

8/8/16
Week 33: Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Lisa Bevere #1

James: Thank you! You make us feel so welcome and we welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to share this time with you.

Lisa Bevere and her husband John, they're like family; I think even beyond, you might say, the family of faith. They're like connected family and love them so much. I think Lisa is probably one of the most gifted communicators that I've ever heard. Would you agree with that?

Betty: Absolutely!

James: We've watched the journey in the Lord and it's been beautiful to watch. This book, *Without Rival*, we're actually, we're going to do two days of programming with Lisa and she is going to talk about this book. And I'd like for you to give her a real warm welcome to *LIFE Today*. Would you do that?

[Applause]

Well, we do feel like you are part of our family.

Lisa: I receive that.

James: You did a great job at our church, at Gateway recently when you spoke.

Lisa: Thank you.

James: I want you to share -- I know we're going to hear your heart but I know you feel the way I do. I want people to really hear God's heart and I know that's what you're seeking to express, what he said to you. So you just take it and help us understand what you want people to get when they read the book.

Lisa: First and foremost, I totally believe that identity is a huge issue right now. People are trying to find out who they are. There has never been more information and yet more confusion at any other time in life. This is why people are trying to self-identify. They're trying to find out

who they are. They're trying to connect to groups but there is an identity that God gives us that is more powerful.

James and Betty, I do get to travel. It is amazing but I don't do jet lag necessarily well. I was coming home from South Korea, I was trying to finish up *Girls with Swords* and I fell asleep at my laptop. And eight pages later of the letter T I did the chin drop and I woke up and I was like oh, my gosh! I've been asleep. I'm going to go lay down.

And I was just falling asleep when I heard the Holy Spirit say, "I do not love my children equally." I pushed off my bed and I sat up and I was like oh, that's blasphemy. You have to love us all the same. And I heard the Holy Spirit say, "I don't." He said, "Same would mean one of my children were exchangeable or replaceable." He said, "Equal would mean that my love could be measured. And Lisa, my love is immeasurable." He said, "I do not love my children equally. I love them uniquely."

And when I heard that word unique, James and Betty, it just exploded in my spirit. I thought, wait a minute! What does that word actually mean? So I went and looked in the dictionary. And the first tier of definition is: Sole representative of. Nobody else is going to represent God the way we do. Nobody else represents his love, his care, his nurture.

But the second one is "prototype," which also means we're not going to be mass produced.

The third one is what got my attention. It was: *Without rival*. There is no competition for who you are to God. If you are a son, you are a son of the most high God and there is no one else like you. If you are daughter, you're a daughter of the most high God. You wouldn't be more well-loved or more efficient if you were a female if you were actually a male or a male if you're actually a female.

So this identity without rival is something that we need to actually lay a hold of. We shouldn't be surprised that we have an identity without rival because we serve a God without rival.

So I took the first section of the book to unpack the identity without rival, a God without rival and a promise without rival. We have been trusted with promises of God.

I love the way C.S. Lewis said it: "If you unpack these promises then our desires are too weak not too strong."

When we look at all the great and precious promises, everything that pertains to life and godliness was given to us. So I took these things and I talk about this identity.

Now we have a culture right now that is encouraging people to self-identify. When I was writing this book I wrote it over a year ago. When I was writing this book I thought, when was the first time anybody self-identified? The first account of self-identification is actually Lucifer. Lucifer who was perfect in form, perfect in wisdom, walked in the presence of God and the only creature that actually knew his ways decided he would remake himself. He said, "I will make myself like the most high." And we all know what happened. His deciding to remake himself was his unmaking.

We look in both the book of Isaiah and the book of Jeremiah and we are challenged when we hear, "Should the clay say to the potter, 'You've made me wrong.' And yet that's what you're doing with me. You've got everything upside down."

The next time we see a history of self-identification is Adam and Eve. Satan came to them and said, "You can be like God, apart from God. You can be your own master."

And now it's playing out once again where people are saying, "I'm going to be my own master. I'm going to remake myself."

And yet, I'm not thinking that this is because people are evil or wrong. I think that people are desperate for identity. I think people are so deeply wounded that they're saying, "I'm going to do anything I can to make myself feel whole and make myself feel loved again."

