught?"

And I love that *LIFE Today* believes in women and they're encouraging women to live their destiny because God is always created us to do that alongside the men.

Sheila: I think it is interesting that the enemy early on tried to take you out so that you wouldn't stand on a platform. So you wouldn't write. Now you stand on platforms literally around the world and you and John write prolifically.

I also think it is interesting that one of our other teachers on this series is Christine Caine and you remember last year she had the attack on throat cancer.

Lisa: It's so obvious -- her voice!

Sheila: I remember talking to Nick after Christine was starting to recover. He said, "You know the enemy really blew it. If he was going to mess with Christine he should have just killed her. Now he's just made her angry."

[Laughter]

Lisa: Yeah! You don't make Greeks or Sicilians angry. You don't do that!

Sheila: So yeah. This is going to be a really powerful series. We're going to send this to you for any gift that you send us because right now I want to show you something where when we rise up and we become strong in who we are in Christ, we realize that there is a world out there and it's on our watch and that we can make a difference. Watch this with me. Will you?

On the mission field

Open Captions:

"Malnutrition is so cruel to these little children." -- Jeanne Rogers

[Weeping]

Jeanne: This little girl, she is so thin. But she is so dehydrated, her eyes roll up in the top of her head. I know this breaks the momma's heart to see her little girl get like this.

[Crying]

Malnutrition is so cruel to these little children. This momma needs our help. I've been sitting here praying for her. I've been saying Jesus' name -- it's a powerful name over her. But he wants us to reach out to them. I know that I'm just in one clinic -- one little clinic and there are so many thousands like this that need our help. Lord, help us! Lord, help us! We need to save these children's lives.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: That should never happen. In this day and age with everything that we have, with all the resources we have? No mother should ever have to sit with her baby sitting in her lap whose eyes are rolled back simply because they're so dehydrated.

That was our darling Jeanne Rogers in there. Jeanne and I are going back to Angola soon. But the thing is, if we do something now the children that we help are not going to get to that stage. See we're going to minister to those children that are already there, that are in the hospital that are desperate and we're going to take them food and we're going to make sure they get proper hydration so that they're able to recover.

But the other thing that we want to do this year is we want to feed 400,000 children and I want to get to them before they get to that stage. Because as a mom, how helpless would you feel? Everything within you, every single instinct within you is to provide for your child, to make sure that they're strong. How does that little one even sleep at night? And how does that mom sleep at night?

I love the fact that Jeanne was there praying over them because that's what we do. When we go there, we don't just provide food and water but we have a chance to worship with these people too and to pray over them.

But I imagine a mom like that sitting there praying, "God, if you see me in this barren land will you please send help?"

And so here we are. It's us. We're God's guys and girls. We get to rise to the occasion and do something. It takes so little. Do you know that if you simply give a gift today of \$30 you will feed three little ones like that for three months -- for \$30! If you give \$100 you'll help feed ten children for three months. Some of you have been blessed with more resources, which I always think is such a gift because the more God gives you the more you can give back. So for \$1400 you can help sponsor a whole school, feed every child in that school for three months.

Sometimes it's the way we get these little children to come to school because they're weak and they're not motivated. But they hear, "Well, there's going to be a meal if I go to school."

So they go to school, they get a meal, they get to learn. It changes their destiny. We have been talking today about *Living Your Destiny*. It's never about us. It's all about those children.

So if God has really blessed you then for \$5,600 we can actually feed the whole school, all the children for a whole year. This life will be over like that. [Snaps fingers] I want to make sure

these kids come with us, that we all get to stand and worship around the throne. So please, call that number. Call now. Go online, LifeToday.org and give the best gift that you possibly can.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation and those hit the hardest are the children. Life's mission feeding program is there ready to feed and care for these children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan.

With all of our previous reserves gone and Southern Africa facing its worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months. Please also consider a special gift of \$1400 to help sponsor a school and help feed 140 children for three full months.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you the brand new audio series, Living Your Destiny. Hear five outstanding Bible teachers and women of faith share how to live the life God destined for you. With your gift of \$100 or more you'll also receive The Longing in Me by Sheila Walsh, and Unashamed by Christine Caine. And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, be sure to request "Majesty," our 2016 commemorative bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or go online today and make your gift of life to help feed and care for hungry children.

End of clip

On the mission field

James: Why don't you help give these children a future? Why don't every one of you -- and some of you on fixed income. You know what? You'll likely be the first one to respond. I want it to be where every single person watching me coming to you from Southern Africa, a place in Mozambique that was absolutely hopeless during the war but we were here all through the war feeding, beginning 20 years ago. Now they're in school, they need a future.

I'm asking that every person in every country around the world, you're watching today to give children like this a future, not just save them from death, because we're going to do that in crisis areas, but we're going to give them the nutrition to learn. They want to learn, they're here at school; we're going to give them the support so they've got a bright future.

Would you right now go to the phone or go online and respond and make the best gift you can possibly make? Please do it! Don't turn away. Do what you can to help.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Thank you so much. And for any gift you send, we're going to send you this incredible teaching series, *Living Your Destiny*. But for \$100 or more we'll also send you Chris Caine's brand new brilliant book, *Unashamed*, and my book, *The Longing in Me*.

Please go to your phone. Please do something today. Together we can change this. So would you please help me thank the one and only, the amazing, the brilliant, the beautiful, the Italian, Lisa Bevere!

[Cheers & Applause]

Sheila: I love, love -- loved it and we love you! If you need prayer call us. We're here for you. We'll see you next time!

[Cheers & Applause]

Begin video clip

Announcer: In his new book, *The Stream*, James Robison charts a plan for spiritual revolution in America. *The Stream*, available now online and at retail bookstores.