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Week 46: Fall Mission Feeding
Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh
John Bevere

Randy: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I am Randy Robison. I'm so glad you joined us today. I think you'll be glad that you joined us as well. Miss Sheila Walsh is with me. Always good to have you.

Sheila: And great to be with you! And we have an amazing guest and an amazing book.

Randy: Yes, we do. Superman has his kryptonite and we do too, according to our guest, John Bevere. Would you welcome John?

John: So good to see you. Sheila.

Randy: I love this very heroic-feeling theme you've got going here. But it's actually very serious, what we're talking about here. Tell us about kryptonite and how we need to avoid it.

John: It is amazing. I was writing the second chapter of this book and all of the sudden I said, "kryptonite." It was Corinthians kryptonite because Paul said, "Corinth," he said to the church, "you're weak." And I started thinking it's kryptonite!

And when you look at Superman and you look at us, there is a lot of similarities. He's of another world, we're of another world. He liberates people, we liberate people. He draws his strength from the sun, we draw our strength from the son -- s-o-n. You can go on and on but there was that substance that neutralized his powers and caused him to become weaker than a normal man.

I realize that there is a very real kryptonite that weakens us. We are supposed to be representatives of the kingdom of God which means we're otherworldly, which means we walk in a way that causes others to be amazed. If you look at the early church, they were known as the people who turned the world upside down. That's how the unbelievers referred to them. They had to convince people they were not superheroes or Gods. They had character that was uncanny. How many people do you know getting large rocks hurled at them go, "Forgive them"?

They prayed and buildings were shaken. They healed the sick in the streets, cities were being

won to the Lord -- entire communities. The entire city of Lydda, Sharon, Joppa, Caesarea, or the city of Samaria, the entire region of Asia heard the word of the Lord in two years. And the Bible can't exaggerate. They've got no social media. They've got no television. How do they do that?

But then I start looking at the church at Corinth. Now you've got to remember the early church I just talked about, they were around 30 A.D. When you look at Corinth, Corinth is 56 A.D. when Paul is writing to them. It's 25 years later. Well, they're not affecting... if you research the Corinth church, they didn't affect their city like the early church was. Paul said to them, "It is because you're weak." And there was something that was causing them to be weak and that's that spiritual kryptonite.

I look at today and I'm so thrilled at all that's being done for Jesus, for people, in the name of Jesus; right? But I go to conferences, Sheila and do you ever think this way, maybe it is just me. I'm like, great; there are 12,000 people in this building. What about the other two million people in this city? Do you ever think like that?

Sheila: Sure, yeah!

John: I'm like, this prophet comes along in the Old Testament and says to these guys that came back from captivity. He says, "Look at this temple. How do you see it now in comparison to before we went into captivity? Solomon's temple? Isn't it nothing in your eyes?" But he said, "But the glory of the latter house is going to be greater than the former."

I don't believe he was talking about that temple. That temple was never greater than Solomon's. He's talking about the church. We're going to be greater as far as character, as far as power, transformational power than even the early church.

Randy: So why do you think we're not always as effective as we should be?

John: Because of this substance called kryptonite. It is real. Superman is fictional. For us it is real.

Sheila: One of the things I wanted to ask before we dive into the real heart and meat of the book, you kind of pull back the curtain a little bit at the beginning and you say that you really felt tempted to put this book down and start -- you write a lot but six times you thought, I don't want to do this.

John: I've never had this happen before. I've written 20 books.

Sheila: Why do you think that is, John?

John: It was like, God, I don't want to write this book. I don't want to write this book. Because six times, finally, it was the sternest I'd heard the Holy Spirit all year and he was like, "You will!" And he didn't say "You will" but that's how I'm translating. He was like, "Son, I need you to write this book." But it was first of all causing me to confront issues in my own life.

Sheila: That usually happens to me in my writing too.

John: I really get transparent in this book. Sheila, I was bound to pornography. I open up and share how God set me free on May the 6th, 1985. I'll never forget it because I'm free today and it's 30 years later. What people said, that a red blooded American male couldn't be free from, God set me free. When I was 11 years old I got hooked into pornography. One of my friends shared a magazine with me and I remember it went from soft porn to regular porn to hard porn. I would sit in high school classes and I would undress girls and I would have the wildest imaginations.

So I get saved in my fraternity at college at Purdue University and then I marry Lisa and I think, okay. It will be fine now. I'm a Christian, I got saved, I'm now married to the most beautiful girl in my eyes that walks the face of the earth. Well, it was just as bad and got worse. I remember how I had to address this. It was something that weakened my life.

There was freedom. I'm just glad that people loved me enough to tell me how to get free. The scripture was so clear but it was a wrestling thing. I had to wrestle with it for a couple of years until I could find out why I wasn't getting free. So I was able to share that in the book. Hopefully, there will be people that get free when they read that one chapter. That's only one of the chapters.

