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Week 32: Mission Feeding
Host: Sheila Walsh
Christine Caine

Sheila: Hello! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Sheila Walsh. James and Betty, we just decided we'd give them the day off.

I'm so thrilled that I get to spend time with one of my favorite people on the planet. In fact, those other planets, I'm still going to like her better. I have to tell you, my son, there is no one on this planet, literally, not a single person on this planet that my son who is a godly, strong, amazing man respects more than my guest. She has impacted his life and for that as a mom I'll be profoundly grateful until the day I see Jesus.

So please help me give a great welcome to the one and only Christine Caine!

Chris: I love you! Your son is a wise young man obviously!

Sheila: He is clearly a wise young man. But you know I was saying to him today and I was talking to him while I was driving home from A&M, that you and I met here at *LIFE Today* studios. I didn't know you. We were booked to be on the same evening taping shows and I saw you in makeup and there was something about you that I immediately thought I don't know who this girl is but I love her.

Chris: I was listening to you on the show and I was in the back watching you on TV and I just knew. Who would have known that God would do what he's done with our friendship and just what has happened over these last many, many years? But here we are again! [Laughing]

Sheila: You know what's brilliant, Chris? Your new book, *Unashamed*: Drop the baggage, pick up your freedom, fulfill your destiny. I was privileged to get a copy early and to read it and I love all of your books, I think it's the best thing you've ever written but it is profoundly honest and transparent. I think you've opened a door of hope for a lot of people.

Chris: I hope so.

Sheila: Let me ask you a question because I think when people know you they see you as this fearless woman who will go anywhere that God tells her to go. But as I read the beginning of your story, you set a scene of what it's like, first day in kindergarten, you're so excited to go and suddenly everything shifts. What happened that day?

Chris: My parents came over from Alexandria, Egypt. My grandparents were from Greece. And so we were immigrants into Australia. There is something about it when people move to another country they actually become even more protective about their country of origin. So we were so Greek. I didn't speak English until I was five; I only spoke Greek at home.

So here I am, this little Greek immigrant kid, think My Big Fat Greek Wedding -- My Big Fat Greek Life.

[Laughter]

I'm going to school with what I think is like a normal lunch. I've got my feta cheese sandwiches, my olives, just a good healthy Greek food but now people love. But back then, not so much. And my Aussie kids would have this substance called vegemite that is a paste that you put on; and that's the Aussie thing which is everything feta cheese is not. I remember being the only kid at lunch eating a feta cheese -- for the first time in my life I was the only one because when you're at home you're at home. And the kids would just kind of mock and ridicule either the smell of the feta, the garlic, and be very derogatory because I would have had a thick accent in my English.

So they were very negative, very critical. It was then you sort of become ashamed of who you are. So another way of going into hiding, I remember taking my lunch every day and throwing it out as soon as I got to school so that I wouldn't have to open that lunch at school. It's just amazing how --

Sheila: That's heartbreaking. And I guess you felt you didn't want to tell your mom because you didn't want to hurt her feelings?

Chris: Because she wouldn't have understood. It's like, "Well just go and be tougher than all the kids." Well, five, you're an immigrant kid; you're not tougher than anybody kind of thing.

Sheila: What did that do to you inside?

Chris: I think it devastated me because at that point, Sheila the abuse had already started happening in --

Sheila: Sexual abuse.

Chris: Sexual abuse in my life. So I already was carrying shame from all of that. So you're living a lie anyway, you're hiding there.

Then I have this happen and so culturally there is this hiding. Then as a woman, being a Greek woman, women were not encouraged to -- a woman's highest thing was to get married and have babies. So a Greek mother is sort of thinking why do you need to go to school anyway kind of thing. So I would be -- I remember, Sheila, that I always excelled at school but I was kind of like a Greek orthodox mother's nightmare. My mother wanted me to do ballet, I loved soccer. She wanted me to play with Barbie dolls, I read books. It was like, "All this reading, Christine? Why do you need a brain for? No man is going to want to marry you if you're too intelligent." I would always get that, "No man will want to marry you if you're too smart."

