

11/17/16
Week 47: FMF
James and Betty Robison
Robia Scott

Betty: Welcome to LIFE Today. Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: Well, about twenty years ago there was Buffy the vampire slayer. Now, I know we got these incredible vampire movies and really the books sold millions. So you sell millions of books, they usually try to put it into some kind of movie and they got them. Well, Buffy was there and it was a really famous singer, Prince, that left us here a little while back. But he was quite popular and talented and this guest we have today was one of the dancers with him. But then she became part of Buffy the vampire slayer. But something has happened and she writes about counterfeit comforts.

Now I want you to listen to the subheading: Freedom from the Imposters. I wonder if it's a little bit like what Lisa Bevere talks about. Because we're sending them, and she's one of our best friends. She's been all over the world with our mission teams and she and her husband, John, who are great gifted communicators and writers have supported our mission outreaches for a long time. But she wrote *Without Rival: Embrace your identity and purpose in an age of confusion and comparison*. I think that probably is what leads to the need for comfort and many times you get counterfeit. But Robia is talking about how you find real freedom.

Would you welcome Robia Scott to LIFE Today?

[Applause]

Buffy and you were with Chris?

Robia: Yes, sir!

James: Are you happier now that you're not with Prince but maybe you met the Prince of Peace?

Robia: Well, I'm still slaying. Now I'm slaying demons. I'm just not slaying vampires. Yes, I'm doing well. Things are good.

James: Do you believe that those spiritual beings that often times the media and Hollywood talk about people having a battle with their own demons, do you think that's more likely actually accurate, that they are in a battle in the spiritual realm with some kind of spiritual invisible force that in many ways is controlling their life, their actions in bringing on them the misery that they experience and pass on? Do you think there is a spiritual realm?

Robia: Absolutely! I believe there is a spiritual realm. The Bible says we fight the good fight of faith and by definition if you're in a fight you have an opponent. And sometimes we think the opponent is just ourselves but the Bible also says we wrestle not against flesh and blood but principalities.

And when I was working on Buffy, that's actually when I became a Christian. As I continued to go to set, and I learned more about God, and learned more about spiritual warfare, I started to feel that pull. And I was in the middle of shooting scenes that were casting spells and witchcraft going on and even though it was acting and Hollywood you could feel the presence. So it was starting to become a conflict for me.

James: If you give the wrong kind of attention to the enemy and his activity, do you think that sometimes open doors to the enemy to deceive and defeat you?

Robia: Oh! Absolutely! There are a lot of things that can open doors. For sure!

James: Alright! I want you to tell us about your journey because you are in the Hollywood world. You're having success. Did you feel like you were successful? Did you have a good feeling about where you were?

Robia: You know, I did really well. I was that little girl, like so many little girls that danced around the house and put on shows for their parents. And it wasn't until I saw the movie Flashdance that I realized that you could actually do that for a living. I thought you just did it in your living room and then I saw Flashdance and I was like oh! People do this! I could be a dancer! So I started pursuing –

James: How old were you then?

Robia: I was about twelve. You're dating me! People can do the math now! I was about twelve, I think, when Flashdance came out and I started pursuing the craft and taking dance lessons. By the time I was sixteen I went professional and I started doing a lot of music videos.

That's around the time when MTV was really coming onto the scene, so I did many music videos. And then a few years into it I got called to be a dancer for Prince in a video. And he was also looking for a set of identical twins and he couldn't find twins that he liked and there was another girl who looked like me, he hired us for the twins. The album was Diamonds and Pearls. I played Pearl. And then it turned into two years traveling the world with Prince.

James: Wow! Did you enjoy it?

Robia: I did. It was an amazing experience.

James: And then you got Buffy.

Robia: And then I retired after that because I felt that I had reached a pinnacle as a dancer. So, at 22 I retired. Then I transitioned into acting. And again, just studied fervently and started booking jobs. Beverly Hills 90210. I was on CSI. I did a whole lot of guest starring roles. And then I got Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

Betty: Did something or someone in particular get you to thinking about God and a relationship with him?

