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Week 2: Living Your Destiny
Host: Sheila Walsh
Christine Caine

Sheila: Hello! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Sheila Walsh. James and Betty, we just decided we'd give them the day off.

I'm so thrilled that I get to spend time with one of my favorite people on the planet. In fact, those other planets, I'm still going to like her better. I have to tell you, my son, there is no one on this planet, literally, not a single person on this planet that my son who is a godly, strong, amazing man respects more than my guest. She has impacted his life and for that as a mom I'll be profoundly grateful until the day I see Jesus.

So please help me give a great welcome to the one and only Christine Caine!

Chris: I love you! Your son is a wise young man obviously!

Sheila: He is clearly a wise young man. But you know I was saying to him today and I was talking to him while I was driving home from A&M, that you and I met here at *LIFE Today* studios. I didn't know you. We were booked to be on the same evening taping shows and I saw you in makeup and there was something about you that I immediately thought I don't know who this girl is but I love her.

Chris: I was listening to you on the show and I was in the back watching you on TV and I just knew. Who would have known that God would do what he's done with our friendship and just what has happened over these last many, many years? But here we are again! [Laughing]

Sheila: You know what's brilliant, Chris? Your new book, *Unashamed: Drop the baggage, pick up your freedom, fulfill your destiny*. I was privileged to get a copy early and to read it and I love all of your books, I think it's the best thing you've ever written but it is profoundly honest and transparent. I think you've opened a door of hope for a lot of people.

Chris: I hope so.

Sheila: Let me ask you a question because I think when people know you they see you as this fearless woman who will go anywhere that God tells her to go. But as I read the beginning of

your story, you set a scene of what it's like, first day in kindergarten, you're so excited to go and suddenly everything shifts. What happened that day?

Chris: My parents came over from Alexandria, Egypt. My grandparents were from Greece. And so we were immigrants into Australia. There is something about it when people move to another country they actually become even more protective about their country of origin. So we were so Greek. I didn't speak English until I was five; I only spoke Greek at home.

So here I am, this little Greek immigrant kid, think My Big Fat Greek Wedding -- My Big Fat Greek Life.

[Laughter]

I'm going to school with what I think is like a normal lunch. I've got my feta cheese sandwiches, my olives, just a good healthy Greek food but now people love. But back then, not so much. And my Aussie kids would have this substance called vegemite that is a paste that you put on; and that's the Aussie thing which is everything feta cheese is not. I remember being the only kid at lunch eating a feta cheese -- for the first time in my life I was the only one because when you're at home you're at home. And the kids would just kind of mock and ridicule either the smell of the feta, the garlic, and be very derogatory because I would have had a thick accent in my English.

So they were very negative, very critical. It was then you sort of become ashamed of who you are. So another way of going into hiding, I remember taking my lunch every day and throwing it out as soon as I got to school so that I wouldn't have to open that lunch at school. It's just amazing how --

Sheila: That's heartbreaking. And I guess you felt you didn't want to tell your mom because you didn't want to hurt her feelings?

Chris: Because she wouldn't have understood. Its like, "Well just go and be tougher than all the kids." Well, five, you're an immigrant kid; you're not tougher than anybody kind of thing.

Sheila: What did that do to you inside?

Chris: I think it devastated me because at that point, Sheila the abuse had already started happening in --

Sheila: Sexual abuse.

Chris: Sexual abuse in my life. So I already was carrying shame from all of that. So you're living a lie anyway, you're hiding there.

Then I have this happen and so culturally there is this hiding. Then as a woman, being a Greek woman, women were not encouraged to -- a woman's highest thing was to get married and have babies. So a Greek mother is sort of thinking why do you need to go to school anyway kind of thing. So I would be -- I remember, Sheila, that I always excelled at school but I was kind of like a Greek orthodox mother's nightmare. My mother wanted me to do ballet, I loved soccer. She wanted me to play with Barbie dolls, I read books. It was like, "All this reading, Christine? Why do you need a brain for? No man is going to want to marry you if you're too intelligent." I would always get that, "No man will want to marry you if you're too smart."

I remember we would have grades -- school grade one is the highest grade, grade five was the lowest. I would get straight ones. And on the way home, holding my report card with the same color pen I would change the grade one to a grade four or a grade five. I'd go over it so that when I brought my report card home it wouldn't look like I got high grades.

Sheila: Because that would make your mother feel better?

Chris: So then I wouldn't have to get the well, "Why you?" I remember it was just who I was was being attacked.

In fact, I was betrothed to a Greek man at 18 and because I wanted to go to university, he owned a fish-and-chip shop and it had kind of some small goods there. And she said to me, (his mother) that "If you're going to marry my son, you cannot go to university. You have to come make fish and chips because you cannot be more educated than my son." So suffice it to say I went to university. [Laughing]

Sheila: Though I love fish and chips, there's a limit.

