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Week 20: Spring Mission Feeding
Wednesdays in the Word
Sheila Walsh
Kari Jobe

Sheila: Hello! I'm Sheila Walsh. Welcome to *Wednesdays in the Word*. One of the things I love about studying God's word is realizing the way that everything in the Old Testament is really a foreshadowing of what's going to come true in the New Testament in the person of Christ. We're made very aware of how we started in this beautiful garden where God planted Adam and Eve in this garden and gave them freedom. And yet it was in that garden that things went wrong, when they began to eat a fruit that they were told not to eat.

Then you move on to Matthew's gospel and you find a very, very different scene, a very different garden where Christ kneels in the Garden of Gethsemane and because of the conscious intentional choice he made to set his face toward the cross to buy back everything, everything that we lost in the garden.

I had the privilege a couple weeks ago of downloading a new CD called simply *The Garden* and I have to tell you, it has really begun to make space in my spirit for a greater understanding of the love and mercy of God. And it is my joy to be able to ask you to help me welcome the person who put this beautiful project together. Please welcome Kari Jobe.

Kari: Thank you!

Sheila: Here's my first observation.

Kari: And you already have me crying so...

Sheila: But seriously, the first time I heard you sing, this is what I thought. I remember thinking, wow, here's a girl who really gets it -- that Jesus loves her. I remember you singing, "I Know He is For Me." But when I listened to this project, my first thought was, here is a girl who loves Jesus. Something profound has happened in you, Kari because the depth in these songs, it's amazing.

Kari: Thank you.

Sheila: Would you tell me just a little of -- because there is pain and passion in this project. There is a depth that a lot of people will find hope in.

Kari: The story behind really the inspiration, I was already writing for the project but right towards the beginning of it I was pregnant with my son who is now one and my sister and I were pregnant at the same time. And just a little back story; she gave birth to a sleeping angel that was already with Jesus before we really got to meet her. I was still pregnant. It just began this season of extreme raw emotion; those moments in life where you're on your face and you're just crying out to the Lord. It didn't shake me in the way of that I know God's faithful but it was one of those, holding on for dear life, what are you doing?

I remember in those real sensitive days right after it all happened, I didn't know what to pray and I didn't really -- I couldn't really even open my mouth much. But I just remember saying his name so many times because it shifted what was going on in the situation in the room. So this album was just written out of that raw place of emotion.

You can hear the journey of me receiving breakthrough in my worship and in my life through the songs but I will sing in the garden and speak to me; those are really raw songs that I was in in that moment.

Sheila: I'm going to just for a moment reflect on the image on the CD. When I first picked it up, the first thing I saw was the ivy. I'll tell you why that connected with me. I used to live in a house in London, which was built in the 16th century and when we bought the house the ivy had become part of the fabric of the building. And I wondered if there was something about ivy or the flowers; was there anything in particular that made you choose those images?

Kari: Well, my niece that we would have had with us, her name is James Ivy and in doing a study of what ivy, what is that? What is ivy? It is one of the most resilient plants. One of the sweetest things about it is that it grows toward the light and it always is reaching. So I just thought, it is just so indicative of the love of God and our pursuit of him. As we pursue and grow and reach for him or reach for the light and keep looking at him life is growing and blooming more in our hearts and in our lives. Ivy is so resilient. You can be going through something extremely difficult but you can make it through and it will make you a stronger and deeper person because that's what his word promises.

Sheila: How did what you went through, what you and your sister went through together, and the grieving process, how has that impacted your understanding of our father?

Kari: Oh I just love that God meets us where we are. If we're on the floor, he's a good Father.

I've really seen his faithfulness in the most beautiful profound ways. Another side story is we had just bought this house that had a garden in the backyard which became a big part of this as well of just watching how God goes before us. This was a physical picture for us that there was ivy growing in this garden outside. And I just realized, God, of all the houses we could have bought, this is the one you had us buy in this season and it was giving life and joy and just made me realize the scripture, he goes before us, he's with us. He's not surprised by anything.

