

8/11/16
Week 33: Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Natalie Grant

James: Thank you! You're sincere. Welcome to you! I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you join us for *LIFE Today*.

I'm looking at Natalie Grant. Now she says she is in some ways years ago, she sort of started along with us here on television; watched her incredible ability to communicate truth and love and life in song and music. This CD is: *Be One*. I think Natalie knows that Betty and I not only have oneness in relationship but we pray for oneness in the family of God. Boy, don't we need it in our nation? Don't we really need to know how to come to the table of reason?

It really occurred to me that when God spoke through Isaiah to the nation, "Come let us reason together" that wasn't just an invitation to Isaiah, it was an invitation to all the people. You know what I really believe? I think the real reasoning that brings us to civility and the wisdom that we need to address our serious challenges will come at the table of reason when we become one.

This is a fabulous book that Natalie has written. It's called, *Finding Your Voice*. Can you believe a singer actually lost her voice? Well, we want to hear the story. Would you welcome Natalie Grant to *LIFE Today*?

Natalie: Thank you!

James: Natalie, good to see you.

Natalie: Oh, it's so good to be here!

James: And you've got children now that we didn't meet the last time or know about.

Natalie: It's been awhile since I've been here. I do. I have three girls, which let's just pause for a moment and pray for me; three daughters, and two of them came at the same time, my twins are nine years old and I have another little girl that's five.

James: Well, we're so happy for you. I want us to cover some ground because everyone watching on television and everyone here wants to hear you sing.

What are you talking about here when you talk about *Finding Your Voice*? I alluded to the fact that you actually had some damage that cost you your voice.

Natalie: I actually lost my voice. I remember I was singing with pneumonia. I was doing a concert in Denver in the Denver Coliseum. And I just remember a pop. I thought uh-oh! I can sing through illness -- I pretty much can keep on going and I couldn't make any sound come out. I remember when I got back to Nashville. They put that scope down my throat and took pictures. It literally looked like a frayed wire. My vocal cord was bleeding. They were hoping not to have to do surgery so they said, "You can't speak a word. You can't whisper a word. You can't hum. You can't whistle. Not a sound for 30 days."

In losing my voice, it's really where I found it. The book is an analogy of taking me losing my voice and what I've done to learn how to train my voice because honestly, in the last 17 years that I've been doing this, I hear from a lot of women. My platform that God has given me has really developed relationships with so many women who say, "Okay. I feel unqualified because I don't feel good enough." Or "I feel disqualified because of something that I've done in my life that means I'm not going to be capable of doing what I feel like God has put in me."

Or from women who say, "I'm a wife and a mom and I have all these things and all these plates spinning but I still have God-given dreams in my heart. How do I do this? How do I find my identity again?" That's really where this book was birthed.

Betty: Is that what happened to you?

Natalie: It is. For me I was on my way to a trip to India. If anybody has been following me any length of time I talk often about my fight against human trafficking. I discovered it from watching Law and Order. I never thought I'd say Law and Order changed my life but it turns out that it did.

[Laughter]

I really learned that God is always speaking. He can speak through anything at any time. You don't have to be at an altar in a church for God to speak to you. In that moment he spoke to me through Law and Order. The question is are we always listening?

I was going to India to work with a ministry there that rescues girls out of trafficking and I was supposed to go sing and help teach some of the girls to sing. I thought how am I going to go? I

can't speak. I have no voice. And it was really incredible to know that when you can't speak, what's the only thing you can do? Listen. I began to hear the voice of God in my life like I never had before. I began to understand what it means to lose your life to find it.

For me, it was losing all of the things that I thought I was controlling. It turns out I wasn't controlling anything anyway. But we think that we're really so in control. Oftentimes I think that we think the call of God on our lives is a destination. And I had so been -- I'm called to be a singer. No, I'm called to be a daughter of the king. I'm called to love God with all of my heart and to love my neighbor as myself. And one of the ways I do that is through a talent that he gave me, singing.