You know what's interesting though? I can see there are two threads, as I read your book, there's two threads throughout your life, the incredible faithfulness and calling of God on your life but this attack from the enemy to silence your voice. Because at school, you learned you just don't speak up; that the natural leadership that you were beginning to exhibit was something you had to squelch.

Chris: Well, totally, I remember at six years old I was in second grade and so we, in Australia you get a report card mid-year, which is June, and then you get the end-of-year in December, report card. So in the mid-year I had all my little grades and then the teacher had written, "Christine shows a lot of potential but she has to learn that she can't always be the leader."

And it was -- I remember looking at it and of course, I was already so damaged from the abuse, the culture, just being called derogatory names all of the time. The one place I felt good was in terms of my academics like school. The stuff that was going on at home I could avoid that. And so here's the one thing that had made me feel good about myself and that was being attacked.

So you could tell that I must have changed and internalized that because then on that same report card in December it says, "Christine has had a wonderful year. She has settled down very well."

Sheila: Those words make me mad!

Chris: It's like well, let's put you in a box. So the root of shame makes you feel fundamentally unworthy anyway. When you're being abused initially you think what's happening to you is wrong. But when it happens for a really long time you start thinking there is something wrong with me, that's why it's happening. So you go into hiding. I spent most of my life hiding who I was, minimizing: Don't be too much for people. Don't be too smart.

And then I got saved and praise the Lord, I got saved into a culture that affirmed women. But I minister to the broader Christian church across the globe and certainly it is not like that. And I find that often, Jesus who was the greatest liberator of women, often women can feel even more shame in churches. And if they failed and I have so many friends who either went through a divorce or had an abortion or failed in a business venture or perhaps just something happened to them and the shame that they hide in. The one place where you should feel safe, where we should be able to say "shame off you" we in fact go, "shame on you."

I'm sure even any biological mother, I'm left in a hospital unnamed and unwanted because in 1966 in Australia, if you're a 23-year-old Greek single woman, the shame of getting pregnant outside of wedlock; and so the child was conceived in shame, was left in a hospital in shame, my parents adopted me and never told us because they were ashamed for 33 years. So it was there.

You go back to Genesis 2:25 where the Lord says, "Adam and Eve were naked and they felt no shame."

So the fact that the Lord puts in the scripture that we're not meant to feel shame and that the enemy, then one chapter later, make sure that as soon as Eve blows it, as soon as Adam and Eve blow it, the first recorded conversation in scripture, "Adam, where are you?" I think God is still saying that to us today. "Why are you hiding?" And we're like, "I'm naked, afraid and so I hid." So that shame makes us hide from God rather than run to God.

I came from a very staunch religious culture. As if God doesn't know everything, we can talk about the sovereignty of God, we can talk about the power of God but I don't know that we really believe it because we spend most of our life hiding from this sovereign, omniscient God that we talk about and sing to as if he somehow doesn't know. He still loves us. It took me so long, Sheila and I hope the book helps people not take as long as I did because I've never known a time where I didn't feel shame and it really took me way too long to be able to truly believe that God would wholeheartedly accept me despite, not only what had been done to me, let me just say, I brought a whole lot of stuff to the table that I can't blame on anyone else. I've got my own bulk of things that I did and patterns of destructive behavior and just things that I did.

So the enemy just heaps shame upon shame. Our world heaps shame upon shame. The Internet, you start on it long enough, it tells you you're not pretty enough, you're not smart enough, you're not thin enough, you're not rich enough, you're not talented enough, you're not gifted enough. And even when you think you're doing better then you scroll and someone else is doing even better. I think we have a shaming culture. We put it all out there on the Internet. We don't cover anybody. And love covers a multitude of sin. I think we, in the body have to get much better in grace and love to cover one another rather than shame one another.

Sheila: One of the things I love so much about you, you and your husband Nick, the way you work together and your beautiful daughters, Sophie and Catherine. But I wondered when you first met Nick, were you able to tell him your history or were you too ashamed?

Chris: I hadn't told him. I used sort of a big picture kind of paintbrush, "I was abused." That was it; like the fact that I even said that word and I said it all in one sentence, there's 20 years of my life, great. I don't know what planet I was on.

But I have to say I actually -- this is why I go so into process in the book because I really did think, okay, I've prayed a sinner's prayer. I am saved. It is under the blood. Let's move on. I'm a new creation. But I really did believe it. And I wish it was like that easy. It is theologically true but there is a natural path you've got to walk through.