Someone had planted that ivy years ago for it to be as green and lush as it was at the time that it was life-giving for me. So it just made me realize too, our relationship with the Lord will always impact other people's lives, what we're sowing, the gardens of our heart, things we're allowing God to prune and the blooming that's happening in our hearts because of his word, it's always going to impact other people.

So I've learned a lot about the Father. He is a gardener. He is faithful and he is good. He doesn't always make sense but he is faithful.

Sheila: I think that's important. Because I think of people watching who maybe are in the middle of a very painful place at the moment and they want life to make sense, they want to understand God. How is your sister doing?

Kari: She is amazing. I asked her a few weeks ago, I have this little oil called "Joy." I said, "Do you need some joy oil?"

She said, "No, I don't. I feel so much joy in my heart." Because God has met her in this place; it's been so beautiful to watch because it shows me how God reaches in into our stuff. And if we'll let him he'll take us on the journey of showing us that he is up to something way bigger. She says to me. She's like, "I didn't get to know James but I know her because she's been a gift to me in a different kind of way." She just says, "She's helped me learn who God is in a more profound way than I think I ever would have."

Sheila: Well, as I said at the beginning, I love this CD. I have two or three CD's I play in my car all the time like Darlene Zschech and things. But honestly, Kari, this will be one of them. Is there any song in particular that is just particularly close to your heart?

Kari: I love them all. Of course, they all do different things. "I will Sing" is really special for me. I think it is because it was the very first song I wrote out of this experience. So there is raw emotion in it. I think it is really beautiful for people to be reminded, it is okay to be honest with where you are. The Lord loves that. And it actually breaks down walls that we build up sometimes trying to be strong or trying to seem like we have it together but the Lord knows where our heart really is.

This song, I didn't make any excuse for what I was feeling. I was like, Lord -- the very beginning of this song says, "I need to see you here." Pretty much a heart cry of what are you doing? I need to see you. I need to know you're going to work this out.

But then I love that out of an overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. It wasn't hard for me in the bridge to go back to praise because I know that praise brings breakthrough. And sometimes it might be a declaration of faith but God is moved by faith. So you can start like David did in the Psalms with a lament and honesty but it is good to come back to a place of praise because it brings breakthrough for your heart.

Sheila: I really believe that it will minister to people who are going through all sorts of things. I struggle sometimes with depression and listening to that one track, I can't tell you how that impacted me. And I love the intentionality of saying, "You know what? I will sing! I don't get this. I wish this would go away but I will sing."

Which makes me realize that my audience right now is saying, "Would you stop talking please and let her sing?" So we're going to do that. You're going to get to hear Kari sing a beautiful song from the garden.

(Singing)

I need to see You here
 I need to know You're in control
 When my heart is torn wide open
 I will trust
 I will remember
 I need to hear Your voice
 Speaking to silence all my doubts
 Your word won't return empty
 You will break through every darkness
 Even when my breath is weak
 I will sing
 I will sing
 Even in my suffering
 I will sing
 I will sing

I need to feel Your hope
 Rising above my greatest fear

Even death has been defeated
I will trust
I will remember

Even when the shadows fall
I will sing
I will sing
Even when the night is long
I will sing
I will sing

Hallelujah!
I surrender all to You
Hallelujah!
You are God
You won't be shaken
Hallelujah!
I surrender all to You
Hallelujah!
You are God
You won't be shaken
Hallelujah!
I surrender all to You
Hallelujah!
You are God
You won't be shaken
Hallelujah!
I surrender all to You
Hallelujah!
You are God
You won't be shaken

Even when my breath is weak
I will sing
I will sing

Even in my suffering
I will sing
I will sing

Sheila: Wow! That was just stunningly beautiful. It is interesting because I've heard you so often sing these glorious worship songs where you're just ripping the place apart. But there is something about the vulnerability of that that is profoundly beautiful. Now who was that handsome young man standing beside you?

Kari: That is my husband, Cody.

Sheila: That's great! So you actually get to travel as a family.