I remember we would have grades -- school grade one is the highest grade, grade five was the lowest. I would get straight ones. And on the way home, holding my report card with the same color pen I would change the grade one to a grade four or a grade five. I'd go over it so that when I brought my report card home it wouldn't look like I got high grades.

Sheila: Because that would make your mother feel better?

Chris: So then I wouldn't have to get the well, "Why you?" I remember it was just who I was being attacked.

In fact, I was betrothed to a Greek man at 18 and because I wanted to go to university, he owned a fish-and-chip shop and it had kind of some small goods there. And she said to me, (his mother) that "If you're going to marry my son, you cannot go to university. You have to come make fish and chips because you cannot be more educated than my son." So suffice it to say I went to university. [Laughing]

Sheila: Though I love fish and chips, there's a limit.

You know what's interesting though? I can see there are two threads, as I read your book, there's two threads throughout your life, the incredible faithfulness and calling of God on your life but this attack from the enemy to silence your voice. Because at school, you learned you just don't speak up; that the natural leadership that you were beginning to exhibit was something you had to squelch.

Chris: Well, totally, I remember at six years old I was in second grade and so we, in Australia you get a report card mid-year, which is June, and then you get the end-of-year in December,

report card. So in the mid-year I had all my little grades and then the teacher had written, "Christine shows a lot of potential but she has to learn that she can't always be the leader."

And it was -- I remember looking at it and of course, I was already so damaged from the abuse, the culture, just being called derogatory names all of the time. The one place I felt good was in terms of my academics like school. The stuff that was going on at home I could avoid that. And so here's the one thing that had made me feel good about myself and that was being attacked.

So you could tell that I must have changed and internalized that because then on that same report card in December it says, "Christine has had a wonderful year. She has settled down very well."

Sheila: Those words make me mad!

Chris: It's like well, let's put you in a box. So the root of shame makes you feel fundamentally unworthy anyway. When you're being abused initially you think what's happening to you is wrong. But when it happens for a really long time you start thinking there is something wrong with me, that's why it's happening. So you go into hiding. I spent most of my life hiding who I was, minimizing: Don't be too much for people. Don't be too smart.

And then I got saved and praise the Lord, I got saved into a culture that affirmed women. But I minister to the broader Christian church across the globe and certainly it is not like that. And I find that often, Jesus who was the greatest liberator of women, often women can feel even more shame in churches. And if they failed and I have so many friends who either went through a divorce or had an abortion or failed in a business venture or perhaps just something happened to them and the shame that they hide in. The one place where you should feel safe, where we should be able to say "shame off you" we in fact go, "shame on you."

I'm sure even any biological mother, I'm left in a hospital unnamed and unwanted because in 1966 in Australia, if you're a 23-year-old Greek single woman, the shame of getting pregnant outside of wedlock; and so the child was conceived in shame, was left in a hospital in shame, my parents adopted me and never told us because they were ashamed for 33 years. So it was there.

You go back to Genesis 2:25 where the Lord says, "Adam and Eve were naked and they felt no shame."

So the fact that the Lord puts in the scripture that we're not meant to feel shame and that the enemy, then one chapter later, make sure that as soon as Eve blows it, as soon as Adam and Eve blow it, the first recorded conversation in scripture, "Adam, where are you?" I think God is still

saying that to us today. "Why are you hiding?" And we're like, "I'm naked, afraid and so I hid." So that shame makes us hide from God rather than run to God.

