

1/3/17
Modified from 7/12/16
Week 2: Living Your Destiny
Sheila Walsh
Lisa Bevere

Sheila: Hello! Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm so glad you decided to sit down and turn on the TV. I pray that this 30 minutes will really impact your life.

One of the things that we're thrilled to be able to share with you at the moment is a brand new teaching series called Living: Your Destiny. I can't wait to hear it myself because we've got Beth Moore, one of the best Bible teachers that God ever deposited on the planet. We have Christine Caine, who is just like on fire for Jesus and sets fires all around the world and people get set free. Then Sarah Jakes Roberts, Bishop T.D. Jakes' daughter has such a powerful story. I get to share what it is like to live your destiny. And the fifth woman on this teaching series is my guest today. I'm crazy about this woman! Would you please help me to welcome Lisa Bevere?

Lisa: I love you, Sheila!

Sheila: I love you! I was saying to my husband before I came to the studio, I've spent so many years in ministry whether it is working with youth for Christ or working with the Dr. Billy Graham organization, with the 700 Club, or the 20 years of Women of Faith, I have never in all my years met a woman who is a greater champion and encourager of other women than you.

Lisa: Oh, thank you!

Sheila: Thank you from my heart and all the other women that you've encouraged. That's really... Is that something that has always been in you, Lisa?

Lisa: No! I didn't even like women. I hated them. When my husband proposed to me I was like, "You do not understand what you're getting because I am a woman's brain..." No! Wrong thing! Sorry about that. We need to edit that. I said, "I am a man's brain in a woman's body." He was like, "I'm not comfortable with that." I was like, "No, you don't understand. I'm not like a woman. I'm nice."

Sheila: Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! I'm not like a woman, I'm nice?

Lisa: I know! See that's how wrong it was. But you know what I'm going to tell you, Sheila? I had such a wound from my mother who tried so hard -- she did so much better than her mother had done for her but I just felt like such a -- I can't connect with women. I don't know how to do this. I don't know their secret language. I'm so much more comfortable with guys.

So I remember God talking to me and saying, "I have called you to minister to women." I was like, "No! No! -- Anybody but women! I'll go anywhere. Please don't make me to go women. They're so mean!" And he was like, "You are a woman!" And I said, "I don't like them." He said, "I do!" I was like, "Okay! Jesus likes them. I need to change my mind."

Sheila: I actually totally relate to that. So I want to know the journey that brought you from that place to the place where you're impacting more women around the world than most women I know.

Let's go back a little bit. You shared a photograph on Instagram the other day. As I'm flicking through my -- I'm thinking oh, there's my friend. And there's oh! There's Lisa Bevere's eye.

Lisa: Yes, I did do that. Yes! It wasn't just a selfie up close on steroids. It was my artificial eye. I had gone to an ocularist and you're supposed to get your eye replaced every five years and I had stretched that out to 15 where it was becoming a problem.

So I was sitting there and this man is painstakingly painting, looking at my eyes and trying to capture the color of my iris and painstakingly painting. I thought you know what? While I'm sitting here, I get so many questions about: Can you take it out? Can you see through it? Is it glass?

So I thought, I'm just going to write a little bit of this answer. Then when I started unpacking the answers, Sheila, I remembered. I remember in that moment the name calling and the things that had happened since I was a little girl that --

Sheila: So when did this happen to you, Lisa? When did you lose your eye?

Lisa: Five. So I lost my eye at five to retinoblastoma. They had to remove it. One day I was running around the house with a flashlight, the next day I was in Riley Children's hospital and my eye was removed. They normally catch it anywhere from eight weeks to a year and a half. So the fact that they had caught it so late was an emergency.

So I just remember being at the hospital and I kept saying, "Am I going to get a shot? Am I going to get a shot?"

So I was in shock when they were like, "Yeah. We're actually going to take out your eye."

I said, "I'm actually leaving." I tried to run away.

My world just became centered around that. People no longer saw me the same, five years of age. Kids can be cruel. So "Cyclops," "one eye" -- those kind of things.