Kari: We do. Yes. And he's been playing for me actually for a couple of years even before we got married. So he is my best friend.

Sheila: I love that. How has being a mom changed you, Kari?

Kari: You know I feel like it's made me slow down. I was a young single female; I was working hard before I got married. Now I can kind of get in that fast pace thing and Canyon doesn't want me to do any of that. He is one but he will take my phone away. I think, nope, I'm going to be fully present. I don't want him to learn who I am with a phone in my hand. I'm going to just get rid of it.

Sheila: You've had a few dates on the road with this project so far. Do you see a different response to this project than to things you've done in the past?

Kari: I am. And that kind of took me a little bit of time to adjust to it because I'm use to just the corporate worship feeling, everyone geared up ready to go. But these songs are bringing people that they're in some hard places. And so it's been a really sweet night on this tour watching people go through this journey with us of the presence of God; and towards the end we're starting to do miracles and hearers in heaven. So the atmosphere is so ready for miracles. These have been really strong nights.

Sheila: I think you can tell when a project is born for a time like this. That's how I felt about that because for several years in the past, I think we were in a different place and people were just in a place they just wanted to come in and worship. But I think you're right, people are hurting, people are confused, people don't always understand what's going on and that's why I feel that the songs on this are going to minister really at a depth. I think people might be surprised when they pick this CD up and when they come to... They've always been spectacular but I think there's a gift tucked deep into every one of these songs.

Kari: I got a text message from a friend of mine who I've been friends with for a long time. And she was like, "I just have to tell you. I had the *The Garden* playing in the background the other day." And she said, "The Holy Spirit has just been pulling some things out from my childhood that he wants to heal and just reminding me that he's for me." She was like, "It's like he's been doing inner healing and surgery on my heart through his kindness and just while your album is playing in the back."

Which we felt like this album would be like heart surgery for some because it was that for us and for me as I wrote it. God was meeting me in some really hard places of -- I don't know if it is like entitlement or what it is but when this first happened I was really having a hard time with it because I was like, God! You want to see the miracles happen in the way that you pray for them to happen but sometimes they happen differently. And there have been miracles in this experience but just different than we prayed. And God does that.

So whoever is out there listening to this right now, it might look different. You might be in the middle of walking through a difficult season but *The Garden* is a gift. It is like a foreshadowing, like a prophetic picture of look up around you and look at what God is doing that's different than what you prayed, but he is in your situation.

Sheila: I'm grateful. I just want to thank you in behalf of a lot of people for pressing through the suffering because I think out of the winter of your life, you're going to see some beautiful spring come in the lives of other people.

Kari: Amen! Thank you!

Sheila: So I'm going to tell you how you can get a hold of this fantastic CD but also, this DVD and it is amazing. There are three of the songs but also, the story behind *The Garden* and that in itself, you want to get a hold of. You can do that when you help us feed ten children. I'm going to tell you how that's possible if you'll watch this with me.

On the mission field

Sheila: I woke up this morning in this village, this is my first time in Angola and I honestly don't know what I expected but I didn't expect what I experienced. I didn't expect to see a child who is a year and five months old and weighs six pounds. How does a child like that even survive?

I think one of the things that surprised me most was the profound affinity I felt with the moms. If you're a mom, all you want is for your child to be healthy. You want to be able to put a meal on

the table at night and know that your children go to bed with a full tummy. But here I've seen what the ravages of malnutrition do.

This morning, I'm sitting in my tent and I open my Bible. I'm just doing one of those going-through-the-Bible-in-a-year and here's what I read. Isaiah 58: Share your food with the hungry, give shelter to the homeless, give clothes to those who need them. Then your salvation will come like the dawn and your wounds will quickly heal, your godliness will lead you forward and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. Then when you call the Lord will answer, "Yes, I'm here." He will quickly reply, "Feed the hungry, help those in trouble; then your light will shine out from the darkness and the darkness around you will be bright as noon."