I came from a very staunch religious culture. As if God doesn't know everything, we can talk about the sovereignty of God, we can talk about the power of God but I don't know that we really believe it because we spend most of our life hiding from this sovereign, omniscient God that we talk about and sing to as if he somehow doesn't know. He still loves us. It took me so long, Sheila and I hope the book helps people not take as long as I did because I've never known a time where I didn't feel shame and it really took me way too long to be able to truly believe that God would wholeheartedly accept me despite, not only what had been done to me, let me just say, I brought a whole lot of stuff to the table that I can't blame on anyone else. I've got my own bulk of things that I did and patterns of destructive behavior and just things that I did.

So the enemy just heaps shame upon shame. Our world heaps shame upon shame. The Internet, you start on it long enough, it tells you you're not pretty enough, you're not smart enough, you're not thin enough, you're not rich enough, you're not talented enough, you're not gifted enough. And even when you think you're doing better then you scroll and someone else is doing even better. I think we have a shaming culture. We put it all out there on the Internet. We don't cover anybody. And love covers a multitude of sin. I think we, in the body have to get much better in grace and love to cover one another rather than shame one another.

Sheila: One of the things I love so much about you, you and your husband Nick, the way you work together and your beautiful daughters, Sophie and Catherine. But I wondered when you first met Nick, were you able to tell him your history or were you too ashamed?

Chris: I hadn't told him. I used sort of a big picture kind of paintbrush, "I was abused." That was it; like the fact that I even said that word and I said it all in one sentence, there's 20 years of my life, great. I don't know what planet I was on.

But I have to say I actually -- this is why I go so into process in the book because I really did think, okay, I've prayed a sinner's prayer. I am saved. It is under the blood. Let's move on. I'm a new creation. But I really did believe it. And I wish it was like that easy. It is theologically true but there is a natural path you've got to walk through.

And so I didn't realize why I kept tripping over. I'd have five good days, six bad days, three good weeks, four bad weeks. Like I felt like a yo-yo Christian. And then I just kept feeling more shame because I would try to pray more and if I'd just fast more and if I would just do more good works in the church because I was sincere that I wanted to walk in freedom. I just didn't know how and I didn't even really know there was nothing wrong because I hadn't

understood the difference between my soul and my spirit. Although my spirit was born again I came to Christ with a wounded soul. And my soul was still wounded when I said the sinner's prayer.

What I had done was I sort of visited with God on Sunday and visited with God on Wednesday night but the Bible says in John 1:14: The word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood. But I'm thinking, God's not going to want to move into this neighborhood because this is a really messed up neighborhood.

Nick and I were just about to get engaged where then you would realize I would have to really be in his neighborhood because you like live together. When you live together --

Sheila: It's generally accepted; yeah.

Chris: So you've got nowhere to run then. I started to become panicky. This is going to mean - because I had my -- I wasn't living a double life but I was living a controlled life. That was the --

Sheila: Shame and control go very much hand-in-hand.

Chris: And once you get married you've lost a degree of control; you're giving it to someone else. While I did my ministry, I was an evangelist, it was great. Then I could go home and there was nobody else that was going to unravel me or force me to unravel or to deal with my soul.

Because again, I was great at visiting with God but I had to let God move into the neighborhood. And when you have a visitor what do you do? You clean up your house. You get all the kids dirty underwear and hide them in the cupboards. You go into the bathroom and you get rid of the sandpaper and put really nice soft toilet paper. It's all really nice and you get the good cookies. But if the kids touch it they're dead because that's for the visitors. Everything is great.

And the visitor comes, they see it, everyone is lovely and we're all sweet. And the kids have already been told "no Christmas presents forever if you fight." So everyone is -- it's all lovely!

[Laughter]

Then visitor leaves and like World War III breaks out at home -- like off it goes.

I think we do that with God, in the same way is that we can be having a full on fight on the way to church, maybe not here in America but just --

Sheila: Oh, yes! Trust me. Don't ask me how I know this just trust me that I do.

[Laughter]

Chris: It's full on fight. You've said many words that are not in the Bible.

