

9/26/16
Week 40: WFL Last Week
James and Betty Robison
Lysa TerKeurst

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. You are really going to be blessed with our special guest.

James: Well, I'm James and this is Betty and we have Lysa TerKeurst with us. Are you glad Lysa's with us today?

[Applause]

You're invited -- the title of her book is *Uninvited* but you're invited.

[Laughter]

And "Living loved when you feel less than left out and lonely."

Now she was coming here several weeks ago and we had a tremendous group of people planning to be here to see her. I mean with almost no time notice it's like less than 24 hours, "I can't come." She's still trying to come but she's a very sick lady. She's trying to come and the doctor is basically saying, "You're not going." And it is a good thing she didn't.

Well, we're glad you're here.

Would you give her just a real good welcome?

Because it is, in some ways maybe, it's a miracle you're here. It just actually could be. So tell us why in the world we got this call that it was like suddenly, "I don't feel good" but take us beyond not feeling so good. What happened?

Lysa: Well, I'm a very healthy person so I'd been feeling just fine and had my week schedule all planned out and was excited. I returned home from a trip on a Sunday evening and then

woke up on Monday morning at 5 am in excruciating pain. It wasn't just I don't feel good. I looked at my husband and said, "I think I'm dying. I don't know what's happening to me but something is really wrong."

I never like to go to the doctor. I really don't. So when I told my husband, "Take me to the hospital," he knew something was really, really wrong. So over the course of several days the doctors tried to figure out what was happening to me. I went from feeling -- just being in excruciating pain to really not doing well at all; wound up in intensive care. They were frantically trying to figure out what was wrong with me. Finally, on Friday, so it took almost a whole week...

James: By the way, they were giving you really heavy drugs and medication because the pain was so excruciating but they couldn't seem to ever stem it; is that correct? It just would not stop.

Lysa: It would not stop. It was intense. I've had three babies. I have five kids, two adopted, but three biological so I know what pain is. But this was on another level, truly.

So long story short, finally on Friday they consulted a surgeon and praise God for this surgeon. I think that he was just sent -- I know he was sent by God, but he ran a very specific type of CAT scan with contrast. And when he got the results back he was in my room already having prepped the O.R. telling me I was about to have major surgery.

I said, "Well, if I'm going to have that major of a surgery, I need to get a team of doctors in here. We need to talk about this."

He said, "You won't make it." He said, "We are surprised that you have made it this far."

So long story short what happened...

James: By the way, had the pain stopped and you left you might not have made it; right? So pain really became a friend.

Lysa: It did. And pain was the very thing I was begging God to take away. I was begging God to take away the pain. I thought, God, if you'll just take away the pain then I can think logically and I can interact with the doctors and I won't be so bound to staying in the hospital. I could go home and we could research this on the Internet.

[Laughter]

But had God answered that prayer, had God taken away the pain I would not have stayed at the hospital. Had God taken away the pain I never would have made it until Friday to consult with that surgeon. Had God taken away the pain I would have never let the surgeon cut me open. If it weren't for the pain I would not have lived.

James: What did they find or can you go into that detail?

Lysa: Yes! So it is a very strange thing, kind of unexplainably, the right side of my colon... So your colon sits inside like this. It's your large intestine, not the small intestine but the large one so it sits like a U and it kind of frames the small intestine. So the right side of the colon ripped away from the abdominal wall, flipped over to the left side, wrapped around the left side, cut off the blood flow and started expanding. And that's what happens if something gets the blood flow cut off it fills with fluid and air and everything. So it started expanding and by Monday I looked like I look now but by Friday I looked like I was about eight months pregnant.

When the surgeon went in the mass that he removed was literally this big. It was amazing. It had displaced all of my organs. So he had to not only remove most of all of the colon on this side and so in the middle but it had displaced so much he had to literally staple me back in place. So it was pretty major.

James: It is a miracle you're sitting here. To God be the glory!

[Applause]

Thank you, Lord.

I want you to, and we're going to take not only this program but we're going to do another program, we're going to talk about this. I want you to just sort of lead us from there toward where you want us to go and the things you want us to know that God has put on your heart to share because you were already are in the process of completing and getting ready for this to be launched. We were going to talk about it. And the book is out now. So just tell us how we transition from where you were, where you are, and what you really believe God wants us to hear and people watching all over the world to hear in their homes or wherever they are.