So really, when we begin to worship God, God actually begins to identify us. The book of Romans talks about when we don't worship God we forget how to be human; and women forget how to be women and men forget how to be men. And men and women together capture the image of God. So when we begin to mess with gender, we begin to undermine the image of God.

A lot of times in the church though you see that women aren't given value, they're not given identity. They don't have a connection with God. They aren't told they can express.

This is something you've done for me for years, what you've done for Beth, you've done for so many of God's daughters. You've said, "I identify that you're not just somebody's wife," -- which is an amazing privilege -- "or somebody's daughter but you're a daughter of the most high God and what you have to say has value."

So I really believe we have a generation that is watching and waiting for the church to be the church -- to be loving, to be kind. Right now we're known for what we are against. It talks about the reality of our God, and it talks about the reality of our day, which is where we're at. People are confused and they're trying to self-identify, and then the reality of us. And we in the

church, if we begin to actually sow who God really is, that he can take us by the hand and flip our life.

When I was preaching at Gateway I shared some of my story that when I got saved, God didn't just take me by the hand and do a 10 degree course correction. He took me by the hand and he led me into a radical life transformation. And a lot of times right now what we see in the church is a minor course correction. And the world is hoping that what we have is real but they want to see a radical life change.

I remember when my sorority sisters, when I went back and I told them I was a Christian they were all like "Oh, no! We don't want you to be a Christian. We liked you mean. We liked you drunk. We liked you running around and being wild."

They all doubted whether I had actually really converted. Until the day came that I actually had a chance to preach my first sermon and it came at a very unexpected time. I remember we had all pulled all nighters trying to study. One of the -- I'm not making fun of Elementary Ed; I wish I actually had elementary Ed education but I was studying International Economics so I had pulled a stat study overnight. She came in and she looked at all of us and she said, "Y'all look like you've been run over by a car!"

We're like, "Thank you! Thank you!"

She said, "No, really! You all look terrible."

I said, "Thank you."

She just kept pushing it. All of the sudden before I knew what happened, that unregenerated, non-conforming to Christ thing in me rose up and I said, "Why are you such a..." and I dropped a cuss word.

She looked at me and she said, "I thought you were a Christian! You're not a Christian."

And everybody froze in the room. One of my sorority sisters said, "That's okay. I almost called her the same thing."

She stormed out of the room. And you know what I did, James and Betty? I stood up in front of everybody and I said, "You know what? I'm completely out of line."

And they said that is when they knew I was a Christian. Not by reading my Bible, not my praying, not by saying "praise the Lord" but for the first time they had seen me be humble. The

world is not looking for us to be perfect but they are looking for us to be humble. And until we humble ourselves and get our identity from God and not by judging other people, until we can actually speak the truth in love, then people are going to be waiting and watching for us to be that example of Jesus Christ.

James: When we look at someone who is confused about their identity sexually, there are a lot of people confused about the desires and appetites of their life. What if we took all the desires and appetites that hold people in a grip, let's just say what if because some people say, "I'm attracted to children" then we say, "Well, you can't hold that against them. That's the way they are. So we have to accommodate them and allow them to have some children."

Do we say that? You say, "Shut up! You're insane."

Well, we're actually buying into what amounts to insanity when we're letting confused people take charge of the direction of the nation. But what do we do with those confused people? We love them. We care about them because we too have been trapped, confused, held in bondage. So that's what we do, we reach out. But we don't accommodate by compromising or moving God's standard, which you just referred to, how he made us, male and female. He says, "This is what I've done."

You just referred to Romans one. You did a beautiful job expounding that at Gateway. When you change God's truth, substitute it for a lie, when you begin to worship what he has created rather than the creator, in that bondage you're given over to what? Paul said you have idols, you share with demons, you fellowship with demons, deception. You're confused. You're deceived. You're misled. You can be so deceived that you think it is the truth and when you've been so deceived you think it is truth, you really are effectively deceiving everyone. This is the world we're living in. What do we do? We love people back to who God says we are.

Lisa: And we speak the truth.

James: We speak the truth in love.

Lisa: Because if there is no truth... see, this is what I found alarming. We have truth and yet Christians are being intimidated from speaking truth because they throw down the trump card of "you're judging me." The truth is I love people. I'm so thankful somebody sat down with me and said, "Baby girl, your promiscuity is not finding freedom for you. You will never find refreshing from this unfaithful well. You need to draw from the true well. You have lost your virginity but you can recover your virtue."

