

11/15/16
Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Lisa Bevere #2
Modified from 08/09/16

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you for joining us. I'm Betty and this is James; and we've got Lisa Bevere with us again.

James: And she is without rival. She has written a book titled: *Without Rival*. I love the subheading: Embrace your identity and purpose in an age of confusion and comparison. Boy, do we have an age of confusion. And we have a lot of foolish measuring yourselves among yourselves, by yourselves, comparing yourselves with one another and you become what? -- Void of understanding -- void of wisdom; that's what Paul said. And we live in an age of no understanding. Look at all the comparisons, all the confusion, people self-identifying instead of letting God identify. No wonder the confusion.

But we do have rivals too and yet we are created without rival; we're unique the way God made us. Lisa points that out so well. If you didn't see her in the first program this week, you go online, LifeToday.org and back up and see what she said in that first program.

But I'd like you to welcome her back. Lisa Bevere, a wonderful author, a wonderful teacher.

[Applause]

Thank you! And she has a wonderful husband who is also a teacher and not her rival because she's got you beat, John. Oh, excuse me!

Lisa: He's a better golfer.

James: He's a better golfer. John, I love you a bunch, buddy. I mean big time. Y'all are an awesome couple. And you know how much we treasure the friendship and pray for you all the time.

Lisa, some of my staff heard some of the things you wrote and said and they said they thought it was kind of interesting that you had a little issue you had to deal with.

Lisa: I did have about a half hour of insanity one morning. You were mentioning kind of the scripture that my husband actually quoted to me about comparing yourself, classifying yourself, and measuring yourself.

So I live in Colorado and I'd gotten up one morning and I was in my fluffy robe and my fluffy slippers and my flannel pajamas. And I walked out, kissed my boys good-bye. My husband was reading his Bible and instead of picking up my Bible I made the mistake of picking up my phone. I began to look at a Twitter feed and it seemed that everybody I knew was part of a list; a list that I'd actually wanted to be on for a really long time. People were saying, "Thank you so much for putting me on this list." "Oh, thank you!" "Oh, I'm going to retweet the list."

I thought, I need to see this list. I must be on this list. So I look at the list and when your last name starts with "B" you find out you find out you're not on the list really quick. So I was like what? I didn't make the list? And this list was an itemization of the top 100 Christian women speakers. I was like, "I didn't make the list again? I've never made the list!"

[Laughter]

So now all of the sudden and again, I will say, a little disclaimer, I was perimenopausal. I went storming into my husband's office. He's reading his Bible and I'm like, "I didn't make the list! I didn't make it. I'm never going to make the list. I'm 55 now, I'm never going to make the list!"

And my husband was like, "What are you talking about?"

And I began to tell him about the list and he was like, "Do you know this person that made the list?"

I said, "No. But that doesn't mean that I don't want to be on it."

And he was like, "Lisa, I feel like you need to read a couple scriptures." And he cited the one that you quoted, and he cited about two other ones.

And I said, "I'm not going to read those scriptures! I know what they say but even though I know they're right this doesn't feel right. This feels really wrong."

So I stormed out and I called Living Your Destiny, Chris Caine. I said, "Christine, there's a list that got published today and I'm not on it."

She said, "Well, am I on the list?"

I'm like, "Of course you're on the list! Everybody is on the list except for me. People that translate my books into Spanish are on the list." I said, "At the end of the list there's this little thing where you can add somebody if you feel like maybe they should have been on the list."

Now John had not offered to do that so I thought maybe Christine would add me to the list. But she was like, "Uh... I'm not adding you to the list. Who cares about the list?"

I'm like, "Of course you don't care because you're on the list."

[Laughter]

"I'm the only one." Then I was like, "Fine! I was coming to you as a confessor. I know I'm wrong."

So I went back in the house and I thought, fine! I'll just make my own list. I'll make my own list. And I'm going to put everybody that wasn't on the top 100 on my list! I have many Twitter followers; I'm going to make a list. Then I thought, no, that means I'm going to leave somebody out.

And then I started thinking, lists are wrong! Lists are evil! You should never make lists. It makes people competitors. Then I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Baby girl, if you were on the list, would you be throwing a fit right now? Or would you be retweeting the list?"

I was like, "I would be posting the list, if I was on the list." And he was like, "Yeah. This isn't right."

So I went into my room. I hit my knees. I was like, "God, remove all this competition and comparison out of my heart because rivalry is actually robbing the body of Christ of creativity and uniqueness. I went in and apologized to John. I called Christine. She didn't answer the phone so I had to text her. She is like, "You're a crazy person!" So I just texted her.

