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Week 16: Mission: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Lisa Bevere

James: I feel like we're here with family. So many of our friends, they love you, the viewers, they care about you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

I really want you to hear this now. We really are family. I say this to you sometimes but I say it when you're not listening a lot. I think the viewers of *LIFE Today* are among the most special people on this planet; and I think the most sensitive to the heart of God and the will of God, and the most sensitive to others.

Aren't you amazed, Betty at how our viewers say, "Show me someone I can touch with love. Show me someone I can help. Show me someone I can support."

Betty: Always ready to help, to bring hope to those that have no hope; that's what blesses me.

James: It is unbelievable. The notes that come, the gifts that come. Sometimes I think, God, why would someone do that? Why would they make what has to be a sacrificial gift because there's not just like a lot of rich people out here. By the way, there are wealthy people who help us, and don't think bad of people who have something, especially when they let God direct it. Isn't that what we all want to do whether it is the widow's mite or Solomon's wealth? Wouldn't it be wonderful if God just directed it all? I think that's what you want.

We've got someone with us that really wants that. Lisa Bevere, I believe is not only gifted by God, I think she is a gift from God. She and her husband, John are two of our favorite people on the planet; they're truly family to us. She's written a new book, *Adamant*. You need to hear about this. We're going to talk about something that basically I think the Lord just led her on but it is a treasure. So let's get into it. Welcome Lisa Bevere back to *LIFE Today*.

Lisa: Thank you!

Betty: Good to have you back!

James: And is John well?

Lisa: He's doing great. He's always well.

James: Tell us about this because I think it is fascinating. So the whole concept of *adamant* is long before it was known as an adjective or adverb because we know adamant as stubborn and unyielding and somebody that will be unmoved in opinion or view. But before it was ever an adjective or adverb it was a noun and it was actually a dream.

Greek philosophers and scientists, they thought about this idea of a stone that would be impervious to heat; that they could put it in the fire and they'd pick it up and it would still be cold. That it would actually be able to gather light, redirect it; that it would be magnetic where it could draw things but not ever be drawn. They said, "This stone would be a mineral that would make us invincible. We'd make weapons out of it. We could make shields out of it. Arrows, no matter how slender would be able to pierce any target." They called it "Adamus." It was just the most random thing. It was just this idea, kind of like the philosopher's stone but this was adamant, it was this invincible stone.

As time traveled, it came from adamus to adamant and it was never found. When they found diamonds though they said well maybe a diamond is an adamant because diamonds were woven so tightly that any other inferior stone would fracture on it. But then they discovered that in the 1700s that when diamonds were put into a vacuum and given enough light, they would vaporize. So they're like, "Okay, diamonds can't be adamants." So this changed to this word of stubborn and unyielding.

But this is what I began to look at. When I began to study what an adamant was I realized that the Greek philosophers and scientists, they were looking for something that was always there. They were looking for the cornerstone. They were looking for this indestructible stone, this stone that cannot be hewn by human hands.

And what I read about in Daniel when it talked about this stone that hits this giant statue, these kingdoms made of gold and bronze and clay, and then this stone grows into a mountain and that it fills the entire earth, I realized that Jesus, the cornerstone is our adamant. He is the indestructible stone and we live in a time right now where they believe that truth is a river; that it ebbs and flows according to current culture and our feelings or emotions about something. But truth is not a river, it is a rock. We live in a day and a time where up is called down and right is called wrong and we need to actually remember that we were hewn from a stone.

This is what Isaiah 51 says. It says, "Look to the rock from which you were hewn."

We were carved out of a living stone. We also see the ever present Christ when he was following the children of Israel as the rock who followed them through the wilderness. When you look at

that word in the Hebrew it means an unassailable, an unassessable refuge. If there was ever a time period where we needed a refuge such as this and that refuge isn't just a "true" thing, like what is true for you, it is a truth, and that truth is Jesus.

