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Week 49: Fall Mission Feeding

Sheila Walsh

James and Betty Robison #3

James: I want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you. Sheila Walsh has been with our ministry team now for three years and a part of *LIFE Outreach* and *LIFE Today*. It's a tremendous blessing.

She has been asking us questions. I'm thrilled to say although she is directing them primarily at me, Betty is actually, in my opinion, answered far better than anything I have ever said in my life. I'm so grateful and I want to thank you. But let's just turn it to Sheila and let you continue on, Sheila.

Sheila: Well, I think I would just say that you're a great team. When you share something, James, and then you unpack it even more, Betty and it is beautiful!

But I had the privilege along with some of our senior staff that we get to meet with you once a week and we'll talk about what we feel God has for the ministry. But one of the things I've heard you say over and over, James is that God hasn't left us here just waiting to get rescued. I hear a lot of people saying, "I wish the Lord would just return." But you address that in a really powerful way and I wonder if you would share that with our viewers.

James: Well, I preached it at Liberty University last year. Jerry Falwell said, "That's the message the whole world needs to hear." So I delivered a little piece of it the next day to 50,000 in the stadium. I only had 11,000-12,000 that night and then of course, online. But I made the statement that Jesus didn't leave us here to get us out of here. That's not the reason he left us here.

If you remember the disciples are still discussing when he was about to ascend into heaven, wanting to know, are you going to set up the kingdom now? From the time Jesus got here, they kept wanting him to set up some kind of a rule according to their idea, what they understood it to be. They don't actually say come in and set up the final kingdom right now, the one that's going to come where there will be no more issues, no question that everything is in order. And Jesus said, "It is not for anyone to know the times or seasons. Don't get caught up in that. Be my witnesses."

And basically, he sent the Holy Spirit to come on them so that the person that had been talking to them is now, in the person of the Holy Spirit, living in them so that this one they traveled with and he would be with them, and he would disappear up on the mountain and come back, he is now with them all the time, guiding them to all truth, giving them all the insight and direction, as well as the fullness of his power flowing through them as individual believers.

And then making it clear in his prayers and his instruction that if they would be a family in love with the perfect Father that he loved and that he wanted us to have a relationship with that Father, and then he wanted us to behave like the family of the perfect Father, which meant that we actually love one another the way he wants us to love one another, and we flow as family and body with all members together. And then if we would do that we would reveal him in all of his glory and his glory in us before he comes in glory for us. The manifestation of his presence on us.

So he left us here to reveal him to a world in darkness. And the gods of this world have blinded the eyes of the unbelieving but God will open the eyes of the unbelieving, let them behold his glory in the believer. People come to Christ when they see Jesus in someone. I have said many times, if you ever meet anyone in whose life Jesus is so real -- so real and they love him so much, not spooky religious but love Jesus in a relationship, it is an unforgettable experience; oftentimes, it is a life-changing experience.

So I just think we're here on a divine assignment. I'm going to heaven. Heaven is a part of my eternal reality of who I am in Christ and Christ in me. But Betty, I can live right now with an awareness of heaven in me here before I go to be in heaven.

Betty: How can we expect people to be excited about heaven, and knowing Jesus, if they don't see some of heaven demonstrated here on earth? I think that's our purpose is for us to be a light. We're the vessels of God to go out and to demonstrate just a little taste and it is going to be so awesome!

Sheila: I think there is nothing so compelling as someone who is in love. Someone who is in love can't stop talking about that person. I think if we, as God's sons and daughters, are so in love with him, people are going to want to know: what is it with you guys?

James: Do you think I answered that question as it was asked? Do you think that perhaps people will grasp what I'm trying to communicate? Was that clear enough to see why we should be excited about being left here to be his witnesses?

Sheila: Absolutely. I think when you understand that we're on mission 24/7, not Sunday morning and Wednesday night, but that we have the opportunity to see people with the eyes of Christ in the grocery store, in the parking lot, wherever we go. It is like, Lord, talk to me about this person. How can I love this person? How can I help this person?

Betty: Don't you think sometimes it is good for us to go back and remember that moment when Jesus came into our hearts? What was the first thing we wanted to do? Tell everybody! Because it made such a difference. I think we ought to live like that because he is in our hearts and we should want to tell everyone and demonstrate it through his love.

James: Too many people have become a part of a religious group and never had that relationship you just talked about. They've never been born from above. They just sort of got signed up or joined up or became one of the bunch without really being born into the

family of God.