James: So when you went there and had to listen and you saw a need, did you find your voice in becoming a voice for them even in that situation?

Natalie: Absolutely! Becoming a voice for the voiceless; it is amazing to me that I lost my voice so I could find my voice to become a voice for the voiceless. I think that for me, I began to understand that I don't think intentionally I knew that I had been using my platform for myself because I thought I was doing it for ministry. But when you started to peel back the layers, way too much of self was involved in what I was doing. Self-promotion: getting your song on the radio. Looking for the hit. Trying to do all the things that makes what the world would deem a success.

For me, losing the very thing that was my identity, I was a singer and having that taken from me and the potential of it never returning is really, I think what God used in my life to show me that his greatest purpose for me was to live out the great commission, to live out true religion, to love and to be light and to use my voice to do that. But he is far more interested in my heart than he is in what I'm doing for him. When your heart is in tune, then you will do all those things for him because your heart is in tune with the Lord.

James: You've gotten people involved though by being the voice for those who can't speak in the human trafficking. Web site if people wanted to see what you're doing?

Natalie: It is HopeForJustice.org. I founded an organization after that trip which was just such a god-prompting. Sometimes the Holy Spirit asks you to do something and you have no idea what the details are. He just asks you to be obedient. I remember saying yes, okay. I'm going to start this organization. We've got our 501c3 and I thought, now what? I don't know what I'm doing. And now to think that in 10 years we're in three different continents, four different countries, with seven different international offices. We just rescued 115 girls in the last month in Cambodia. It's unbelievable!

[Applause]

I always feel like I have to be careful to say, I'm a voice. I can speak about it. But I'm not a hero. I'm just a girl that said yes to the prompting of the Holy Spirit."

I feel like whoever is watching, so many of you are looking for your voice because you feel like you don't know what your identity is, whose you are, and who you are in Christ and what he says about you. I think so often in our religion we view God with a clipboard just standing up there going, "Are you doing this?" "Are you doing this?" "Are you doing this?" And no! He's got his arms open wide saying, "Come as you are but don't stay as you are."

I feel like so many people have a prompting and they're too afraid, feel like they're not qualified, feel like their shame defines them. But discovering Jesus as my friend I've seen him take the broken pieces of my life and make the most unbelievable work of art out of something that I thought was trash. Jesus redeems and makes purpose from it. That's what he's always done.

Betty: What I really hear you saying too is the things that we do that God sends us out to do, the works that we do, they're important but the most important thing is that one-on-one relationship with him. That's where we find our identity, being still and knowing that he is God. It's hard, especially for mothers, for women to be still because there is so much going on around.

Natalie: It's so hard. I feel like for women it's just so hard. Just this Mother's Day I heard a beautiful Mother's Day prayer that said, "Lord, help me to have just half the grace that you have shown me." Because we're so hard on ourselves. We don't give ourselves enough grace.

I feel like so often I hear from women, "How do you do it all? Well, how do you..." I said, "Well, if you're looking for balance, I've never heard anything -- I don't know balance!" I know that I'm running a race and in a race you're going to be tired. I don't know a single person who has run a race who is not tired. If you're looking to be like all the time not tired then you're running the wrong race. Running a race you're going to be tired but you can have a rest in your soul.

There's a grace on my life to do what he's called me to do and there's a grace on your life to do what he's called you to do. He's called all of us to a dance. He says, "Come to me you who are weary and I will show you how to take a real rest."

I love this in the message version. It says, "Work with me and I will show you the unforced rhythms of grace for your life." He has a rhythm of grace for my life and it may look different

than the rhythm of grace he has for your life. But the point is when you're in step with the master and you know him personally, not just as your savior but as your friend, you will understand what the unforced rhythms of grace are for your life. You may be tired but you'll have rest in your soul.

James: You can enter into the race by entering into his rest while you run the race. And you can run the race that's set before you with patience, and that is a supernatural gift for all of us who don't have any of that naturally, patience, and other things of the spirit.