In my high school, they wanted to prepare us for our future so you had to take either speech or debate because arguing and talking are important things. I thought, I cannot get up in front of people and argue. I'm so self-conscious. I'll try the speech class. I had over-prepared. I had my little three by five cards and I was standing up there and I looked down and I tried to get my breath. I look up and one of the boys in the back row mouths, "Cyclops!" And I remember, I just began to shake. I burst into tears.

I went running down to the guidance counselor and I said, "I can't do this. I can't do this. I'm handicapped. I can't do this. I'm not going to get a good grade in this class."

You know what he said? "You're right. You can't do this. You're right."

And here's what happened, Sheila. His compassion for my situation in that moment he said, "You don't need to take speech. We're going to waive that requirement for you."

I said, "Now there is another class I'm having a really hard time with."

And he said, "What's that?"

I said, "Typing." I said, "Typing is impossible for me!" Because back in the day you had your hands on your keys, you turned your head to the side. I'm like, "I can't even see my hands now." So I couldn't get above 25 words per minute.

He said, "We'll waive typing and we'll waive speech."

I walked out and I thought I'm free! I will never have to get up in front of people and speak. I will never have to type another paper. I think God was laughing. He was like, "Oh, baby girl! It's okay! We won't make you get up in front of those 20 people."

Sheila: 20,000 people --

Lisa: And we're just going to push you to the edge of diarrhea because we're going to put you on television. We're just going to keep it so that --

Sheila: There's the title of your next book! Yes!

Lisa: The Edge of Diarrhea; we'll put my eye on the front. [Laughing] But yeah.

So many women, Sheila, it was interesting the response, the engagement level on that particular picture was so high because so many women said, "I didn't know." Or they said, "My child lost her eye or his eye at eight months. I'm so thankful that I can see into the future that this is not going to limit their lives."

I had a husband who would not let me live small.

Sheila: I've met that husband. I love that husband!

Lisa: Yes, and you know what I'm talking about. He's like a tornado. I'm happy he travels because I can only handle him in small bits. It is the energy level. I'm like, "Oh, my gosh!"

He's like, "I don't drink coffee."

I'm like, "Thank God! Thank God you don't drink coffee. I have to drink coffee to be with you."

Sheila: When you met John, though, John Bevere, much loved here in this ministry, as are you, you are basically James' additional daughter. James and Betty adore you. But when you first met John, did your feelings about yourself impact your feelings about the potential for a relationship with him?

Lisa: Yes. I actually felt like he was getting cheated. That sounds terrible but no, this is what you would do. I remember saying to him, number one, I had come from a very different background. And John had kept himself pure and John had been godly for the last three years and I had been excelling in heathenism at the University of Arizona. Now John led me to the Lord on our first date so he was always going to be someone I admired. But the idea of marrying him, that was beyond my ability to even think that I could be -- I know this sounds terrible but worthy of that; that God would give me that kind of gift. So when he shared Jesus with me, I got born again.

When he asked me to marry him, I was like I don't know if I can have kids because they were saying that I was 100% carrier on this. And thank God that none of my kids did get it because it is true. Retinoblastoma is genetic; then the chances of your kids getting it is 50%. So all four of my boys -- perfect.

But yeah, I did feel like I wasn't feminine. I did not want to come alongside him. I was great with being behind him but I didn't want to come alongside him. And he would say to me, "Lisa, there are young girls that need you in this youth group. They need to have you get up."

I'd say, "I'm not some package. Because you're the youth pastor doesn't make me a youth pastor. And you're not making me get up there."

He said, "Well, you just need to get ready. I'm going to call on you."

I said, "You just need to be ready, I'm going to walk out the back door."

And he would be like, "Lisa!" And so he would say, "You are not your own. You were bought with a price and you don't have the right to be comfortable when so many people need what you can give them as comfort."

I said, "Don't talk to me like I'm a congregation. I'm your wife. I'm your one-eyed, handicapped wife. You need to feel sorry for me."