And so I didn't realize why I kept tripping over. I'd have five good days, six bad days, three good weeks, four bad weeks. Like I felt like a yo-yo Christian. And then I just kept feeling more shame because I would try to pray more and if I'd just fast more and if I would just do more good works in the church because I was sincere that I wanted to walk in freedom. I just didn't know how and I didn't even really know there was nothing wrong because I hadn't understood the different between my soul and my spirit. Although my spirit was born again I

came to Christ with a wounded soul. And my soul was still wounded when I said the sinner's prayer.

What I had done was I sort of visited with God on Sunday and visited with God on Wednesday night but the Bible says in John 1:14: The word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood. But I'm thinking, God's not going to want to move into this neighborhood because this is a really messed up neighborhood.

Nick and I were just about to get engaged where then you would realize I would have to really be in his neighborhood because you like live together. When you live together --

Sheila: It's generally accepted; yeah.

Chris: So you've got nowhere to run then. I started to become panicky. This is going to mean -
- because I had my -- I wasn't living a double life but I was living a controlled life. That was the
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Sheila: Shame and control go very much hand-in-hand.

Chris: And once you get married you've lost a degree of control; you're giving it to someone else. While I did my ministry, I was an evangelist, it was great. Then I could go home and there was nobody else that was going to unravel me or force me to unravel or to deal with my soul.

Because again, I was great at visiting with God but I had to let God move into the neighborhood. And when you have a visitor what do you do? You clean up your house. You get all the kids dirty underwear and hide them in the cupboards. You go into the bathroom and you get rid of the sandpaper and put really nice soft toilet paper. It's all really nice and you get the good cookies. But if the kids touch it they're dead because that's for the visitors. Everything is great.

And the visitor comes, they see it, everyone is lovely and we're all sweet. And the kids have already been told "no Christmas presents forever if you fight." So everyone is -- it's all lovely!

[Laughter]

Then visitor leaves and like World War III breaks out at home -- like off it goes.

I think we do that with God, in the same way is that we can be having a full on fight on the way to church, maybe not here in America but just --

Sheila: Oh, yes! Trust me. Don't ask me how I know this just trust me that I do.

[Laughter]

Chris: It's full on fight. You've said many words that are not in the Bible.

[Laughter]

And you pull into the church parking lot and it's like that spirit of hypocrisy just hits. So you go into the foyer, you've now nearly committed murder and you're like, "How are you?" You're like, "Bless God! I'm redeemed and sanctified and justified by the blood of the lamb. And here's my cherubim and seraphim." And they're going into church. And you get into worship and you're thinking of the ways you're going to kill your partner. Whatever! You get in the car. You put on your show, you get into the car, "Did you hear what the pastor said? It was all for you."

And normally, you're okay. You might even be able to still be a Christian by Sunday night but by Tuesday, your evil twin is out. Most of us then are just so shamed by ourselves that we just can't win.

Sheila: Honestly, if you know Chris, you know we could do 15 shows and not cover it all. But in this book, you really walk us through. If you have dealt with shame, Chris will walk you through the process. Because you know it's a process. But you have offered that. But on this *Living Your Destiny*, your message is "The Safety Myth." What is that about?

Chris: Yes! Well that's because I think a lot of us have got erroneous theology. We think Jesus came from heaven to earth, died on a cross and rose again from the dead to make my life safe, nice, and comfortable. I'm not sure that God gave his son for that reason. I think God gave his son to make us dangerous to the kingdom of darkness.

So for that reason, the safety, comfort and ease is not anywhere in any gospel that I read. There is no risk-free living. Jesus says, "Drop your nets and follow. All bets are off. I'm not taking you to safety. In fact, I'm taking you on an adventure and I'm taking you to freedom; and freedom is not safe."

Sheila: You know what I love? I love the fact that everything the enemy has tried to do to you God has brought such wealth from it. I remember when you were struggling with your throat cancer and then you got through that. I remember Nick saying, "You know the enemy really blew it. If he really wanted to get her, he should have killed her. Now he's just made her mad."

[Laughter]

Chris: Totally! I think it's like with all of our life and here we are rescuing the victims of human trafficking and a lot of that story is about that. Jesus not only rescued me from a shame-filled life and from abuse and pain and being abandoned at birth and being adopted but then he's also used me to rescue others which is true redemption. That's what "more than a conqueror" is. It's like the very thing the enemy meant for evil God has worked together for good.

I think the only way ultimately we do that, otherwise we will live as victims of our past forever and our history will define our destiny unless we make a decision to make what Jesus Christ did for us bigger than what anyone else has done to us. So when you make what someone has done to you or said to you bigger than what Jesus has done for you, you will live in shame for the rest of your life. But when you make what Jesus did for you greater than what anyone has done to you, then you can rise up, change your posture, and walk with your head held high into the fullness of the future that he's got for you.

Sheila: That is fantastic! Fantastic! I believe this is a message that will literally be life-changing. It is something we want to make available for you.