James: It's unshakeable; isn't it?

Lisa: He is unshakeable, he is invincible.

So I started to go through this whole journey about what does it mean? And I realized that God is adamant in love for us. That God, his love for us is invincible. It is completely impervious to my awful. It doesn't matter how much I reject myself or loathe myself. God is like, I'm sorry. My love for you is invincible. And it is not just that God has love for me, he is love for me. He is steadfast love.

God is also adamant this we love one another. He is adamant that we love as he has loved us.

James: Isn't it amazing how fiercely the enemy fights that reality? Because that reality produces something that is unshakeable because it is built on something unshakeable.

Is there any connection to building your house upon the rock that withstands any storm? This rock that we're talking about?

Lisa: Yes! And it is a living -- this is the whole thing and this is so beautiful. Do you know that back in the day, cornerstones were set by the stars? They would have to set them so perfectly because the cornerstone is the seed of the building and if the cornerstone is off then the entire building is off.

So we have right now a culture and a climate that is saying, "Oh no, no, no! There is nothing unshakeable. There is nothing unmovable. Everything is subject to change. There is nothing sacred anymore. Everything can be degraded or it can be unmade."

So I find that we have a generation that is actually looking for truth. So the subtitle of the book is: "Finding truth in a universe of opinions." Because now we have elevated opinions above truth and we have people that are like, "Well, this is my truth." Well, then that's actually not a truth because if it is not true of all then it is not truth. And we have a generation that doesn't understand that love without truth is a lie.

Betty: We've decided we can make truth whatever we want it to be and that doesn't make it truth.

Lisa: Absolutely. So God is that indestructible in the sense that he is going to go after us. He is going to have his way. He is going to have his say.

A lot of times you hear, "#Love wins." Well, it's actually #Love won. It was already done. It was done a really long time ago and it was done independent of us.

So I think we need to have this stability. So I just decided to write on this. It was an incredible journey for me. It really was a deepening thing to see what is solid. What are we really building on?

And God is not just adamant in love but he's actually adamantly intimate. In the book I share a story. When I found out I was pregnant with my fourth child I... Everybody assumed I was going to have a girl. I remember in a time of prayer I said, "God, I think it is a big mistake to give me a daughter because I will mess her up. I mean I cannot do girl. I can do boy, I cannot do girl. So God, I really think another son, I know I'm being son greedy here but I think it would be a good idea."

But I was afraid because I had not connected well with my mom and my mom hurt me because her mother hurt her. And I thought, this is going to be one more level of this pattern. So I remember I was praying and I was like, God, please.

And you know when you get in that time of prayer where all the sudden you're just in his presence and he'll show you something. So what I saw in that moment is I saw this beautiful field of flowers and I thought, I need to run. I need to run through this field.

I began to run and I saw in the distance a tower. The tower was wrapped with arrow slats, so they were like those windows that went all around. I thought, I need to climb that tower. I climbed the tower. When I got to the top of the tower there was a treasure chest. And I remember thinking to myself, this is either going to have weapons or it's going to have treasure.

I went to open it and when I opened it up it wasn't weapons and it wasn't treasures. It was photos of me when I was a little girl. All of the photos had been lost in a flood when my parents' basement flooded as a little girl. And I began to pick up these photos one by one and I saw me as a toothless girl, smiling. I saw my dad and my mom happy together.

And as I was holding one of the photos I heard -- I heard a voice behind me say, "I always thought you were funny." I was like oh! I turned and I've had such an overwhelming sense of the presence of God. And the fact that he would pick that sentence was so amazing because I was called a smart aleck all the time growing up. My parents had so much tension in the house and I would come home from school and I would try to dismantle it with humor and they would not

understand. They were living a nightmare and so they would say all these horrible things.

And it was like Jesus knew; I know exactly how to open up your heart and bring healing to that and I'm going to tell you that I thought you were funny. It was just this beautiful moment.