Robia: I was always a believer in God, but I was a seeker. I was always a seeker. And living in Southern California when you're seeking God you usually come into the New Age Movement so I was very passionate about reading and studying and wanting that connection with God. So I was doing all sorts of things in the New Age Movement but then I was also, even though I was very successful and on television and traveling the world and making a lot of money I was still dealing with those areas -- things that money can't buy. I still didn't have peace. I was a chain smoker. I had body image issues. Being an actress and a dancer I was really struggling in that area. I had to be honest --

James: Do you think there was even any reason to struggle there actually? You were probably were still in pretty good shape?

Robia: Oh yeah! I've always been very thin so you wouldn't know by looking at me, but I was just very tormented around food and what I ate and how much I weighed and how I appeared. It was very consuming.

Betty: So, basically you had a low self-image of yourself.

Robia: With the body, yes. I was very consumed with that. So even though I was doing all these God practices, I had to admit to myself that none of the things I was doing were really

helping me in the areas I was suffering in. So that drove me to look for God in a different way. So I did have some Christians that were talking to me about –

James: By the way, did you see those as the counterfeit comforts that you're talking about? What you were looking for when you talked about the counterfeit comforts? What was it that you --?

Robia: Well, for me the main counterfeit comfort was food. There are many counterfeit comforts. There's a whole list of things that we go to for comfort; cigarettes, alcohol, shopping, relationships, gambling. I mean, the list goes on and on.

James: And none of them worked?

Robia: Yeah, none of them worked. None of them filled that place. But it wasn't even just trying to find satisfaction. It was that I actually had become in bondage to this area of food. And I really believe that someone who had a relationship with God – that there was freedom there. I just couldn't find it. I just couldn't find it! So I had someone talk to me about Christianity and I was open. But again, I must be honest that as a kind of savvy Hollywood gal, I hadn't seen a lot of representations of Christianity that looked like something I wanted to emulate, because Hollywood portrays Christianity in a way usually that is not favorable. It's either very uptight and conservative or it's the real sweet gal who turns out to be the crazy person who kills everyone in the town. Right? It's the hypocritical thing.

So I was like – I was looking for something real. I also the mindset, a religious mindset of who I thought God was in terms of becoming a born again Christian. I really thought that becoming born again meant – because New Age was very free. New Age was do whatever feels right, do whatever you want.

But Christianity seemed that it was controlling. So I thought if I become a born again Christian God is going to take everything I like away from me. I'm not going to have fun anymore. I have to dress very conservatively. I can't have cute shoes, and I like cute shoes. You know? Can I still do this and be a Christian?

So God knew. I really just went to him and I said, "God, you know I believe in you but you've got to help me understand being born again. This doesn't make sense to me." And God is so amazing. He'll talk to us in so many different ways.

I don't know how this happened but I stumbled upon this article about Michelangelo who is the artist.

James: I would say he's rather gifted. [Laughing]

Robia: Yes, he's a well known artist. Painted the Sistine Chapel. Sculpted David.

James: And from incredible positions.

Robia: Beautiful! Beautiful work!

So I was reading this article about how Michelangelo went about his work. What it said is when he went to sculpt he would stand in front of a big piece of marble. And instead of trying to create something he would already see the finished masterpiece inside the marble. And all he did was chip away at the marble, and chip away to keep what it already was. He wanted to remove the excess.

James: He wanted to find the angel in it.

Robia: Yes! He wanted to remove the excess from it being what it already was. And that is the exact quote. He said, "I saw the angel in the marble and I carved until I set him free."

James: Isn't that great!

Robia: Something, when I read that, it just spoke to my spirit. I felt like the spirit of God said, "This is who I am. I don't want to take things from you. I don't want to take your personality. The only thing I want to take from you are all those bondages, all those things that are keeping you from being the masterpiece that I created you to be. And that was a turning point for me.

I became a Christian and right away my life started to change. But this area with food was still a struggle. I could not get free. So I went to God and that's really how this whole book was birthed. I went to God and in a moment with God hearing his voice, he told me what a counselor couldn't tell me, what any person sharing things, they couldn't tell me. I said, "God, what is going on? What is this issue with food? How do I get free?"