Lysa: Well, I'll say with the message of *Uninvited*, never has writing a book cost me more than the writing of this message. I had two pastors call me and say, "The devil himself is trying to kill you." I do believe that. I think it's because the devil is vicious but he knows he's not victorious. He is on an all-out assault against everything sacred and pure and loving and kind and good. He is on an all-out assault.

So when I started writing *Uninvited* I thought I was just simply going to write a book about rejection; tackle this topic of rejection. But the flip side of rejection is deep acceptance and love. And the deep acceptance and love of God is the very thing that the enemy never wants us to get. If he can keep us from that then he can render us ineffective with the power of Christ. We won't attach the power of Christ to our everyday life. We'll be rendered ineffective. We'll still be saved. We'll still be going to Bible study. We'll still be quoting verses and all of that but if we do not understand the depth of God's love and acceptance then we'll run around trying to perform and try to be good enough for God. All the while God is into the slower rhythms of life like abiding, resting, just being with him. And God's love is not based on us, it is simply placed on us and it is the place from which we should live.

James: Say that again: It's not based on us it is placed on us.

Lysa: That's right! And it is the place from which we should live. I'm telling you, if we woke up every day fully aware of God's incredible love for us, how different would we be?

Betty: Don't you feel like a lot of people experience rejection in their lives? I know I did growing up and not feeling that I was important enough to anybody. That's a ploy of the enemy to keep you down.

Lysa: It is an absolute ploy of the enemy because I can tell you, Betty that before you were anything God had a thought of Betty in his mind. And God so very much loved even the thought of you that his heart exploded with joy and purpose and plans for you. You weren't even a baby yet and just the very thought of you, God just fell completely in love with you, and that love compelled him to write a story called Betty and it is amazing and beautiful and worthy. That's the very thing that Satan wants to keep us from, each one of us.

James: He wants that for me too. You look at old James over here.

[Laughter]

I wasn't even a thought. My mother was raped. She didn't plan to have a child. She'd never had a child. She gets raped when she is 40 and conceives me. Oh, boy! And she tried to have me aborted and the doctor wouldn't do it.

The fact is God was loving this little unplanned poor boy. He saw something in me and really and truly, I look at myself through my whole life and I can find so many reasons, God... When he called me to preach I said, "You picked the bottom of the barrel. Why did you call me for? I can think of a lot of people you should have called." But he loves me! The thing about it is he is crazy about me. Sometimes I don't like myself. He's crazy about me.

Lysa: I believe that not only is he crazy about you but he handpicked you. Like when you were overlooked by everyone else --

James: And boy was I ever!

Lysa: You were handpicked by God. And I truly think that God loves... In God's economy things are always opposite: big is small, small is big; right? And that's just the way God works. So of course, he would pick you, overlooked by everyone else.

James: This is what I heard the night God called me to go forward. I was too shy to go forward. I'm holding on to the chair in front of me and the pastor's wife comes to me weeping and says, "Don't you want to go to Jesus?"

I said, "Yes, but I'm afraid."

And she said, "I'll go with you."

But here's what I was standing there hearing, I remembered all the times... We moved 17 times in 10 years so nobody knew me. And when they picked teams to play I never got picked. I would be the kid that would just walk home while they played. And I would cry.

And the night God's dealing with me he said, "I pick you." The night he called me to preach, Betty, remember? "I call you. I pick you."

So man, this is important. I wish everybody could hear what you were just saying -- that he chooses you. He chooses you. He's picked you. If people could get that, Lysa I mean it is just simply the truth.

Lysa: You know every single one of those nights where you walked home crying because you weren't picked for the sports team, you know in those moments I can so clearly picture it because I know what that feels like. Every one of us knows what that feels like. And that was one of God's greatest things that he took and said, "Really? Satan meant that for evil but oh, James, I'm going to use it for such good!" Because you were not set aside, you are set apart for a high and holy calling.

And the vast majority of your audience, they may never know what it feels like to be picked by a sports team but they will know what it feels like to walk home crying feeling rejected. So I have set you apart and I'm weaving this message in you that you will preach and teach and change the world because of the tenderness -- not because of the victories and successes of your

life -- but because of the tenderness of what just happened to you. Because everybody relates to our failures, very few people relate to our successes.