So God is invincible when it comes to intimacy, he will look at things. And we have a generation that is so broken and so longing for intimacy that they are trying to change everything to try to find wholeness. And God will actually come into our lives and hover in the Holy Spirit and begin to call forth things that separate light from darkness so that he can speak life to us.

When the Holy Spirit hovered in the book of Genesis, when you look at the rabbinical text on that it says "to approach gently with cherishing motions." God saw the world in deep darkness and he didn't turn in despair or disgust. It said he hovered. He hovers like a mother -- it says like over her babies. This tender gentle moving; it says "like a dove" just like he did with Jesus. And I believe that God is again hovering over a generation and saying, "I'm going to speak truth to the broken, intimate places of your life so that you can have a foundation that is adamant."

James: I think there are things where people are maybe so deeply bruised or hurt or you feel so overlooked and so unimportant and the enemy is always telling us that we're unqualified. That's why we have to point to the one who is adamant. He is totally qualified. He is unshakeable. He is steadfast. His love is never wavering. It's boundless. It is never ending. It is eternal, everlasting.

And I just want you to know that you are a chosen person as well as part of a chosen generation. You're part of a royal priesthood. You are witnesses of his glory. Please see that. Some of you say, "I'm old or I don't get out much." But you pray and you move me, and you move missionaries and you move people. Sometimes your prayers are at least resources of heaven where somebody would be touched and say, "I'm going to help. I'm just going to help." I hear God moving on people to say, "I'm going to do that."

We're going to ask you to help set some people free in a little while and Lisa has been right in the midst of suffering and she sees what love does and she says, "Let's rescue them." You know what you say? We'll do it. We'll help get those girls out of trafficked situations. See that's the love of God. We're going to do that.

I feel like, Lisa that God has anointed you to download truth that just resonates with life. I want you to know I saw that. It's just so incredible the way God uses you and John, and y'all are two -- but for the grace and glory and majesty of God, you two powerful forces, you couldn't live in the same house much less be a couple.

[Laughter]

Lisa: We like passion. I understand.

James: Do you know what I'm saying? I see it. It's so beautiful. You had an experience with a girl in Iraq. Tell us about that.

Lisa: So I do have a danger gene. I was here in Dallas, I was doing a Propel event. My husband said, "Wait, you're not speaking in Dubai for another five days."

I said, "Awe, I'm going to go to Iraq first."

He was like, "You are not going to Iraq."

I said, "Look at me! I look like them. I can totally go to Iraq."

Betty can't go to Iraq. I can go to Iraq. So I went to Iraq. I wanted to see what this organization was doing that was there. I pretty much found out really quick that I was just an observer. I couldn't speak Arabic, I couldn't speak Kurdish, I couldn't speak Yazidis. Everywhere we went, the children would come running out to meet these people, the Jeremy and Jessica Courtney of Preemptive Love.

But the last place I visited there was one little girl hanging back. I couldn't help but notice that all the children were together except for her. So these people were living 14 of them in the back of a semi trailer. I knew that ISIS had killed all the husbands, all the fathers were dead.

I said, "Tell me about this little girl."

They said, "Oh. She lost an eye to a cancer tumor last year."

I said, "You bring that baby girl over to me right now."

I put her in my lap, her name is Sarah. I said, "Sarah, I lost my right eye." She had lost her left eye. I said, "I lost my right eye to the same cancer tumor you lost your eye to at the same age."

She had a huge prosthetic eye. They could only get an adult size so her eye would not close. She could not close her eye. I can't even imagine the amount of pain because of just knowing what that feels like for me. I tried to close it, it wouldn't close. I let her touch my eye. I said, "You can dream. You can be loved. You can have a family." I showed her all the pictures of my family.