I really do thank you for sharing how to find your voice. Would you like to say thanks to Natalie for publishing this book?

[Applause]

You can get it online or you can get it in the bookstores.

I will tell you this. She is going to sing about something that really does give us voice and that is recognizing who we are in light of who he is. Tell us the title of this song you're going to sing.

Natalie: The song is called "The King of the World." I think so many -- I just think about even what is happening in our world at large and I think with my three young children, I am so prone to fear. I really am. I'm so prone to what kind of world are my girls going to grow up in? What kind of country are my girls going to grow up in? Sometimes I just want to hide under my pillow and hope Jesus comes back really, really fast.

But then I'm reminded, wait, he is still on the throne. He is still in control. He is a good Father. His plans are perfect. I may not always understand what he does but I trust that he is for me. I trust that he is good. I trust that he is faithful. When you remember that in spite of your circumstances, even when you've begged God for an outcome, an answer to a prayer that maybe he didn't give, his ways are higher than ours. We may never understand this side of heaven why he does what he does.

First Peter 5:10 says: The God of all grace, after you have suffered awhile will strengthen, perfect, establish, and settle you. That's what the king of the world does. The faster we realize we're actually not in control and resubmit to the one who is, that's when you find the peace that passes understanding.

James: And he is "The King of the World." Would you like to hear her sing that? -- "The King of the World"?

Natalie Grant sings:

I try to fit you in the walls inside my mind
I try to keep you safely in-between the lines
I try to put you in the box that I've designed
I try to pull you down so we are eye-to-eye
But when did I forget
That you've always been
The king of the world?
I try to take life back
Right out of the hands
Of the king of the world
How could I make you so small
When you're the one who holds it all?
When did I forget that you've always been
The king of the world
Just a whisper of your voice
Can tame the seas
So who am I to try to take the lead?
Still I run ahead
And I think I'm strong enough
When you're the one
Who made me from the dust?
When did I forget that you've always been
The king of the world?

I try to take life back
Right out of the hands
Of the king of the world
How could I make you so small
When you're the one who holds it all?
When did I forget that you've always been
The king of the world?

You've set it all in motion
Every single moment
You brought it all to be

And you're holding on to me

When did I forget that you've always been
The king of the world?
I try to take life back
Right out of the hands
Of the king of the world
How could I make you so small
When you're the one who holds it all?
When did I forget that you've always been
The king of the world

You will always be
The king of the world

James: Thank you, Natalie. Beautiful! I just want to say to all of you who are watching that that king, as great as he is, he lives in our heart and he holds us in his heart and we don't try to get out of his hand.

Father, I pray for everyone watching to realize how much you love them, as great as you are. "The King of the World," how you just want to be friend and shepherd and closer than anyone in their lives of everyone watching. Please let them see that; in Jesus' name.

Natalie, we are thrilled that you've not only blessed us with your music but the book, now *Finding Your Voice* because it's more than a voice to sing or even speak. It is just really and truly recognizing who we are in Christ. Sometimes our voices are just our praise and gratitude to God.

One of the things our viewers have shown us is the incredible joy that they experience when they just literally try to put God's arms of love, the king of the world, and put his arms of love around people that thought they were forgotten; they thought nobody noticed. Every little girl wants to be pretty. It breaks my heart that every little girl doesn't grow up with daddy telling her she is the prettiest girl in the world, and try to let the world or somebody else make her feel pretty and not even know what it means. I want you to know you're special.

I'll tell you this. If you want to feel special, make someone else feel special, notice -- because God notices. But he notices through us. And they notice that he notices by the way we notice in

what we do. We can show them God's love. That's what you help us do in incredible mission outreaches like mission feeding, Water for Life.

I want to show you what happens when we stop a cycle of death and we save lives with love and with food, and then we begin to train their little minds. I want you to watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: With so many opportunities for ministry why do we feel mission feeding in Africa is important? Well, you've probably seen our reports from the field.

James: We're told that millions face death right now in Southern Africa where I'm kneeling in the midst of children's graves. Fresh dug graves in the distance. We can stop it.