[Laughter]

And you pull into the church parking lot and it's like that spirit of hypocrisy just hits. So you go into the foyer, you've now nearly committed murder and you're like, "How are you?" You're like, "Bless God! I'm redeemed and sanctified and justified by the blood of the lamb. And here's my cherubim and seraphim." And they're going into church. And you get into worship and you're thinking of the ways you're going to kill your partner. Whatever! You get in the car. You put on your show, you get into the car, "Did you hear what the pastor said? It was all for you."

And normally, you're okay. You might even be able to still be a Christian by Sunday night but by Tuesday, your evil twin is out. Most of us then are just so shamed by ourselves that we just can't win.

Sheila: Honestly, if you know Chris, you know we could do 15 shows and not cover it all. But in this book, you really walk us through. If you have dealt with shame, Chris will walk you through the process. Because you know it's a process. But you have offered that. But on this *Living Your Destiny*, your message is "The Safety Myth." What is that about?

Chris: Yes! Well that's because I think a lot of us have got erroneous theology. We think Jesus came from heaven to earth, died on a cross and rose again from the dead to make my life safe, nice, and comfortable. I'm not sure that God gave his son for that reason. I think God gave his son to make us dangerous to the kingdom of darkness.

So for that reason, the safety, comfort and ease is not anywhere in any gospel that I read. There is no risk-free living. Jesus says, "Drop your nets and follow. All bets are off. I'm not taking you to safety. In fact, I'm taking you on an adventure and I'm taking you to freedom; and freedom is not safe."

Sheila: You know what I love? I love the fact that everything the enemy has tried to do to you God has brought such wealth from it. I remember when you were struggling with your throat cancer and then you got through that. I remember Nick saying, "You know the enemy really blew it. If he really wanted to get her, he should have killed her. Now he's just made her mad."

[Laughter]

Chris: Totally! I think it's like with all of our life and here we are rescuing the victims of human trafficking and a lot of that story is about that. Jesus not only rescued me from a shame-filled life and from abuse and pain and being abandoned at birth and being adopted but then he's also used me to rescue others which is true redemption. That's what "more than a conqueror" is. It's like the very thing the enemy meant for evil God has worked together for good.

I think the only way ultimately we do that, otherwise we will live as victims of our past forever and our history will define our destiny unless we make a decision to make what Jesus Christ did for us bigger than what anyone else has done to us. So when you make what someone has done to you or said to you bigger than what Jesus has done for you, you will live in shame for the rest of your life. But when you make what Jesus did for you greater than what anyone has done to you, then you can rise up, change your posture, and walk with your head held high into the fullness of the future that he's got for you.

Sheila: That is fantastic! Fantastic! I believe this is a message that will literally be life-changing. It is something we want to make available for you. But it is something we want to make available because we want to invite you into the great adventure of changing what is happening on this planet right now. And we can do it when we join hands and say, "In Jesus' name, not on our dime. We're going to change this. We're not going to let this go on any longer."

So we have something really powerful to show you and then I'm going to tell you how you can get a hold of Christine's book and also her teaching on *Living Your Destiny*. But first, please, would you watch this?

On the mission field

Announcer: These mothers all share something in common. But it's a connection that no one would ever want to have -- severely malnourished children.

Peter: If I was ever asked what would be the most important thing to do for children in Africa I would say feed them, for sure. Malnutrition is such a terrible disease in children. Many times people look at it as being something that comes through hunger and it surely does but what it does to a child's body is really horrific. When you look at little Paulo here, just look at his little arms. Look how thin his little arms are. Look how his skin is beginning to change color because it's losing the nutrients to the skin.

Announcer: Mothers who live in Sub-Saharan Africa are seeing their children die before their fifth birthday at an alarming rate. A rate the U.N. says is higher than any other region in the world.

Peter: This mother wants to provide for her child just like you want to provide for your children. There's no difference in her desire. The last thing on earth that she wanted was to end up in this malnutrition clinic with her little boy fighting for his life. That was not part of her desire at all. She got here because she had no food to feed her child.