Mission Feeding is not some great idea we came up with. It's simply living out the gospel of Christ. And when we put one simple bowl of food into the hands of these children in Africa, it changes their lives forever -- thousands and thousands and thousands of lives, one life at a time.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: I didn't meet one mom in Angola who hasn't buried at least one child. Where can you say that of? You can hear of a tragedy of a young mother losing a child and it is unspeakable, unthinkable -- but in Angola, in so many places and in the Sudan at the moment, but the moms I met every single one of them has buried at least one child simply because they don't have any food.

There is such a terrible famine going on and I watch these moms. I followed some and they go out and they scrape as much of the land as they can to try and find something that they can cook at night and give to their children. And one of the moms said, "I'll give them whatever I have."

I said, "Well, what do you have?"

She said, "I don't eat."

I asked her about her relationship with Christ because I knew she was a believer. She said, "I lay my head down on the pillow every night and I say, 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. And I ask God to send a miracle.'"

Well, here's the deal. We're it. You and I, we are the miracle. We're the answer. And this is so doable. You put one bowl of this nutritious food into the hand of a starving child and literally, that one bowl of food begins to reverse the process from death to life. They're not asking for

plasma TV, they're asking for food for their children.

Here's the deal: \$30 feeds three children, \$50 feeds five children for three months, \$100 feeds ten children. Now we can all do something. Some of us can do a lot. Some of you might be able to think, I want to sponsor a whole school and that's amazing. When we provide food at school the kids come to school otherwise they can't come because they faint on the way. But if they know, I'm going to get a meal at school, they'll come. Some of you could do that. Some of you don't have that much money and I get that but \$30 -- but at the moment, we are feeding over 400,000 children in Africa.

When I left the last trip, when I got home from Angola, what was ringing in my ears were the people there saying, "Please don't stop! Please don't stop! Don't ever make that the line is longer than the food we have."

I promised I would come home and tell. So we need your help. Would you do something now? If you'll go to your phone, call that number on the screen, or you can go online at LifeToday.org. But if every one of us does something, we become the answer to prayers of mothers who are on their knees right now saying, "God please! Please touch somebody's heart to care for my child" so that these moms don't have to bury one more little one. Thank you.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and even now famine-stricken areas of Africa, children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face death by starvation.

LIFE's Mission Feeding program is ready. With your support, we're able to feed and care for children in famine areas of Sudan, as well as Angola and Mozambique. With all of our previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding facing the worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

Your lifesaving 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 My Daily Word Devotional. This boxed set of four seasonal devotionals will help you read, reflect, and renew yourself through God's word with space to journal your thoughts and reflect each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you'll also receive Kari Jobe's newest music project, *The Garden*, along with the story behind *The Garden* companion DVD.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, please be sure to request "Determined Eagle," our 2017 commemorative bronze sculpture.

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

Betty: I looked at this line of children here and I thought how can you not be touched? God's touched. He cares about them.

I just visualized some of my grandchildren's faces on these children and I think, what if that was one of them? I would want somebody to come in and give them a bowl of soup. I would want somebody to care about them.

Well, these children matter. They matter to God a whole lot. I know that your heart must be touched as you look at these lines of children, look at their little innocent faces. They don't have a choice. They depend on someone. Can that someone be us? I want it to be me.

Thank you so much for caring and sharing and having a heart to reach out to those that are needy because that's God's heart and that's good.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Thank you so much! If the phone is busy, don't give up! Just write the number down and keep calling, keep calling. We can do this. I promised these moms we're going to do this.

Kari, what a joy to have you.

Kari: Thank you.

Sheila: What a joy to have your heart expressed in this way. This project is amazing. I really believe it is going to change people's lives. And for a gift of \$100 we're going to send you this amazing CD and this beautiful DVD. It is incredible!

We just want to pray God's blessing on you and your family as you're out there just doing what you do in such a beautiful way. But this is rich and this is deep. So our prayer is that God will pour back into you as you poured out to others.

Kari: Thank you!

Sheila: Thanks for being us. I'm Sheila Walsh. Thanks for being us with on *Wednesdays in the Word*. We'll see you next time!