Announcer: You may have heard firsthand from a mother whose child was suffering the debilitating effects of malnutrition.

Interpreter: I have no food here. I tried growing maize far away but the crops failed. My children became sick and died. I had nothing for their hunger.

Announcer: We know it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs of those less fortunate. At the end of the day though, the answer to why we feed children is pretty simple. It's because they're hungry. And when you've seen the consequence of food shortages, giving these children a bowl of food is the difference between death and life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Where you saw me weeping, about 25 years ago, there had been just in the last few weeks 1200 little children buried; 5,000 and then up to 25,000 before they stopped burying them. We asked you to stop it. You did. You stopped the cycle of death right there.

We went back, Betty and went into a church that also had a school and where the children were so happy they were singing. And I remember a little short pastor, a little guy. We were so happy and the kids were happy; and he was speaking through an interpreter but I could tell he was talking to Peter. He looked concerned. When we got in the truck Peter said, "You know what the pastor wanted to know?" He said, "You saved their lives and they're happy but you're not going to come back anymore because now they're in school?" But we don't have anything to feed them.

Right now they're eating at school because we're still feeding your food here. And then Betty, we found out we can feed in schools. And you may not know this but it impacted the World Food program to where they learned of school feeding worldwide. It impacted the U.N. It impacted the one who was put over the World Food Bank.

I remember President Bush called me and said, "I've got a brother over the World Food Bank. He's a democrat from Ohio. His name is Tony Hall. But he is over the World Food Bank now. He's moving to Italy." And he said, "He's a brother."

Boy, he did a great job, Betty! Helping love kids; did it in schools. He said, "We've learned. We've learned from missionaries."

Here's what we're going to ask you to do right now. We've got a severe drought that's threatening hundreds of thousands of children. We've already organized them and this is the last week we're asking for your help. I mean I really need a huge outpouring of love. We want to feed these hundreds of thousands that are facing death. We want to continue to maintain the malnutrition clinics. But here's what we have discovered because as we've stabilized, now if we can feed at the schools, we just increase the attendance almost indescribably. And they'll go and they'll keep going.

So we're asking people to sponsor schools. You can sponsor one for a whole year for \$5600. You can for the next few months for \$1400. So I want to ask many of you to say, "Okay, we'll help you at those schools. You've got these kids stabilized, let's train their little minds. They can think. They're healthy."

And then for the hundreds of thousands of others to be fed in these areas of tremendous need, remember this, because this is simply the truth, \$30, \$50, \$100 will enable us to feed three, five, or ten children for the next several months; \$30 for three, \$50 for five, \$100 for ten. Could you help us with ten? This last week, would you do it?

If you've never had the joy of saving lives and now feeding little minds, showing them the love of God, this is your chance. If you've helped us before, would you right now during this last week step up, even make another gift or a special gift? And if you've never helped, could you help ten? And don't say three is not important. It's real important to those mothers, to those kids. No gift too small, none too large. You're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life.

We have some gifts to send you to bless you in your journey because we want to feed the sheep. We want to bless the sheep. You are the sheep of his pasture. We want to bless you as you share his life. Thank you for doing it. Thank you so much!

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: I just want to say thank you for helping. Thanks for putting God's arms around those who feel so unnoticed and so often unloved, but you've show them love.

Natalie Grant's beautiful CD: *Be One*. That's what we are together in Christ.

This book, *Finding Your Voice* and it is actually expressing I think in many ways the voice of God. Hearing his voice and sharing his love with others, that's really a voice that you found, Natalie. And she is sharing.

If you will just help us feed these precious children, show them their loved and you'd like to have this *Living Your Destiny* teaching from these incredibly gifted women we'll be glad to send it to you. Just ask for it.

Let's thank Natalie again for being such an incredible blessing to us! We love you! Tell those girls "hi" for us.

Natalie: Thank you so much!

James: Thank all of you. You're great! Thank y'all.

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.