Sheila, one of the things that I think really is important in understanding this kingdom life now, living for kingdom purpose, Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly." Abundant life, "I've come that you might have that life." And then Jesus said, "If you want to know that life, if you want to have life..." Now this is from his point of view. This is abundant life. This is kingdom reality if you please. He said, "If you want to find life, you want this life that I came to give you, lose your life in my purpose."

What purpose? His kingdom purpose. His will being done on earth as it is in heaven. Because... preceding phrase in the model prayer: Thy kingdom come. He said it has come. It's at hand. It is in you. Not of this world but in you. Okay, if that kingdom is here, then you receive it. You lose your life for that purpose, you find it. If you hold on to your life and you try to keep it for your own purpose or some other purposes or some other person or some entity, even some sectarian belief system, if you lose it there, you're never going to find it. You're going to lose life completely. You're going to miss it totally. But if you lose it, you find it.

I think that's pretty simple and the fact is I found it. I got so much heaven here, I've got a daughter in heaven. Many of my friends -- when you're 75 years old, you preach the funeral and gone to the funerals of a lot of your friends. They're in heaven. They're happy. They're looking down at me and they're saying, "Tell them, James! Don't let anybody miss this! It's great. Tell them they can enjoy so much of heaven where they are." That's what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to tell you that because it's what Jesus said.

Sheila: I love that. Now you just said you celebrated recently a fairly significant birthday. So I want you to imagine that you could talk to your 21-year-old self. What have you learned now as a leader that you would have told that 21-year old man?

James: When God commissions us, gives us vision and tells us what to do, we need to

recognize that on the heels of that divine call, that heavenly spiritual vision, and that supernatural gifting, on the heels of that understanding comes the spirit of the world to now program you on how to do it. How are you going to carry out the will of God according to the ways of the systems of the world? In other words, you're going to have the wrong measuring stick. You're going to measure by how big, how much better, how much more people, how much of this, how much of that, who your friends are, who you're seen with, what circles you move in. See that's the world's standard; that's how you're known. That's not God's standard.

From the moment God called me to preach, the enemy using whatever vessel they could started trying to program me. People saw I had a gift so they said, "Well, you're going to be the next Billy Graham!"

Well, Billy Graham even said that, "You're going to follow me."

Wait a minute! God doesn't have another Billy Graham. God has a James Robison and a Franklin Graham and a Robert Morris and Joseph Prince and whoever else, he's got them. They're not trying to be somebody else. So immediately, well-meaning people could have programmed me. I began to measure myself by how did it measure up with what Billy Graham is doing? See that's not a good measure.

The enemy will always try to program the gifts of God according to the ways of the world. So I would say to a young person, you're not going to be known by who you hang out with or whether you live in the presence of God so that wherever you are you make a god impact, a kingdom impact on all the people around you, and you look for Jesus in others. And you try to let's say draw the wisdom that you see downloaded on others so that you can gain greater spiritual insight by observing not particularly their gift but the one who is giving them the gift for his kingdom purpose and you rejoice in it.

One of the most important things for people to learn is to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. Don't envy anybody. Don't covet anybody. Weep and care

about people wherever they are and whatever is happening, rejoice with them. Learn to live that way. That's the way Jesus lived. I believe he lives that way today. I believe as he is at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us, I believe he weeps with you. I believe he rejoices with you. I believe he is continually inviting you into his presence so that you will be observing the answers to his prayer.

You'll see your prayers answered and the prayers of others answered. The more you realize we're here on a divine assignment for kingdom purpose and to give him glory, when you commit to that, you've got a whole lot of heaven going on in your life right here right now and it is all for his glory.

Sheila: That's beautiful! A lot of people have written and asked a question that they'd like you to answer and that is people in very difficult situations want to know how can I forgive? Like a husband who has walked out on his wife and she's stuck there wondering how she is going to survive. Why is forgiveness so important?

James: Let me just say this, I can't not forgive. No matter what the hurt and I've been hurt a lot. When we were set free it really disturbed a lot of my sectarian, religious, denominational friends. They didn't want me being stretched to the Pentecost and charismatics; and of all things, to speak to Catholics. Oh my goodness! God told me he was sending me to the whole church in the whole world to see the church made whole. I became a name spoken against, James had lost his mind. He's gone off the deep end.