And then later that day I was like, I can't believe I had that half an hour of insanity. But later that day I got an unusual gift. Somebody had invited me to be part of a banquet that I couldn't come to so they had decided to make plastic dolls of me as a centerpiece. Let me just say it was shot from down low. The vision was I had white jeans on and a black top. It was quite possibly the most unflattering thing I've ever seen in my life. I pull it out of the box. I'm a plastic doll. I'm like, "What in the world?" And I hear God say, "Are you happy now?"

[Laughter]

I feel like I'm a fake. So I try to throw it away. John was like, "That was sent to me. You are keeping that and any time that happens again I'm whipping the plastic doll out and we're going to talk about the list here."

So when I decided to write the whole concept of *Without Rival*, I'm so ridiculous. I can make fun of myself all day long. So I decided you know what? We need to talk about this because we do live in a culture right now that breeds constant comparison, constant classification and constant competition. Those kinds of things are unhealthy for all of us.

Paul said, "I don't even dare -- don't even dare" -- and he was pretty daring. "I don't even dare to compare myself or classify myself or measure myself."

One of the words for "classifying" is a pigeon hole. And that is a little box where pigeons live and they leave their fall out. I don't think any of us want to live in those kinds of containers and confinement. But we don't know that that is what we're doing. Paul said that he called all of his accomplishments dung. And actually, a better description is dog doo doo. He was like you know what? I'm just moving away from all that. And yet we as a culture, we're tracking dog poop all over the place and we have forgotten how bad it smells. And this mountain that we are climbing is popularity. And sometimes popularity with man means we make ourselves an enemy with God because what man rewards and what God rewards are two different things.

So yes, we are people without rival, having a God without rival, entrusted with word and promises without rival but rivalries do exist in our life and we would be foolish to think that they don't. I really believe that rivals exist to bring out the best in us or to best us.

They have done a study and they said the number one thing that causes a person to succeed in life is something called grit. A rival is the perfect measure of just how gritty you are. Will you cave as soon as you hit resistance? Will you say, "This isn't fair?" Or will you, having done all to stand, stand therefore. And God will use gritty people to do amazing things.

I love that you talked about how God uses imperfect people to do perfect things. There is no perfect messenger but there is a perfect message and we have been people that need to have some strength. We need both grit and we need godly. So God will get the ungodly kind of iron-sharpened-iron out of us.

We look at David and David was anointed; he was anointed by Samuel but he was positioned by Goliath and then he was refined by Saul because winning and beating a giant does not a king make -- and getting prophesied over does not a king make. God said, "I know what I need to do to make you the right king. I'm going to give you some rivals." First he started with seven older brothers. I don't think it's any stretch to say that David had some father issues because every

time we see an interaction with him and Saul in the wilderness he cries out, "My father, my father!"

His dad didn't even send for him when Samuel came. Didn't even send for him. If my boys, if Samuel comes to my house I'd have Skype, I'd have face time, everybody would be accounted for and present but this little boy, his dad didn't even call him in. I don't know if it was easy to overlook him but somewhere God said, "I am going to do something with this young man."

Betty and James, when I read the Psalms, I don't hear David's words. You know what I hear? I hear his heart. I hear his heart. And God said, "I'm going to need a man after my heart." We also see what happened with Moses. Pharaoh was raised up as a rival and God said that he used Pharaoh so that the entire world would know there was a God.

So we want to where you know away from a rivalry when God's like, "I actually need you to let your enemy bring out your best and not your worst." So many of us, we love to be around our friends but let me tell you something, I learn more about myself from my enemies than I do from my friends. It is not because I enjoy having enemies but my enemies have this ability to refine me. But I can never let them define me because only my creator defines me.

So there are rivalries that are going in our world right now and we're running and God's like, "No. No. I anoint you in the presence of your enemies." And everybody wants to be more anointed but they forget where that happens. It happens in hardship. It happens when you're rejected. It happens when you're looking for a father and your father didn't notice you. Those are the kind of dynamics that God will use to build grit in somebody. And gritty people outlast people that just maybe had everything handed to them.

James: I kind of, in my heart, began to lose it a little bit when you talked this boy out there with the sheep.

Lisa: You can see it; can't you?

James: He fought the bear and he fought the lion and never left the sheep. And when he was writing the Psalms, he was loving the sheep. And it's the last thing Jesus said; told Christ-denying Simon Peter, the big, boastful, arrogant, tough fisherman who denied him, "If you love me, feed my sheep."

Lisa, I'm telling you, just listening to you talk, I really do love you and I love God in you, and I love you and John, I love the beauty that just flows out of you. I say, "God, keep the river flowing." I've been so enjoying -- think about I'm preaching in all these coliseums and everybody's wanting to come hear this preacher.