Randy: Compare a little bit though going through that and we know that that is not the only kryptonite in our lives.

John: Right. I'm just sharing a personal story.

Randy: So tell me the weakness that you experienced when that was an issue versus the strength you felt when that issue was resolved.

John: We're spiritual beings, let's be honest. You know when the power of God is flowing through you and the life of God is flowing through you; and you know when you're just going through the motions and there is nothing. Well, I was going through the motions and there was very little.

So yeah, I mean, the whole thing is let's ask ourselves, what do we really want? What do we want in this life? Do we want to be near God and walk with him and exemplify the kind of power that Jesus did? Because the Bible says that we're to walk as he walked. Jesus said, "As the Father sent me I've sent you."

I'm almost 60 now. I'm asking questions that all of us have but none of us are asking because we are afraid to ask them. That's what that prophet did. He asked them questions that they were all afraid to ask because we don't want to have to address this. But yes, we're not walking in our full potential. It is all about that.

I remember just recently and I actually was able to put this example in the book. My son, Arden was in India and he was doing a conference. You know they didn't even show up to pick him up at the airport? He had flown all the way from the United States and they said, "Take a cab." You talk about a dad who was so furious. Oh my gosh, I wanted to fly over there and beat them all up. I'm sorry. I'm just being honest. Okay? I was like, what are you doing? My son flies all the way over, halfway around the world and you don't even pick him up at the airport? I'm sorry, I'm kind of manifesting right now. Sorry!

But I remember my son's like texting me. He's like, "Dad, dad! What do I do? What do I do?" I had messed up my iPhone's operating system. I could not -- I would write out a sentence and it would shut down and go out of texting. It took me 15 minutes before I could get one word to stick but two hours to get one sentence out to him. I was so frustrated, Sheila, I was so frustrated, Randy and yet, you know what the Holy Spirit started saying to me? A hundred years ago I would have been jumping up and down if I could get my son one sentence in India in a split second like that.

So what was the problem here? I knew my potential. I'm asking all of us, in this book, are we walking in our potential? Are we under the influence of kryptonite and not being the best we can in our own strength outside of what he energizes us with -- what he energized that early church with?

Sheila: So let's name that kryptonite, though. You say that for Christians our kryptonite is idolatry.

John: It is!

Sheila: Now that image might conjure up something different than what you are.

John: We totally have a misconnect. That's why, Sheila, Lisa had said to me, "What is the

elevator version of this message?" I said, "It took me 13 chapters to tell people what idolatry is." I'm like, how am I going to do this on these short interviews that I do? But here's the deal. Just make it simple. When you say "idolatry" this is where an American's mind goes, Christian or non-Christian, but especially Christian. It goes to statues, temples, idols or figurines, or it goes to putting my favorite football team above Jesus -- that's idolatry.

Okay, well, that's like saying every car in America is either a Toyota or a Mazda. Well, what about the Hondas, what about the G.M.C., what about the Buick, about the Chrysler, what about the Mercedes? We've just left out 80% of the cars. That's the way it is when you say the word *idolatry* to an American Christian. We're missing 80% of what it really is.

So it's like the Holy Spirit started leading me on this study and I found out what true idolatry is. It really comes to down to two words. Paul says twice in Ephesians five and Colossians three, that covetousness is idolatry. Now we don't use that word *covetousness*. What is covetousness? It is a word that means a deep intense desire for some supposed good. The Greek dictionaries, the Lexicon says it is a self idolizing grasping spirit.

Now put that on the shelf and let's go back to when Saul, King Saul didn't obey God. God said to him, "Kill every Amalekite." But Saul was insecure and Saul thought it would be better for him and the kingdom if he saved the king alive and spared the best animals of Amalek. Why does he do this? Because if you conquer a nation back then and you have their king living in your palace, he is a living trophy. Every time you see him he reminds you of your conquest of his nation.

If you give the people the sheep to sacrifice to the Lord, your approval rating is going to go up as president. So Saul says that's a better idea. So when Samuel confronts him, Samuel makes the statement. He says, "Stubbornness is as idolatry." The word *is* and *as* are in italic time, they're not in the original. What he literally said is "stubbornness is idolatry." The word *stubbornness*, that Hebrew word means to push back. So what is idolatry? It is when we push back from obeying what God has clearly revealed to us in order to get what we believe is good for us.

So the basic difference between the world and a believer, here it is, it can be summed up into this: The world says, "I know what is good, best, and right for my life."

The believer says, "I choose what God says is good, best, and right for my life."

Do you see that major difference? So idolatry is when we push back from what God says is good, right, best for our life to go after what we -- that's what Eve did in the garden. So when God says in his word, let's just use an example. God says in his word that the marriage bed is undefiled and that sexually immoral and adulterers God will judge; right? He says that; right?