Well, somebody's deceived him. He doesn't know what he is doing. They were hurtful things. Even my wife and another friend's wife at the church we were in, we were told by one of the major teachers there, "You're just deceived." Because Betty suddenly received a prayer language and we later found out she was actually praying, and like with praise, Hebrew. In other words, it not only was a prayer language, she was actually experiencing a little bit more of what actually happened right there at Pentecost. It was the dialect and everything. It was amazing.

And the first time I said, "I want you to do this for me. You say you've got this gift show me."

"I can't do it. I'm not just going to play with it and turn it on."

I said, "No. Show me. I want to hear."

We're driving to our son's basketball game at his Christian school. And she starts praying in the spirit and I'm trembling because it was as though a heavenly host filled our car. It wasn't like I didn't believe it was a prayer language or spiritual power like this, it was just like I'm sitting here in the car with it. I'm leaning on her and it was so great I had to pull the car off the road. I just sat in the presence of the Lord and I said, "Thank you."

Now you want me to tell you what's sad about this whole thing? Church people are arguing and fighting and splitting over that, about where you do it, how you do it, when you did it, I'll help you do it. Say daddy-daddy-daddy. Say daddy-yaddy daddy-yaddy trying to get people into it. Listen! All the things people do to try to help God?

Jack Hayford said, "It's like a staccato machine gun all of the sudden come out of the church." He said, "God's not spooky like that, for heaven's sake." Give God a chance though to be himself.

Well, I decided to let God be himself. And she was told she had demons because God did something for her. And we were really nailed by people. And you know what? I couldn't do anything but forgive them. I didn't want to pray some horrible thing down on them. Or God you straighten them out or I'll tell them off. I just loved them. I've never stopped loving them. You see, there is a forgiver in me. He lives in me. There is a conqueror in me. He doesn't want to stay down no matter how many times I get knocked down, he wants to get up.

So here's what I say. You ask the power of the Holy Spirit to fill you with the person who

forgives, "Father forgive them." You get that grace, and Sheila, you will forgive. I've got to be honest with you. I can't hold a grudge no matter how unkind people are to me. I don't know why they do things. I don't know why they're unkind to others. I wish they wouldn't but there is a forgiver in me that extends His grace.

Think about it, I know myself. I know how fully he forgives, how fully he covers, how sufficient His grace is. Am I making any sense? It is bigger than me.

Betty: If God forgives us how can we do less? When we were desperate and down to nothing and saying, "God, help me. Please forgive me!" We receive that. Well, we have to be able to offer the same forgiveness to other people.

Sheila: If any of you are stuck though in a place where something terrible has happened to you, I would just like to add to what James and Betty said. We want life to be fair but fair doesn't live here but Jesus does. And I believe that forgiveness is God's gift to us to live in a world that's not fair. You get to take that thing and leave it at the foot of the cross and rise up as a child of God. You don't have to be burdened by this. Leave the results to God. That's one of the things I've discovered: God is trustworthy.

James: Let me just pray for you right now. Let me just say a prayer. Father, I made it very clear. This capacity to forgive is not me. It's not some trained habit, some skill. You are in me because I asked you to come in in fullness. And I'm seeking to yield this vessel so I pray that every person right now who is struggling with hurt and resentment and bitterness that you would break that yoke, just shatter it, just get it off of them and Lord, fill them with your grace, your forgiveness, your ability to forgive fully, miraculously, supernaturally. Give it to them, Jesus. Receive it from him. Say, "Lord, I want it! I want that." Sheila.

Sheila: The other thing people have been asking me a lot is how do I know I'm hearing God's voice? I want to hear God's voice. How do I know it is God and not just the pizza I had last night?

James: Well, you know faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Just really, try to help you understand this. And you can say, "James, why don't you just sit and read the Bible to us all the time?" Because I'm speaking the Bible to you. As a matter of fact, we can go back in and almost take every few sentences or every paragraph, we could give you a verse or two that basically in conversational manner I'm saying what those verses say.

But just sitting here reading the Bible to you, I'm saying the Bible to you. What I want you to understand is that faith comes by hearing but hearing does come by the Word of God. So the more you hear someone speaking God's word or reading God's word or you read God's word or you study God's word the more your ears are tuned. If you don't know the nature of the individual, what they're actually like, then a voice could tell you it is someone and you might believe them if you don't know what they're like.