And he would have none of it. He just kept saying, "No." So he would trick me and hand me the microphone in front of kids that I was terrified of. I was terrified of the teenagers which are kind of scary.

Sheila: Yeah, I get that!

But what happened in-between that and the "no, no, no" and the dynamic woman that I see on stage who gets up there with a sword and writes, Girls with Swords?

Lisa: A swords make me feel violent. [Laughing]

Sheila: But what happened in you?

Lisa: When you're married to a man like that, whether you wanted to hear it or not you hear it. I finally came to the place where I said, "You know what, God? This isn't about me. This is about you. And this isn't about me being comfortable or pretty or whatever. I'm going to be a more living testimony of your faithfulness than I ever would if I was perfect."

And the truth is the longer we live we know there is no perfect person. But God actually, really, and this sounds like he's mean but it's not -- he really loves to make us face what we fear because he knows that it's going to actually position us to be fearless. So when I finally began

to get on that stage and speak and see women say, "Ah, when I saw you get up." Or "When I heard that..." I made the connection that it wasn't about me but it was what God could do through me.

Sheila, I'm so aware, I know that you're aware of this because I know what you've been through in your life that the attacks on our life, my losing an eye at five, you losing your father, the attacks on our life, they're not about our past, they're about our destiny. The enemy somehow knows, he can see patterns and he's like, "I'm going to take her out before she ever realizes who she is."

And I think there are people out there right now that they've been going through hardship and they're looking at their past to figure out what's going on and it's not about their past, it is about their future.

Sheila: You told a story when you and I were together once and it was from one of those Arnold Schwarzenegger movies. And you start and I'm, "Okay, I'm trying to track with this. I don't think it is in Hebrews."

But actually the point you make is very, very powerful and it's about that, about the enemy maybe recognizing who you are before you do.

Lisa: Yeah, it's the movie that never goes away -- it's Terminator and it just keeps coming and coming. So you can see it at any point. It will probably come out again five years from now.

But basically, the whole idea of destiny and that the truth is, as Christians, we've been marked with the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead. So the moment we become a Christian we're a target. But we also need to understand that long before we were targeted we were chosen.

I love that tonight is all woven around destiny for women; living their destiny. And the truth is, none of us are going to be able to live our destiny if we pray small, safe prayers or live small, safe lives. I know each of these women have come through something and struggle can be strengthening.

So you and I always love to talk about praying scary prayers. God just dropped into me that most Christians don't pray scary prayers.

Sheila: What's a scary prayer?

Lisa: A scary prayer is Psalm 10. A scary prayer is when you begin to pray the Word of God and it is so overwhelming to you that it takes your breath away. Or maybe you begin to pray like... maybe you've just been praying... maybe there is a mom at home and they're like, "I just hope my kids get saved before they die." And instead, that's a scared prayer. That's not a scary prayer.

A scary prayer would be like you know what? My son or my daughter is a disciple taught of the Lord and great is their peace and undisturbed composure.

A scary prayer right now, for Americans right now, would be that this nation, her destiny is greater than her history and that we will have a great and glorious rising and that God will hear from heaven and he will heal our land because we're measuring everything by sphere. We're letting the culture drive our prayers when my Bible says that God watches over his Word to perform it. So when I begin to pray God's Word, he will watch over it. He doesn't watch over my worries. He watches over his Word.

Sheila: Say that again! Say that again!

Lisa: He doesn't watch over our worries, he doesn't watch over my whining, he watches over his Word. So we need to be fluent people who speak the Word of God into destinies.

When you read some of David's prayers, it's like: Break their right arm! Break their left arm! Search and destroy every sign of wickedness! God's rule wins.

I'm like, "Whoa! Can I pray that?" Okay, I'm going to pray the scary prayer. I'm going to pray, "Break their arms."

I'm not going to break their arms but God knows how to search and he needs us to find out -- you know one of the prayers I've been praying recently that's been scary is we all have been praying for the noontime prayer for what's going on in our world.

Sheila: Midday, baby -- midday!