James: Thank you, Lysa. I take that on as a message to me but a message to all of you. Do you appreciate what she said? Do you understand the importance of it?

[Applause]

Did you ever feel in some way rejected, have some kind of a moment where that really hit you?

Lysa: Well, I remember as a small child one of my very earliest memories was of my dad, my biological father. I so desperately wanted him to love me, wanted him to notice me, wanted him to affirm me. I think deep down in our heart we are born with this desperate need for belonging, love, and acceptance, affirmation. So that's what I wanted from my dad.

But my dad had his own set of hurts that he just couldn't quite get over. And because of that the saying is: "Hurt people hurt people." He never could give me those words of affirmation that I was so desperate for. So I remember being a little girl eight years old watching my daddy drive away and feeling as if I had just lost my identity.

James: Did he leave the family?

Lysa: He left the family. At first he just left us physically but he had already been absent emotionally for so long. So I lost my identity. I was desperate to be his daughter. I just felt like if he would just acknowledge me and I could just be his daughter then everything would fall into place for me. But I lost my identity and I lost that sense of acceptance all in one fell swoop. It was a deep rejection. It was a deep pain.

James: Did it carry on for years until some point that it began to break through? Or did it just wait until you started writing this?

Lysa: Well, when I started writing *Uninvited* I thought, yeah. God's really dealt with me on that. I think I'm good. Like I think the Lord has really taught me everything I need to know about rejection. Over and over and over I found myself tripping over certain sources of pain in my life where it would haunt me all over again.

Even in the writing of *Uninvited*, toward the end of the writing process you go into edits. So typically a book edit is about 200 edits that I get. Well, when I got the edits back from *Uninvited* there were 3,000 -- 3,000!

James: Way to go!

Lysa: So I was like great! I've written a book on rejection and now my editor has rejected me.

[Laughter]

James: Nearly every word.

Lysa: So when you think about there's 3,000 edits, that's a daunting task. I remember thinking that same script popped back in my head: I'm not good enough. I'm not going to be able to do this task that's set before me. My publisher doesn't want me. And I'm like, wait a minute, that's that old lie that I believed when my dad left.

So we can tackle it, absolutely, the subject of rejection but it's always important to understand that some of those lies that we've believed creep back up and the enemy loves to remind us of those old scripts so that we play them like a broken record over and over and over. But it's our choice whether we believe them or whether we absolutely reject the thoughts of rejection.

James: Let me just say this. You're not unimportant and you're not overlooked by God. You may feel unimportant in your own eyes -- you may feel like you're overlooked like everybody but not by God. But every now and then you need to hear that. We like the Holy Spirit to dress up in a person sometime. Holy Ghost is nice but we like Holy Spirit in people.

Lysa: I can't wait to tell my husband!

[Laughter]

Sometimes I like to be his Holy Spirit so now I can refer him to that.

[Laughter]

James: So here's what I want you to know. I'm saying to you what she said to me. You are beyond description a precious jewel to God. You may feel very unattractive. He didn't make a mistake, you're beautiful to him. And he wants you to understand how much he loves you, who you are, where you are, no matter where you've been or what you're dragging around. He wants to lighten the load. He wants to take you right up close to his heart and he wants to share his heart with you holding your heart, healing your heart, caring for your heart. And then he would like for you to put his arms around someone else that feels in so many ways like you and you can be the healing balm in their life.

This is what Lysa is trying to help you with. The book is online. You can order it, you can go to the bookstores and get it or you can help us give someone a cup of water and say, "Would you mind sending it to me?" We will be glad to send it to you because this is spiritual water. And we not only help physical needs but we want to meet... not only physical needs but we want to meet spiritual needs. So that's what we're trying to do in every way possible.

I want to ask you right now to listen. I want you to hear the heart of God expressed through someone and it's a plea, it's a cry, it's a request that we can miraculously be the answer to. If you've ever wanted to see a miracle let's step one above that, let's be a miracle right now in someone's life. We can be together. You can be.

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> My name is Pich and I'm 27 years old. I've lived here my whole life. Our water makes me sick. It makes my children sick. It's the only water we have. There are no other options.