And I heard in my spirit, I had a thought that I had never thought before and what I heard was, "You have too many counterfeit comforts."

I had never heard anyone say that. So I was like, what does that mean? Counterfeit comforts? And the Lord started to reveal to me that he actually spoke to me and he said, "Food isn't the issue." That's why when you try to diet or cut out food groups or do certain things, that's not really the problem. Your food problem is merely a symptom to a deeper root. So your real problem is feelings, and things you don't know how to deal with.

So if you will learn how to transfer your running to comfort to food and all these other things and you would learn how to transfer that to the real comforter, I'll go deep and heal you down deep in the root. And all the superficial symptoms will start to change. That's how God is, he works from the inside out.

James: So you experienced it.

Robia: I experienced –

James: Like a miracle, right?

Robia: Well, it was a lot of little miracles all strung together. It was actually learning how to encounter God's presence and hear his voice and let him talk to me about me because he's my creator. He knows who I am. He knows the things I've been through. He knows strongholds and areas I've suffered. And he's the one who has my answers. So, really it was learning about getting into that place and having a journey with the counselor. The Holy Spirit is the counselor and he will lead us into all truth and he led me into all truth about myself.

James: And you think that in the book, *Counterfeit Comforts*, that you said you believe you have a gift to teach people and you think when I'm saying this is real and I want it for others, but I kind of preach to people but maybe I don't teach them how to get there.

Robia: How to! We need the how to! Not the concepts.

James: That's it! That's why I'm talking to you. I'm trying- --

Robia: See, I got frustrated when I heard the concepts. I heard, "Abide in the vine." How do I abide in the vine?

James: And I'm the guy that frustrates people!

Robia: It was you all along!

[Laughter]

James: But I'm trying to inspire them to know that if we plow the ground to get the right seed we can grow this beautiful –

Robia: That's why we're the body. You inspire, and then I help people walk step by step.

James: You're saying you can actually help people walk where they will know his voice and they can actually have this fellowship with him.

Robia: Hearing God's voice is for everyone and that is what I'm passionate about. I think so many believers think it's for the special anointed Christians, the prophets, the pastors, the ministry people –

Betty: I used to think that!

Robia: And it's taught often too that we don't really hear his voice. We hear it through reading the Bible but we don't actually hear him personally for us. This is a God that he knows every hair on our head. He knows every tear that we cry. He's a personal God!

James: I get the sense with you --. Now you go to church, right? You and your husband started church in Southern California, south of Los Angeles. Right? Where's it located?

Robia: Redondo Beach.

James: And it's called what?

Robia: Deeper Life.

James: And there's a little website we put up there. Now if they come, are you and your husband going to try to help them learn how to live beyond this counterfeit comfort and move into this relationship where Jesus sent another one of himself, another one just like him, to live in us so that Jesus could actually walk in us?

Robia: We are really about teaching people, training people how to hear from God firsthand because as Christians so many of us spend our entire Christian walk in secondhand revelation. That's a part of our Christian walk, hearing our pastor teach us, hearing other people talk about God. I've gotten so much from the books that I've read and the people that have taught me and preached to me but that is not ever meant to be our entire Christian walk. Hearing from – I can't base my relationship on God based only on what you've experienced what God. God wants me to experience him. So it's so much about firsthand revelation and teaching people how to get into that place in his presence where they can feel him, where they can encounter him, where they can experience him. Not just learn about him. Not just know about him. But actually know him. That's what I'm passionate about. And that's the process of this book, really. Taking people step by step, biblical, practical, applicable tools to transform, to get set free from bondage, and to know God intimately, to hear his voice.

James: Do you see sincerity and genuineness in her?

[Applause]

This is not a Hollywood act. This is someone who's been in the role of acting and being in the spotlight and yet this – And by the way, I can just tell that it's the real deal with you. What's your husband's name?

Robia: James.

James: James.