I laid in bed that night in Iraq and I couldn't stop thinking about her. I knew I couldn't bring back her dad but I knew I could get back to the United States and I could get her an eye. So I came back to my ocularist in Colorado Springs, Dr. Mayo, he is an amazing man. He said, "Well, I've worked with Yazidis before. I happen to just know the nuances of their eye colors."

So he gave me five artificial eyes and I gave it to the Preemptive Love people. And we have before and we have after pictures of Sarah. The first picture she is terrified. She is like there is a crazy American holding me on her lap, making me touch her fake eye. I don't know what I think about this. And in the second picture she is just incredibly confident.

Then we sent *Lizzy the Lioness* which you guys were amazing and helpful to promote. We sent it to her over there. It just won an Illuminate Award, *Lizzy the Lioness* did. And then now we have partnered and we have gotten her and the other moms and all the girls moved into an area where they are all going to school.

James: Isn't that great?

Betty: That is great.

Lisa: But can I say something? I learned all those kind of things from *LIFE Today*. You guys have always modeled that the one matters. Because if we don't love the one well, then you can't love the whole well. God is always about loving the one. He is constant. He is intimate. He is invincible in love. And I think it is amazing that I went over there for one little girl who had lost her eye and lost her father and lost her home and now they said she is the most talkative and outgoing of all of the girls.

James: Let's send Lisa over there into that whole area.

Let me let you look at something. Women are such -- you're the most beautiful thing God ever made and don't ever let the enemy tell you otherwise. Don't start comparing yourself to what others call beauty because there is a depth and a quality of sensitivity and compassion in you that is a strength of all of us. All of us as men, you may think is strong, we would be so weak without you. I feel like I can't even walk without Betty. She's far more than the wind beneath my wings. She is just unbelievable. And Lisa is such an inspiration. I know you've been inspired.

Lisa, we're going to show one of your really good friends that's such a gift, Sheila Walsh with a girl like we've seen you with because Lisa has been to the mission field many times and gone in the very places where Betty and I have marched into hell for a heavenly cause, she has too. John has with us. As a matter of fact, we thought we were going to die when John was there. He kept saying, "I'm not going to die because God's not going to let James die! So I'm going to be all

right." I was just laughing at John because I'm not knowing about all of this and the missionaries are not knowing.

But here's the thing, you can give somebody a life that has no life. Isn't that what Jesus came to do? Isn't that what he's done for us? Let's join with him and do it for someone else. Watch.

On the mission field

Sheila: I just wanted to explain why with this particular little girl, that we're not showing her face. She's 11 years old so we want to do everything we can to protect her. So when you were just nine years old, something terrible happened to you one night. Why don't you tell us about that?

Open Captions:

>> My dad is in prison and my mom ran away with some man. So I collected cans for food money to feed me and my brothers and my sister. Then one night... A guy on a motor vehicle grabbed me and took me to a bar. I was locked in a room and many different men would come in. If I refused to be with the men, I was beaten. After a year, they let me out of the room and I ran away. Right now I'm free but I still have to go out at night to pick up cans. I still have to buy all the food for my family. I'm scared that I will be taken again and made to go back into that room.

Sheila: I'm horrified by her story and the tragedy is she is not the only one. There are so many girls. And here's what I think. If we don't defend her, if we don't say no to those vicious predators -- and trust me, they are very well organized and they're very well funded so we've got to get organized, we've got to get funded. It is time to let our righteous anger rise to the surface. There is some things that we can say that is not good but this is evil. This is absolute evil from the pit of hell! And we cannot abandon these beautiful children who are longing to know that there is at least one person on this planet who cares for them. I want her to know it's you and it's me and we're going to fight for them in Jesus' name.

End of clip

In the studio

James: What's going on in your heart as you watched that?

Betty: As I watched that, I think a little nine-year old? She's just a child. She was just trying to do something to help her family survive, to work for food for them. And then she was taken away. I think about she was put in a prison that she didn't want to be in. But what? She was

able to escape. She was lucky. She was one of the lucky ones so to speak. But there are so many more of them. They're looking for a way out. But you know I think many of them are giving up and saying, "There is no way out. This is my life. This is all that I have."