When we go, "Society says it is better when two people fall in love they move in together, they won't have to pay two rents, two utilities. They won't have to pay all this. They can build for their future. They're in love. They're affectionate. They're going to be faithful to one another."

So what we do now is we push back from what God says and we embrace what we believe is good. But the sad thing is what we believe is good will end up biting us like the lioness that we talked about when Lisa was on the program yesterday or the day before.

Randy: Like kryptonite.

John: It's kryptonite. It weakens us. Now we have the form but we have lost the power. Let's face it. Jesus walks into a temple and everybody's attention -- I mean demonic -- he walks into areas, Paul, they carry something that speaks louder than anything in the natural and they change environments.

I believe as ambassadors of the kingdom, we're called to change our environments, the world of our influence. Whether I'm in the marketplace, I'm in health care, education, the government, we're not supposed to be people who can just speak scriptures. If you look at Daniel, he was not trained by the finest teachers and scientists and leaders in the whole world like all those Babylonians were but yet he was wiser, ten times wiser, smarter. He got promoted above all of them. He shined as a bright light. He had that power. He didn't have kryptonite holding him back. He wasn't an idolater.

Sheila: That's powerful! That's worth clapping for.

[Applause]

One of the things that really stood out to me in reading the book is you say the truest definition of worship isn't music or singing but obedience. That to me is huge.

John: So in Romans chapter one, the whole thing isn't about the idols, it is about the fact that they knew God -- they knew God. Their consciences, he gave them consciences. Read Romans one and two, it is so clear: Right? But they didn't worship him as God. So then it says, in the New Living Translation it says that they began to think up strange ideas of what God was like.

So let's back up a minute. They didn't worship him as God. We check out right there because we think worship is a slow song. We think it is when they turn the lights down and we're singing the slow songs to Jesus and it is right before we do the offering or the message or it is a worship service. You see what I'm saying? But as an author of 20 books, any time I introduce a new

term that I know that most readers will not be familiar with, I have to give the definition, the primary definition or an example that illustrates the primary definition when I introduce it in that book; correct?

If you go to the first place worship is found in the Bible, guess what, God is the best author in the whole universe, so he's going to introduce what it is. It is Genesis 22, verse five when Abraham looks at his men and says, "Isaac and I are going up there on that mountain to worship."

He was not going up to sing a slow song. He wasn't going up to do a service. He was going up to obey what God told him and didn't give him a reason why. So the highest form of worship is obedience. That's why God said, "I'm so fed up with the noise of your hymns and your songs, get rid of them. I want a life of obedience -- and through the prophets."

Randy: So to connect that, are you suggesting that if we will live a life of obedience we can have that power that God intends us to have that will change the world?

John: I believe that power is available. I believe we're blocking it with our kryptonite. So the answer is yes. God wants us walking in it. The fact is we're blocking it.

Sheila: A couple of weeks back pastor Sammy Rodriguez said something I thought was amazing. He said, "When I walk into a room the atmosphere should shift because of who lives in me." And there was something about that that just -- I actually wrote it in the back of my Bible because I thought, Lord, it doesn't matter if I'm walking into Walmart or onto a platform, because of who you are, because you're alive in me, the very fact that I walk into a room things should shift.

John: I remember years and years ago I'm going way back, I'm going to date myself. Carman wrote a song called and "An Invitation to a Witch's House." It was all about a Christian going to a witch's house and it was a great video. But I said to some of my friends, I said, "Most Christians couldn't go to a witch's house because the witch is stronger in their sin than they are in God."

See the reason Jesus changed atmospheres is because he was stronger in his Father than the people were in sin. So we're called to control the atmosphere. That's why the Bible says, "When the righteous rule the people rejoice." We don't rule by electing a godly man into office although we should do that. We rule by obedience.

Randy: How much of that is on us and how much of that is on God?

John: God's already given us everything we need, Randy. The grace of God unfortunately has

been undersold to the church. We say grace forgives us -- 100 percent true. Grace saves us -- 100 percent true. Grace is a free gift -- 100 percent true. But what we stopped telling people is grace empowers us to do what we couldn't do in our own ability.

When God refers to His grace he said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you for my power." He defines His grace as his power. Peter said, "Grace be multiplied to you as his divine power has given to us everything we need to live a godly life." So you can't have anything from God unless you believe; right? You could never have gotten saved unless somebody told you Jesus is Lord and savior. Right?

Well, most Americans don't know that grace is God's empowerment. So if I don't know that grace is God's empowerment that means I'm going to try to live for God in my own ability. Can I tell you, that's why I couldn't get free from pornography. I was trying to do it in my own ability and I got more frustrated every day. But when I found out that God's grace was his empowerment that gave me the ability to do what I couldn't do in my own ability, I depended on His grace and I'm free 30 years later.