[Laughter]

What a name!

Hey, James, listen to me! You've got a beautiful gift here and you must be a very special man. I want to just pray.

Lord, bless James and Robia and their church. And I mean, Lord, just set people free. In Jesus' name.

You believe, because you said, "I want to help people." In other words, you're actually bringing to the table something that I don't necessarily bring to the table. I don't think I'm a gifted teacher. That's why I bring teachers on. That's why I have teachers around me. I can't do certain things. But I don't have to feel bad about that. I've got to do my part in God's heart. Part of my part in God's heart is to help people find their part in God's heart. So, what you're trying to do though, is you heard me talking with you and others as we were talking earlier, about this running relationship with God where we know we can talk. Paul said pray without ceasing. It didn't mean he was over in a fetal position, or bowing down, or locked up in a closet. He was praying, talking to God. I'm in constant conversation. I'm not just speaking. God is speaking to me.

You're saying this is the normal Christian life. You believe, and this is one step toward you helping, you believe you can help people understand how to do that.

Robia: Absolutely.

James: That's why you want them to get the book.

Robia: Absolutely. Teaching people how to appropriate all the promises that are in the Bible, that are for us but they're not just handed to us. They're available to us but we have to learn how to walk in everything that's available to us and that's what I do here, step by step by step by step. A process, a journey of getting free.

James: Would you like to say thanks to God and thanks to her and her husband?

Here's the book, it's in the bookstores. Do you want me to mention a website if they want to know something about your church or what you're doing?

Robia: Yes, robiaministries.org My website. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. Google me up, you'll find all sorts of goodness.

James: I'm asking God to anoint me with all the social language gifts. All those in the New Testament when they spoke there after the Holy Spirit was poured out. They could speak the dialect and the language of the people. I don't know if I could speak YouTube or Facebook or Twitter or anything but I don't want to just mess with it. If I ever do anything I want it to be by the divine enabling of God.

You know, we do something – Betty is about to say something that I think is going to – I've already started praying for Betty because I know what she's about to see. She hasn't seen it. You don't want to miss this because it's going to be a very personal communication. But not just with Betty or with me but I really believe it's a communication from God to you. I think it's real serious and real important. Watch!

On the mission field

Sheila: Angola. Africa. Drought is crushing this land. You see, plants spring from the earth with promise of food, promise of life! But long before they could ever provide any sort of sustenance they quickly fail and wither back into the earth. This drought has affected the many lives that depend on this food but it has affected some more than others. The children suffer the worst. Their bodies are not meant to withstand this lack of sustenance. Some will make it. Some will not.

Open captions

>> I had two children. The oldest one passed away from malnutrition. She was seven years old, and her name was Nana. At night, when I sleep, I dream she is still here. Every night, I pray Psalm 23. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

>> You could just see it in her eyes, this tremendous loss. And if anybody understands this woman's pain it's you, Betty. If you've lost a daughter it changes everything. And that's community that nobody – no one on this earth signs up to join that community. So you understand this woman's pain. This mom, this young beautiful mom has done everything she could but she shouldn't stand alone. We are the body of Christ. We can do something right now in Angola. You maybe even hear some crying babies in the background. There's a lot of children here who are extremely hungry and a simple bowl of food can change everything.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, she said you would understand.

Betty: The heart of a mother is a nurturing heart, a heart that would do anything for their child, and a heart that would go to the ends of the world if they thought they could find the help for their child. This mother's done all she can do, just like many other mothers like her. There's nothing around to feed the children. There's nothing she can offer them but comfort in their pain. And her heart is in pain because she can't take care of her child, her children, however many she has. So she's asking, she's trusting God, as you can see, through God's word. And she's waiting on God to supply the need. I believe we can be a part of that. God supplying, us joining together, reaching out to mothers just like this one, and offering food or nourishment for their children, that they don't have to die like this.