Lisa: Midday baby! I was praying for the people that are captive and praying for the people that have been under the bondage of theology of rape and all of the other cruelties that we're seeing in our world right now. I had the Lord challenge me because I was praying Psalm 10. I had the Lord challenge me and he said, "I want you to start to pray that there would be a revival among Islam. I want you to begin to pray the way I've told you to pray, that you bless those who curse you. You do good to those. I want you to pray," because he said, "if you're not praying for them, who is going to pray for them, Lisa?"

So I have been praying that Jesus, the man in white is going to appear to them, to not only the captives but the captors because we know they're just as much in bondage. That there will be a revival, that there will be an opening, that the gospel will go into places where none of us will ever go and they will search and destroy every sign of wickedness.

Sheila: That's powerful! That is power! Yeah! Wow!

My son Christian went to Passion this past year and we got to watch some of it online. John Piper gives such a powerful message. He said, "It is not your job to stay alive, it is your job to stay in love with Christ. And when you're in love with Christ it changes everything."

Do you talk about this in our new series?

Lisa: I do! We unpack the entire version of The Terminator, and the whole destiny and facing your fears. I'm the naughty version of that. That's my portion, the one fifth.

Sheila: No! No, no! I've heard the story and trust me, it is worth getting this just to hear what Lisa has to say. It is one of those stories you start to listen to and you're like where on earth are you going? And then wham!

I remember the first time I heard you share this, I literally had to get out of the building and sit down and say, "Lord, what was that?" Because it was so impactful and it makes you want to rise up. There's something about when you hear the truth, you want to rise up.

Lisa: Well, and people do need to live their destiny because it isn't about them, it is about all of us and it's about their legacy. It is what we were saying, the attacks are not about our history, they're about our destiny. And people need to get a little bit of an attitude. If they're going through something, say, "What is so frightening about me that the enemy has launched a full scale onslaught?"

And I love that *LIFE Today* believes in women and they're encouraging women to live their destiny because God is always created us to do that alongside the men.

Sheila: I think it is interesting that the enemy early on tried to take you out so that you wouldn't stand on a platform. So you wouldn't write. Now you stand on platforms literally around the world and you and John write prolifically.

I also think it is interesting that one of our other teachers on this series is Christine Caine and you remember last year she had the attack on throat cancer.

Lisa: It's so obvious -- her voice!

Sheila: I remember talking to Nick after Christine was starting to recover. He said, "You know the enemy really blew it. If he was going to mess with Christine he should have just killed her. Now he's just made her angry."

[Laughter]

Lisa: Yeah! You don't make Greeks or Sicilians angry. You don't do that!

Sheila: So yeah. This is going to be a really powerful series. We're going to send this to you for any gift that you send us because right now I want to show you something where when we rise up and we become strong in who we are in Christ, we realize that there is a world out there and it's on our watch and that we can make a difference. Watch this with me. Will you?

On the mission field

Announcer: From football stadiums to convention centers to city streets, over the past five decades James Robison and *LIFE Outreach International* have used just about every means available to spread the good news of the gospel around the world. And even now, through the showing of a film produced in India with an all Indian cast, millions have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior. *LIFE Outreach* has partnered with John Gilman of Dayspring International to mobilize hundreds of film teams to travel to remote villages of India and present this unique film on the life of Christ.

John: In this village tonight we're going to show the story of Jesus in all of its glory and these precious folks are going to see the gospel for the first time in their life and many of them are going to find joy and peace in Jesus Christ because of what someone did to help send this team here tonight.

Open captions:

>> While I'm watching the Dayasagar film, and the crucifixion scene come, I asked myself why Jesus died a very terrible death. Then I asked myself, because of my sin he died? Then I accepted Him, and I received Him as my personal savior. God did a miracle in my life.

>> I was very young when I saw Dayasagar. For my simple mind, at that time, Jesus was a great person. So I gave my life completely to Him. And now He is my horn of salvation. Then I showed the same film to my children. After that, this small guy, he said, "God is good!"