I want them to know there is a way out because of the love of Jesus and the people that love God and offer hope. We can show them the way out.

James: We've actually been able to help her now because what we do is we reach and rescue and restore. So she's in the restoration process, that's how you got to hear the story. But she is not left there. You know why? Because of someone like you who said, "I'll take care of her."

You know what it takes to reach and to rescue and to restore for a year one of these who are trapped that we either head off or find them like that or get them out? It is \$128 a year and it works. And because some viewers like you said, "I so believe in this, I'll match what others give." And this is our last week.

But here's the thing, \$128 rescues one -- no now it is two, because someone in love said, "I'll match your love. I'll do it." I always say, "Could you help ten? Is there any way you could give \$1280?" But if you say, "Yes, and I will," well, you've just rescued 20.

Lisa, that had to take you back because you went in so many of those places and you did just an amazing job of communicating. I know our viewers wonder, okay, Lisa, you went over there on a mission, tell us the truth. Does the love really do what James and Betty say it does? Does it really work? Do they really rescue them?

Lisa: They not only rescue them they restore them and they raise them up to be leaders for the next generation to stop this cycle. We were just in Southeast Asia and I met many of the young girls had come through *LIFE Today's* programs and they were there in the meetings now studying to be Bible college students. It was amazing. So it's gone from that to just now they're proclaimers and setting captives free.

James: So this is where it all starts though. See, somebody had to say, "I'm going to help them." And then somebody has to say, "I'm going to help you help them." Because the bottom line in the gospel being preached is how shall they even go and preach unless they're sent?

You didn't realize this. We've just said good-bye to a wonderful friend, Billy Graham but he would have been the first to say, "You're the ones that sent me with the gospel around the world. I just proclaimed it but you sent me."

Would you right now go online please? Or would you dial that number and take your bankcard

and make the greatest love gift you can right now? If it's \$128 or you say, "I can't do that, James." Well, \$64 will be doubled and we've got another one. There is a level at which you can help. And if you can do \$128 or \$1280 do it and it will be by the love of God through others immediately matched and doubled.

We have some gifts to send you just to say we want to bless you in your journey but you're giving to give life, not to get a gift. We give gifts because we love to give. God does. It's in our heart. We want to bless you as you bless others.

Would you right now go online? Dial the number, take that bankcard, use it like a check, make it a great one. Would you do that? This is the last week. I'm believing you will.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children and young people longing to be loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators; their spirit and bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse. Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to warn children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved. And you can help restore young lives and give them a future.

And now a generous opportunity of a \$320,000 matching gift means your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child will be matched to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 Rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift we'll send you *The Age of Promise*, Randy Robison reveals ten promises woven through all of scripture that will transform the way you view God, yourself, and others. With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive "The Prayer is Powerful" wood plaque. This unique scripture art piece is printed on premium Birchwood, a beautiful reminder of the power of prayer.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280, which will now help rescue 20 children and you may request the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print. This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your secure gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You know we're going to be sending you as we say thanks *The Age of Promise*. In the last part of Randy's book, our son, he talks about the shadows that reveal Christ in the Old Testament and how he fulfilled them. One of the things we do as priests because we are priests and kings is we restore the fallen and it is a powerful privilege and responsibility and joy to be able to do it. That's what we're doing right now. So we want to say thank you for doing it.

Lisa, we want to say thank you for being here. I tell you what. If you want her book, it's in the bookstores. But I know she would tell you, if you want to help us right now and you do, say, "Could you send me Lisa's book too?" Yes, we will to say thank you.

Would you say thanks to Lisa for sharing today? Thanks for writing another great book. You and John just keep on lifting up Jesus and we will be lifting you up.

Thank you for watching. Thank you so much for helping others. You are really a blessing.