James: You know, we didn't have to lose a child to care. All we had to do was see a little child or children. It was easy for us to say, "Suffer the little children to come, of such is the kingdom of heaven." It was easy for us to hear if you've done it to the least of these you've done it to me. And from the time I was a boy without a home I found myself when I heard the story of Jesus, I wanted to be the one to give him a drink of water, not vinegar, when he was saying, "I'm thirsty." I remember praying that as a teenager.

And, Betty, we've been able to give water because of you joining us. We've been able to give it to millions of people. And we've been able to feed millions of children together and right now we've got, right there where you saw Sheila and she talked about the drought, it's serious. We've got 400,000 kids that could end up dying, or we could save their lives with love. So we're asking you to help us. And some of our friends, Betty, they heard the heart of God and they put up a \$400,000 matching gift right now. That whatever you do today will be doubled, they'll match it. Thirty, fifty, one hundred dollars will feed three, five, or ten children. Thirty, fifty, one hundred. Three, five, ten. But it's doubled. Instead of ten, it's twenty. So, at whatever

level you can come in at, please do. Go to lifetoday.org, go ahead, go online. Take your bankcard, use it like a check or dial the number there where people call to trust Christ every day and to be prayed for, and with. You can call that number and say here's what I'm giving, use your bankcard like a check. If you write a check make it to Life but call us and tell us what you are putting in the mail so we can tell the missionaries the support is going to be there.

And we're also going to, now as we've gotten children stabilized, we want to feed them in school. \$1400 will feed an entire school for three months. So once you get them stable, and you can keep them in school because they're coming for the food, but their little minds are sharp because they're getting nutrition. So it's a total outreach to change their lives forever. It's not throwing money at a target, it's putting arms of love through these incredible missionaries and teachers committed to help them. It's showing them Jesus. It's giving them a future. It's giving them real life. So would you be the answer to a mother's prayer for her children? Would you be the miracle that every heart longs for, that Betty and I prayed for? We pray hard for it. I know if you could have you would have said, "Here it is!" Well, you can say it to those mothers that Sheila talked about. You can say it to those families.

We have some gifts to send you to say thank you. You're going to love the gifts because they bless you. It's like giving you spiritual food and water. It's what we want to do every day on LIFE Today. But would you, right now, go to lifetoday.org or would you dial the number, and would you take your bankcard, use it like a check, make the largest gift you can, please, knowing it will be doubled. Please do it. Thank you for making that life giving call. Thank you for sharing.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished villages of Africa children are suffering, desperately in need of life saving food, facing death by starvation.

LIFE's mission feeding program is there, ready now to feed and care for children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. With all of our previous reserves gone, and Angola facing a record food shortage due to crop failure, we need to immediately replenish our funding and supplies for our feeding programs.

As an answered prayer, a group of *LIFE's* friends have set a \$400,000 matching gift challenge for mission feeding! This means your gift today could have a double impact! \$30 for three children will be doubled to help feed six children! \$50 to help five children will be doubled to save ten children! And \$100 for ten children will be doubled to help feed 20 children! And don't forget, your \$1400 gift to sponsor a school will now be doubled to feed children in two schools!

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you *Without Rival* by author Lisa Bevere. With your double impact gift of \$100 or more please request *The Complete Illustrated Children's Bible*. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1000, which will now be doubled to help feed 200 children and you may request our beautiful Majesty bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: You know, Betty, I really prayed that you would be able to handle what Sheila said to you. And I know she did.

Sheila, you're just such a blessing. We're so glad you're a part of our team and our family here at LIFE Today and LIFE Outreach.

Robia is a part of our team too. She's part of the body of Christ. She says she can help you the ways I prayed somebody would help in areas where I cannot. And I think it will if you'd like to have *Counterfeit Comforts* and let her adjourn along with you and inspire you, we'll be happy to send it to you.

You help us give these kids something to eat and be an answer to those mothers' prayers, well, we want to be a real blessing to you and say thank you. So, if you would like to have this too, it's in the bookstores. Tell your friends about it. But if you'd like to have one today you just ask for it.

Join us in saying thanks to Robia again, would you please?

[Applause]

Thank you so much for watching. Thanks for sharing life.

[Cheers & Applause]

[Music]