>> The night which I saw the Dayasagar movie, that night, I could not sleep because of the things that happened on the cross. Eventually I went to ask those who screen the movie from Dayasagar, can they pray for me? Because I've seen the real God today.

John: I want you to pray and ask God what he would have you to do to send our mobile teams into these villages so that many more can hear the good news of Jesus and his love.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Isn't that amazing? That absolutely blows me away! So we need to help these people. Isn't that what Jesus said before he left -- to take the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth?

And some of these people, it's unbelievable, they'll get their equipment and they're on bikes, they're doing all sorts of stuff. If they know there's a village somewhere, they are going to get to it. They just need us to help on our end. And it's really reasonable.

For \$40 you can actually share that film with 400 people. \$1,000 shares it with 10,000 people or 25 villages! Or if you feel you can do a little bit more, \$4400 will equip a team that will give them the DVD player, everything to set it up in the village, and they go. These people are committed. I know these people well. I've known them for 20-30 years. They are dear friends of mine.

And to get the stories back of the numbers of people, of young children, men and women who suddenly they watch the story of Christ and it becomes alive and real. Really, there is a revival beginning in India and you and I get to be a part of it.

So please, will you give your very best gift? With any gift at all we have this *Living Your Destiny* CD. It's got Beth Moore, Lisa Bevere, Sheila Walsh, Christine Caine, Sarah Jakes Roberts.

Now if you give a little bit more, if you're able to give \$120, then we're going to send you my book, *The Longing in Me* and Christine Caine's amazing book, *Unashamed*.

But let's do this. Let's make sure there's not one village left in India that hasn't heard the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It used to be so hard to be a woman in India. You probably know something of the caste system too where some people are made to feel the lowest of the low. When these people see that God Almighty became the lowest of the low so that they could find a way home, they respond to the gospel.

So let me just remind you, it's so doable! A gift of \$40 -- 400 people in a village will see the movie. \$120, you'll share it with 1200 people! Isn't that amazing? To think that what you might pay to go out and have a meal will suddenly mean that there is 50, 60, 1200 people around the marriage feast of the Lamb when this is all over down here because you cared enough to make sure that movie got to every single village in India with the good news.

The amazing thing is I've talked to John Gilman and he's told me that most of these people, it's the first time they have ever heard that Jesus came. Let's take the gospel to the ends of the earth. Go to your phones right now, would you? Thank you!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Go into all the world and preach the gospel. In a nation filled with so much poverty and spiritual darkness, *LIFE Outreach* has partnered with John Gilman to present a powerful motion picture on the life of Christ that displays his miracles and demonstrates his love to the people of India.

With your support, 2.4 million souls who are looking for our savior's love will be reached with this unique outreach. While the number is great, the cost to present the gospel message is only 10 cents per person. That means your gift of \$40 will share the light of God's love with 400 people! \$80 will help share the film with 800 people. \$120 will share the film with 1200 people. And \$1200 will help reach 10,000 people with the life-changing message of the gospel.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you the exclusive audio CD 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 \$120 or more to help reach 1200 people with the gospel through film evangelism, you may also request two outstanding books, *The Longing in Me* by Sheila Walsh and *Unashamed* by Christine Caine.

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

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Thank you so much. And for any gift you send, we're going to send you this incredible teaching series, *Living Your Destiny*. Please go to your phone. Please do something today. Together we can change this. So would you please help me thank the one and only, the

amazing, the brilliant, the beautiful, the Italian, Lisa Bevere!

[Cheers & Applause]

Sheila: I love, love -- loved it and we love you! If you need prayer call us. We're here for you. We'll see you next time!

[Cheers & Applause]

Announcer: Regardless of your net worth, estate planning benefits you and your family before and after death, and results in peace of mind. As a free service to our friends and partners, *LIFE Planning Services*, a ministry of LIFE Outreach International can help you with your estate planning needs and chart your financial future! Don't put off this important step to peace of mind through better planning. Contact *LIFE Planning Services* today!