Sheila: That is powerful! There is so much more in this book that we can't get to in a short interview and we're going to tell you in a little bit how you can get a hold of that book for yourself.

But what we would love to do at the moment is to show you something that is going on right at the moment with so many children and so many families who feel desperately powerless. But because of the power of Christ that lives within us, we can actually make a huge difference. Would you watch this?

On the mission field

Isak: I want you to walk through this village with me as I just explain to you what's going on here because for me it is difficult for me to fathom and I think you'll find the same thing, that it just blows your mind to actually understand what the people of this village have gone through.

The house just behind me and the family that's there, they've buried three children -- three children in the last year. I can point out hut after hut after hut, family after family that have lost at least one child in the last year. Not because of anything other than the fact that these people don't have the ability to feed their children. They're not lazy. People in this village have told us how hard they work all day long to produce firewood. They walk for three hours carrying heavy bags of firewood to get to a market where they sell it for enough money to buy one, maybe two meals. Seven days work for one or two meals.

This is not a film set, this is not a village that we created stories about, these are human beings -- these are real lives. These are children who each have a name. These are children who when they die their mother and their father, a piece of their heart dies as they bury their child.

What do we do, you say? It is simple. We bring Mission Feeding to this village and we save this village's children's lives. Without you we cannot do that. So please, please partner with us today. Join your hand with mine, join your heart with mine and save the lives of the children in this village. They need you desperately.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: I love seeing Isak Pretorius out there continuing this work his father and mother, Peter and Ann Pretorius were our earliest partners and over the years we have helped to save the lives of countless children.

Recently, Isak walked through some of these villages and you can tell the difference between where the Mission Feeding program exists because the children are happy and they're smiling and they look healthy. Then you walk through some of the other villages where they desperately need food.

The solution has always been simple. All these years it's simply getting food to the right place. We've made huge strides over the years and increasing the numbers of children, over 400,000 a month now. We have built food factories in these areas to provide for the economy, to provide jobs to train them on how to feed themselves. We actually have an opportunity now beyond just the Mission Feeding to upgrade one of the food factories which will increase the production by 50% so it can do even more.

We need you to partner with us. You're seeing generations with me and my parents, and Isak and his parents in these desperate areas helping to save generations of children. We are committed because this is the expression of God to go in and give life to people, to express his love by being his hands.

Will you join us today? Join with Isak, me, all the other missionaries out there feeding these children? You can have a huge impact.

Sheila, you've been there. You've seen how effective the Mission Feeding program is.

Sheila: It absolutely blew me away. I've never been the same since I got back. We get so used

to TV and fictionalized stuff. This is not fiction, people, this is real life.

One of the people I was with in Angola said, "Do you want to see where we bury the children?" So I went. The thing that touched me the most was that every parent had left something on the graveyard. For some people it was an empty water bottle, like a plastic bottle or one bootie or something just to say, "This was my child. And they were alive and this is where they are."

While we were there there were three empty graves that had been dug. I said, "Are these for people specific?" They said, "Well, it just happens so much." Even as we were speaking we saw this truck arriving and on the back were a mother and father and a tiny casket, and one of those was going to be used.

The thing is if this was something we couldn't do and couldn't make a difference in, I wouldn't be here. But I've seen with my own eyes the difference it makes. These moms are just like me. One mom who has buried two children said to me, I said, "What do you do when you lay your head down at night?"

She said, "I pray this, the Lord is my shepherd." But she said, "I pray to God that he would help me shepherd my children."

Would you go to your phones and just do what you can? We're not asking you to do everything. But if you do what you can and I do what I can, we can literally change the world for these children. Go to your phones. Please make the best gift possible.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and famine-stricken areas of Africa, children are suffering. The need is great. And without food, they face death by starvation. With your support, you will help feed and care for children in crisis areas of Sudan, Angola, and Mozambique.

With Africa facing ongoing food shortages and drought, we urgently need to replenish supplies and come to the aid of 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 an additional gift to help provide critically needed upgrades to our food factory that will increase overall production by a staggering 50%. This is a \$216,000 challenge above our normal feeding budget that could help save even more lives.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you *In the Middle of the Mess*. In her new book, Sheila Walsh brings insight to knowing the peace and presence of Christ in the midst of life's inevitable

messes.

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed and care for ten children, we will send you Sheila's book, plus the "Arise" coffee mug. This heat-activated mug reveals Isaiah 61 each time you fill it with a warm beverage; a wonderful way to begin your day.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our "Determined Eagle" bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: It is in your power to do something so I hope you will do something and do it today. When you give, ask for John's book, *Killing Kryptonite*. It will change your life. We'll send it to you with any gift to Mission Feeding.

Would you thank John for being here? I always love talking to you. I'm so glad you joined us.

John: I love you so much!

Randy: I'm glad you joined us. Please join us every day right here on *LIFE Today*.