And here's what we'd like to ask you to do. We have this phenomenal opportunity every month. You might not even know about it but every month we have the opportunity to support getting a film into villages in India, teaching them for the very first time about Jesus Christ. It's amazing! Watch this!

On the mission field

Announcer: The culture and history of India is filled with numerous false gods and idolatry, Muslim and Hindu traditions are prominent among the one billion people in this rapidly developing country.

But over the past several decades, the Christian church in India has experienced a miraculous revival. Thousands of people are turning away from false gods and are being transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.

John: The Lord gave me a vision to take the gospel on the big screen into the villages of India and most of the people in this village are day laborers, they're very poor but they are precious in God's sight and their children, moms and dads and uncles and aunts were here watching this beautiful movie, Dayasagar. A number of the people in the crowd responded yes! I want to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Announcer: Film evangelism has proven to be very effective in communicating the gospel to those unable to read. After seeing the sacrifice and love of Jesus for the first time in their lives, hearts and souls are changed forever.

Open Captions:

>> Actually, when they see this film they can visualize the reality and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

>> Jesus is no longer a foreign god to them because of this film.

>> I had to raise my hand when the invitation was given. What else I could do when He died in my place?

John: We today have the opportunity to share the gospel with these who worship idols and see them realize that Jesus, the son of God is their savior and they will turn their eyes from idols and serve the true and living God. Will you do all that you can right now? There are many thousands of villages waiting for someone to sponsor our teams to enter that village and change their lives forever.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Isn't that amazing? I love what he said! I had to raise my hand. What else could I do when I heard that God died for me? You see, a billion people who have been told, "There are all sorts of gods out there who all want you to do something for them." We get the opportunity to bring the truth of the one true God who did everything for us. The first time that they see this movie they are so overwhelmed by the beauty of such a sacrifice that literally there's a beginning of a revival happening in India.

But I love this team! I've worked with them before. I've known them for years. We need to get behind them. We do this all the time at *LIFE Today* – every month! But we don't always bring you news about it. That's why this is really special because while God is moving in India, let's join in. It's so simple to do: \$40 will allow 400 people to see the movie -- \$40! \$120 you will let 1,200 people see this movie. Or perhaps you think I want to do more. \$4400 sets up a whole team to go into a village to set up.

The amazing thing about the Indian people is they are movie fans. If you tell these people in a remote village, "Hey tonight we're showing a movie," they will all come out. But honestly, it's amazing! When they see this story for the first time, when they understand that here is a god

who died for them, they are coming to Christ in the droves. You and I can help. We can do so much.

So what I'd like to ask you to do is would you go to your phone and make a pledge right now? \$40 – 400 people will see the movie. \$80 – 800 people! It's amazing! If you think you could do more, \$4400 would set up a team and they get there however they can. They crawl over stones, they take their bikes, they do whatever they have to do to let these people see for the first time the true story of a God who loves them.

We want to join hands with these people and say, "We want to make sure that this keeps going until all one billion people in India have heard the good news of Jesus Christ." What an amazing privilege!

For any gift at all we will send you *Living Your Destiny*, this amazing CD teaching series so you can discover who you are in Christ.

For a gift of \$120 or more we will send you my book, *The Longing in Me*, how everything you crave leads to the heart of God; and my dear friend, Christine Caine's book, *Unashamed*.

Thank you so much! So please, would you join with us? Just go to your phone, dial that number on your screen, give the best gift you possibly can.

Or if you like to go online that's great! Go online to LifeToday.org. If you're sending a check would you just give us a call and say hey! This is what I'm doing, so we know when we get back to our teams in India and say, "Help is on the way!"

The good news of Jesus Christ is like a fire – it's like catching fire all over India. So let's do something. Let's do something in Jesus' name to let people who think there is no god who sees them know yes, He doesn't just see you, he died for 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

On the mission field

John: Dear friends of *LOI*, James and Betty, I don't know how to say thank you. We've been partners now for years and your investments in India and our film teams have helped to reach millions of people. On behalf of the hundreds and hundreds of young men and women that are going out nightly and showing this powerful movie, *Dayasagar*, thank you! Thank you! God bless you! A great harvest of souls is being won.

We have over 515 teams going out nightly and I just met 400 or more new recruits who have said with passion, we want to go into the villages of India. Thank you for what you have done all these years. It's your investment that's helping make this possible, your prayers. Thank you friends and partners of *LIFE Outreach International*.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: One of the greatest deliverances in my own life has been God delivering me from shame but I have to tell you, I learned some fresh stuff here in *Unashamed* by Christine Caine.

Please, would you help me thank the one and only Christine Caine? Love you!

Chris: Love you!

Sheila: Thank you so much for being with us. God bless you and we'll see you next time!