So when we say to somebody that this is building your life with untempered mortar and it is going to cost you everything, we are not being cruel. We're actually trying to help them. And I mean, I'm just going to say that fornication, adultery, homosexuality -- it doesn't matter. Those things will never satisfy you. They will strip your soul. We have been turned over to be mastered by the lusts within us. It is time that we call it what it is. It isn't being kind to tell somebody that something that controls them is good. It's not. We're calling evil good and good evil.

So who knows what's going to happen when we look back and see the sociological experiment we're actually doing in our country right now where we're asking preteens and junior highers to self-identify. If somebody would have asked me at 13 to self-identify -- first of all, I don't know anybody at 13 that is comfortable. I probably would have said I was a unicorn. I don't even know what I would have said. I would have said, "I don't know what I am because I was in transition from a girl to a woman." And you don't ask people in transition to locate themselves. You let them know that they are growing into something.

And yet, we're putting pressure on children. See, when children go through puberty, they have sex fascination, gender fascination. They don't want to have sex. They are curious. They are saying, "Wait a minute. Is what is going on with my body going on with the other girl's bodies?"

And we're turning this curiosity and fascination to a sexual attraction when really it's just them going through the process of curiosity. We're sexualizing things that are just normal; that boys would be more comfortable being around boys and girls would be more comfortable and then we're saying, "Oh, well, you have same sex attraction." No, you're actually probably just curious.

So we need to actually be a people. I totally believe, James and Betty, and I know this is your heart, that if America, if Christians will humble themselves and said, "I've been judgmental. I've been harsh. I've not been one who has represented Jesus well. I haven't shown a change in my life. Why should I judge people outside of the church if I haven't even been Christ-like in the church?"

If we can say that, then God's going to hear from heaven, he's going to heal our land. When we humble ourselves, pray, and turn from our own wicked ways. This to me, a life without rival was actually asking the church to be the church and identify with Christ so he can identify us.

James: Lisa, we've heard such a download of potentially transforming truth. You need to read the book. There is so much here. But listen to me. See, if we make fun, Lisa of the person that's gender confused or has homosexual or same sex attraction, if we mock them, ridicule them, call

them names, we're contributing to a spirit of condemnation, which God is not a part of that. That is satanic. That is damning. It destroys. It literally curses people. And when the church plays that game, I don't like them or you've got a child that seems to be acting a little differently and you make them feel different wrong and you make fun of them or you mock them, that's so damaging. That makes them feel condemned so they never feel the conviction of love that says we understand there is confusion, we all go through it.

And God wants to lead us out of that. But we've got to show them a God that can lead anybody where they need to go to bless them and benefit them and not to make their life worse. We all have the struggle in various areas of our life. We don't need to feel condemned, we need to feel loved. Love opens the door for conviction and conviction brings about the desire to repent and to be set free from whatever is holding you captive.

Lisa, do you recognize that she's just downloaded a whole lot of truth on us in these few moments that we've had? You are an amazing -- you really are -- you're an amazing gift to the church, you and John both. John, thank you for sharing Lisa and what's in her, and seeing her as an equal in the sense of "I know what she does is every bit as important as what I do." Thank you for honoring her and honoring the Lord that way. Both of you are such a blessing. Thank you for just being our friends and walking along with us and working with the Living Your Destiny series in what you're sharing.

She is going to be on to talk to us in another program and we're going to talk about the rivals in life and the competition that we feel. And then the rivals against what God wants and really download on that. And it is going to be a blessing.

Lisa, you and John have seen the mission fields and not only been to the mission fields but you supported our mission outreaches. Has that been a joy for you to do that?

Lisa: It's been one of the most life-changing things we ever did. I think our lives enlarged when we started sowing into LIFE Outreach. I have to be honest with you. I still remember gathering my boys and seeing Betty and Ann in the African fields and telling my boys, "You guys need to potty train because we need to give some money." And it was that long ago. It was when I was nursing Alek. So he is now 24 and we have partnered with you guys for more than two decades and it has been an incredible honor and a blessing.

James: But I want to thank you. And I want us to turn that thanks to everybody watching. Please hear me. You just heard her say what a blessing it has been to her. What a blessing she's been because she's put arms of love around the suffering. She's gone into the dangerous places with us to try to rescue the perishing.