There is such an easy solution to be able to turn this little boy's life around and little boys like Paulo and that's simply by giving them a meal a day, a nutritious meal a day. Don't you think you can be a part?

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: That little one is so weak he can't even cry. Could you hear that? He's trying to make a sound but there is not even enough strength or energy in his body to cry out. This is not something that happened 20-30 years ago. This is right now in Angola. They are experiencing terrible drought and because of that there is no crops and because of that there is no food. And these poor moms who are just like you and me -- they're just exactly like us who want to be able to provide for our children.

But here's the amazing thing. This is the thing that gives me hope. We can change this. It is not like this astronomical project that we can't possibly do. Every single one of us, I may as well let you know. My son who is 19 and my husband and I are all getting involved in this and we're all doing something differently.

So if you even just have \$30, you know \$30 will feed three children for three months? Don't you think it is kind of crazy that most of us here in the states or around the world and better countries where we have more resources, most of us are worrying about going on diets and these children are literally starving to death but we can change it.

It's our greatest godly privilege as sons and daughters of the king, not just to thank God for the destiny that he's given every single one of us but to do something in the name of Jesus.

So for any gift that you send in today, we're going to send you this *Living Your Destiny* series, these teaching tapes where you'll hear from Beth Moore, from Lisa Bevere, from Christine

Caine, from Sarah Jakes Roberts and from myself. But if you send in \$100 or more we're also going to send you Chris Caine's new book which is phenomenal, it is called, *Unashamed*. If you've ever struggled with any kind of shame, this book will minister to you. And my own new book, *The Longing in Me*. How everything you crave leads to the heart of God.

But let's just decide you know what? -- Not in our time! We're going to draw a line in the sand here and say, "No more." We have so much and they have so little. So if every one of us thinks, okay, Lord, what can I do? And responds now because it is a crisis; it's not something that we can put off for a few months because the people that we work with in those areas, they are praying. They have told us the needs and said, "Will you get back with us and let us know are you able to help?"

I'm going to be going to Angola really soon and I want to be able to say to these local partners and ministries we work with, "I've shared it with our friends and the response has come in and we're going to help."

So please, would you do that? Would you go to your phone and call the number on your screen? Or go to LifeToday.org and make the best gift possible. Trust me! You can live without three more lattes but honestly, some of these children are not going to survive unless they have one more meal. So please would you do something now. Thank you!

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: As I kneel here by these beautiful children I want them to be healthy. You can look at this little girl's complexion right here if she'll step out in the light. See she has got some of the beautiful glow but she still has a little bit of the red tint in her hair, which simply means that we're bringing them up to a norm and this is a very poor area. If we don't continue to feed these children they'll just reverse and they'll go back into serious trouble.

We want to keep that going. We want these children to have an opportunity to get ahead in life. We don't want them to just survive. We want them to have a future and a hope because this is what God has for them. But it won't happen without your love.

So I pray you'll respond today. Make the largest gift you can. If you could put arms around -- see, here's five children right here. You just put arms around these five or maybe you could extend your arms all the way back here and you just take ten children into your arms; would you help care for these ten children? Would you do that?

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: One of the greatest deliverances in my own life has been God delivering me from shame but I have to tell you, I learned some fresh stuff here in *Unashamed* by Christine Caine.

Please, would you help me thank the one and only Christine Caine? Love you!

Chris: Love you!

Sheila: Thank you so much for being with us. God bless you and we'll see you next time!

Announcer: In his new book, *The Stream*, James Robison charts a clear path to personal revival and spiritual revolution in our culture, values, morals, and in government. Reverend Samuel Rodriguez says: "*The Stream* is a Christ-centered, Bible-based prescription for these troubled times." Dr. Ben Carson says: "This important book points out many ways that we can use our lives to preserve those freedoms that made America great." *The Stream* -- available now online and at retail bookstores.