A couple of years ago my son got really sick. We didn't have enough money for the medicine he needed. He got so sick and weak and there was nothing I could do. My baby boy died in my arms. [Weeping] He died just because we don't have clean water.

Now, I worry about my daughter. She is still drinking that water. What will I do if she gets sicker? Every time I get that dirty water I'm scared to give it to her but she has to drink something. I hope and pray that we can get clean water soon.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Dear God! Betty, when you watch and listen to that mother, what's going on in your heart?

Betty: Well, my heart really goes out to that mother. My heart is touched by her broken heart. And she is so concerned now that she's lost her son that she's going to lose her other baby. That's so hard to really understand why just water would kill their babies. But if you could see that water it is so contaminated I wouldn't even take my children near water like that because I have clean water to offer them.

That's what they need. That's what she is asking for, that's what she is praying for, "God please send some clean water." We have an opportunity to do that. We have the opportunity to drill the

water wells and for the rest of their lives they can have fresh clean water that that will be one problem solved that they won't have to worry about for their children that they can drink and taste the clean water that's not so contaminated and diseased that it will kill them.

But you know one more important thing is? -- The drilling rig. And without that we can't drill the water wells; so both are so very important. I hope your heart has been touched enough you'll say, "I want to help with the drilling rig and the drilling of the wells."

James: It takes four or five drilling rigs to do what we do, to drill 500 water wells a year. And with your help we'll finish 5,000 this year, completed. But one of the rigs has finally given up. And in order to get dozens more to complete the 500 wells for this year we're going to have to have a \$380,000 drilling rig. That means like immediately.

This is the last week that we are able to ask for your help. We just have to notify the missionaries, the resources are there, get the drilling rig, here's the money and that's what it takes. When you see a mother cry out like that and know you've got the perfect solution, that's not an exaggeration, we will save the lives of her children and the people in her village and they will rejoice as we've seen them, Betty when that water comes up out of the ground and it's the biggest joy, experience you'll ever see. We have done that in 5,000 places. And we have inspired thousands of other churches and organizations to drill wells.

So this is what we've been doing together and now we need a miracle here during this last week. Would you right now just say, "God, what do you want me to do?" The wells cost \$4800 each. That's the average cost. Could you drill a well or give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray that somebody joins you? Whatever you can do, please, know this: \$48 gives 10 people water the rest of their life. So there's a level at which you can participate. If you can help us with that \$380,000 rig, you may be able to give \$10,000 toward it.

Father, I pray if someone can they will, and they'll rejoice to do it; in Jesus' name.

If you could give \$1,000 toward it, please do -- whatever you can do. We have some gifts to send you to help you and bless you in your life, but you're going to be giving the greatest gift, you're going to be giving someone life -- *Water for Life* and we're going to point them to the water of life that inspired your gift. LifeToday.org, go online right now, take your bankcard, or dial that number, take your bankcard, use it like a check. If you want to write a check and put it in the mail, make it to LIFE but call us please and tell us you're mailing it because we need to know. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children are forced to make a dreadful choice: Drink polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision!

The good news is there is a solution: Mission: Water for Life is one of the most proven demonstrations of God's love today.

Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today you can help drill 500 water wells in remote villages in over 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. And \$144 will help provide fresh water for 30 people for a lifetime!

Additionally, just over \$378,000 is needed to replace an old and failing drilling rig in Africa. Please consider an additional gift of \$100 or more to get a desperately needed new rig in place as soon as possible.

With your gift we'll send you *The Stream*, a powerful new book by James Robison that charts a clear path for your personal revival and a spiritual revolution.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Promises of God" coffee mugs.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip**In the studio**

James: Let me just mention how much it means to mothers like the one you saw and to villages; it is beyond description. We talked about saving her child's life and others'. The love that you've shared over the years has saved, the African governments tell us, over 11-12 million lives on their continent. So a lot of little lives touched by love.

If you'd like to have Lysa's book, *Uninvited*, not picked, but you're picked, we'll be glad to send it to you. Of course, you can get it online or in the bookstores. You help us give a cup of water, you want this book, we'll be sending it along with the other gifts we mentioned.

Lysa is going to be with us for another program this week but would you just like to thank her for being with us for this program?

[Cheers & Applause]

We're going to talk some more. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. See Lysa again in the next program.