I want you to look right now and I want you to see desperation. It's undeniable! But I want you to know you turned this cycle of desperation and death into a place of joy. Now we have a chance to go even a step further as we rescue people, we can begin to train their minds. I want you to watch closely. You'll be glad you did.

Open Captions:

>> My name is Amelia Endula. I have 4 children that died and I have 5 children left. 2 children died at the hospital from hunger because they couldn't help them, and 2 died in the village before I could get to the hospital.

When my children died I got rid of their toys so that pain wouldn't come back when I saw them. Sometimes I see a place and remember that is where they played and then I get so sad I can hardly function.

I'm very worried my other children won't survive. I can't provide for them because I don't have enough food. I need your help. I don't want my other children to die like the other 4 did. I need your help.

James: Look at that little child's little toy, little... something to play with, Betty. I remember we knelt at the graves of thousands of little children. They were little children's graves and I remember seeing a cross that had a little jar and a picture of a little child in there. I know that we wanted to do everything we could to stop the death cycle.

Betty: James, I can't even imagine a mother losing four of her precious children and the pain that she must be going through. She said she threw the toys away so she wouldn't have to look at them and remember. It just breaks her heart. Now she is concerned about the children that are left. I can see why she would be. She could likely lose every child she's had if we don't get the food to them.

This is something that can be changed. This is something we can do something about. There is some diseases that no matter how hard you try and you do all you can do and it just doesn't seem to be enough. But this is so simple. We should all reach out and do what we can do. It may be a lot that you can do to help -- maybe a little bit. But whatever it is God puts on your heart, do the best that you can and join with us and let's help these precious children.

James: While you were talking I was praying because this is the last week that we're asking you now to help with this emphasis on mission feeding for this period where we try to raise the

money to take care of children for the next several months. I thought would you just stop a minute? Say, "God, if they were my family, if somebody would help them I would be praying they would."

Would you say, "God, show me what I can do." And of course, you can pray!

But you can also be an answer to that mother's prayer and to others' and the way you do that is to simply say, "I will share life. The greatest gift is life. I will share life."

With no exaggeration, this is the truth, because of the way the missionaries are able to take grants of food substance and then process it in the food factories that you've built, people like you, we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months for \$30, \$50, or \$100. And once we stabilize them, right now we have several hundred thousand children like those you just saw that are facing death, most of them have not reached that place, that desperation clinic, which that's the last step. Most of them never get there. They die before they even head that way. Or they're headed to death, and ultimately there.

But you can stop it right now by going to LifeToday.org or dialing that number, take your bankcard and say, "Here, I'm going to make a gift." And I would ask if you could give \$100 to help us feed ten children, do it.

So we're going to save their lives but there's one other step. We found that once we get them stable, if we will then begin to feed once a day at a school they will go to school consistently and begin to train their little minds that have now been nourished. And we can literally feed an entire school for \$5600 a year, \$1400 for a few months. So there's a level at which you can help.

We have some gifts to send you to help you in your destiny with a wonderful teaching from these truly anointed women who have been so blessed to share. But we're asking you to share life right now. Would you do that? LifeToday.org, take your bankcard, prayerfully respond or dial the number and make the gift God puts on your heart. You're giving life. You're an answer to someone's prayer. A desperate prayer but you're the real solution. 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.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or go online today and make your gift of life to help feed and care for hungry children.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Thank you so much for praying! Thank you so much for your help! You see a lot of mothers' prayers answered because of what you have just done -- and lives saved really. What a joy it is to be the answer to someone's heart cry.

Living Your Destiny, some of the most anointed teachers on the planet; these beautiful women sharing. The book, *Unashamed* by Christine Caine and Sheila Walsh's book, *The Longing in Me*. Today, if you'd like to have Lisa and she is teaching in the series, if you'd like to have this new book, *Without Rival*, you say, "James, could we have that? Would you send it to us?" You can get it online or you can go to the bookstores but if you want it, we'll send it to you. You just help us help some of those kids.

Would you join us saying thanks to Lisa?

What a blessing you are. We're going to talk to you more. Okay? Thank you for being a blessing to all of us.

Thank you so much for watching. Thank you for reaching out in love! Thanks!

[Cheers & Applause]

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.