But 25 or 30 years ago God sent me to the overlooked. And he said it needs to be about serving and it needs to be about the sheep. You need to share what I have in others and the joy of feeding the hungry and giving water to the thirsty and noticing the overlooked." But more than that too, it's sharing.

Here Lisa, it's sharing with Beth Moore and Christine Caine and Sarah Jakes Roberts, T.D. Jakes daughter that so many need to hear, and Sheila Walsh. They've been able to say listen to these other wonderful preachers and teachers and listen to these testimonies, listen to the changed lives. All of that inside of my heart, I think is wanting the sheep to be blessed. I want to tell you, you just blessed us big time. Did she bless you? Did you hear the Lord in her heart?

Betty: Yes.

[Applause]

James: I just find myself just saying, "Pour it on." "Mercy drops around us are falling but oh, for the showers we plead." Lord, pour out the former and latter rains of your grace.

I want Americans to see the glory of God. So many people are praying for Jesus to come in glory and I'm praying for his glory to come on the church for he is coming for a bride adorned in his glory. I want the church to see him in the bride before he comes for the bride because I think that's the kind of bride he's coming for. At least I feel like you're helping us understand that we have a rival enemy in all the satanic assault that we have to put on our armor to win. But that we don't compare ourselves, and measuring, you made fun of yourself for the foolishness of that nonsense and so forth and that's what it was, and you know that.

Lisa: I do know that!

James: Thank you, John. High five for trying to help her along with that.

Lisa: And Christine.

James: Yeah! But here's the thing. Thank you for pouring out Jesus and thank you for tuning us in and not tuning us out. And through all that you hear, I hope you hear the Lord in the father. I hope you hear that there's a God that notices what you're doing. There's a God that notices the fact that you feel like nobody's noticed and he wants you to know how focused on you he is. He wants you to know how much you matter to him, how important you are to his kingdom purpose; that there are no small parts in the body.

These hands you can see, they're important -- every finger! But the most vital organs are right here. I've got a heart that's been beating for 73 years. Every time it beats -- [thumping his heart] -- faithful! Faithful! Faithful! Pumping life. Pumping life. I say thank you, God. I think that's what the body does if we'll beat with his heart we'll beat not to somebody's drum beat but we'll move according to his heartbeat and we'll know the most vital organs oftentimes are the ones you don't see. You don't have any idea how vital you are.

From God's perspective, many of you who keep *LIFE Today* on the air, who make *LIFE Outreach*, *Water for Life*, feeding, rescuing those who are trafficked, you make it. You're the one to extend the hands of Jesus. How shall they preach? How are they going to believe unless they hear? How are they going to hear unless they preach? But how shall they preach unless they're sent? The bottom line in the impact of the gospel, more than the preacher is the one who sends. How big are you? No rivals.

This book will bless you. It's in the bookstores. You can go online and get it. I hope you get a copy for yourself and someone else. Lisa, we're going to offer your book to anybody who will do what you and John have been doing for more than two decades. You've been helping us feed kids. You've been helping us drill water wells. You've been to the mission field. You've been in to rescue the perishing in the trafficked areas. You have risked your life. You have gone where the hidden cameras are. What a blessing you are.

We're going to ask our viewers today to help us feed some kids. I want you to look in and I want you to see what really moved us. And it wasn't long after what you see moved us it moved Lisa, and it moved John right there. I want you to watch very closely.

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

On the mission field

Tammy: *LIFE Outreach* is feeding hundreds of thousands of children every single day. It's made possible because of your ongoing giving. The truth is, we can't walk away from that. We can't stop giving because in just a matter of weeks, these children could be in this condition. That's how fragile their bodies are. That's how great the need is to continue feeding them.

Just go to the phones. Call the number that you see on your screen right now. If you feel like you don't have much to give, I'm telling you now, it's enough -- it's enough! And we will do great big things with it and God will expand it. Go right now to your phones or go online and make that change today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Thank you. Thank you! Feed my sheep. You're watching -- he's watching you.

Living Your Destiny -- boy, this is great with wonderful gifted women. Lisa Bevere is one of them. *Without Rival*, it is in the bookstores. You can get it online. You ought to get it for a friend. You help us feed these kids, make a gift. You say, "Would you send us Lisa's book?" Yes, we will. And you'll know you're *Without Rival*.

I want all of you here to say a great thanks to Lisa Bevere and her availability to God. Thank you for opening up about your journey, Lisa. We love you. You did great! Thank you! Thank you so much for sharing LIFE. Bless you.

James: It's really important that you remember your gift will be doubled, it'll be matched by the \$400,000 matching gift. Please make it!

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.