No one could call me and talk to me three minutes telling me they were Betty, if they sounded exactly like Betty, in three minutes I would know it is not Betty because I know her so well. So your ability to hear and then to have the ability to have the faith that comes by hearing. See it is one thing for a man to be able to walk on the water. It is one thing for Peter to see Jesus walking on the water and say, "Lord, bid me come." Until he said, "Come," Peter couldn't walk on the water. But the minute he said, "Come," Peter had the supernatural power to go. And if he would have kept his eyes on him he would have kept going. But when he went down, remember this, the ride back to the boat was better than the walk out from the boat. He rode back in the arms of Jesus.

So the point though is if you want to do the supernatural, you need to hear the voice of the supernatural. If you want to hear the voice and recognize it, this is the word that tunes your ears to hear his voice. So you get to know the nature of God and then the sounds in the invisible realm are much easier to identify because the enemy will sound like an angel of light, he will even disguise himself as a minister of righteousness. So you really need to know the truth of God to know the Word of God.

And as you've heard me say many times and you watch it, you'll watch it when we're talking, Sheila or I'll start praying and you'll know somebody just got involved in this conversation that you didn't see in the room but you're hearing them manifest. Am I telling the truth?

Sheila: Every time we're together.

James: So we just live. So we can just live this way where we're having conversation. Paul said, "Pray without ceasing." That didn't mean live on your knees, get in the closet and lock yourself up, join a monastery. No! Live in constant communication with God as though he is riding in the car with you. He is in fact. And you can live this way.

Father, I pray for this miracle to occur for all of our viewers; in Jesus' name.

Sheila, thank you for doing this. Will you do this some more? If our viewers tell us, hey, we like that! Let's ask James some more questions. Here I've got some more.

Sheila: I love it. I've got more questions.

James: Well, we'll pray for the answers. The miracle, the beautiful thing is I think Betty has actually answered them better than I have. And I really mean that.

Here's the deal. We want to be a blessing to you. I'm telling you, I believe God's brought us all together for his glory which means his purpose which means blessing you. We want to be a blessing to you. So you let us know if you like this. You've got some questions you wish we would address, give us a little time, let us pray about it because we've got some wonderful people we're bringing to talk to that are going to download.

I don't want James and Betty to be the center of anybody's attention. I want the Lord to be. What I like to do is bring in all these other people who are full of the glory of God so

you can receive from many streams; not one stream, not one person, not one ministry but many.

And then you know what you tell us? And you saw the birthday greetings that I had in front of me all this week -- beautiful! So many of them. Thank you! You really blessed me. You know what? I'm going to say 85-90% of them said over and over, "Thank you for sharing God's love all over the world with the people no one notices."

I want you to watch this. Here's a son we prayed into our life. Betty literally birthed this boy in travail, our adopted son. Watch him. Father of four beautiful children. Watch him walking with the spirit of God moving him and you're going to be moved. You're going to be moved to become a miracle. I'm positive! Watch!

On the mission field

Randy: When you walk through the malnutrition clinic there are a lot of emotions. Obviously, heartbreak, the suffering that's here, the sorrow, the sadness. But it is easy to wonder, where is God in all this? These children are clinging to life, many of them. I know God sees the suffering in this place, I know he sees the affliction; he feels the heart cries of mothers who have lost children, and the little ones who are suffering.

She doesn't look like she is doing that great. Ralph, tell me what's going on here.

Ralph: Sometimes when they bring them in here, Randy, they're so weak and so lethargic they can't even eat. It is like too much labor for their body to even try to eat.

I think the formula is going to work on her if they can just get her to take some of it in. The intake will be important. I think she is going to make it. She is just looks really difficult right now.

[Four hours later.]

Randy: I don't know what's going to happen. I hope we can come back here in a year and see her running around playing. We've seen that kind of miracle before because it would be a miracle right now for this one.

It would have been better to reach this child before she got to this condition; that means more Mission Feeding, that means getting the nutritious soup mix to them before they get malnourished.

[Solanga died that evening.]

End of clip

In the studio

James: I don't ever want to hear the words, "too late." Just like Randy said, if we could have gotten the food out in the villages or the areas where they maybe gathered even as refugees coming where they heard there's some hope and there would be hope there because you put it there. If it's too late -- Betty, I was about to add, if I'd been there where Ralph was talking I would have said, "When they get so weak they can't move they intravenously begin to try to give them the nourishment. They'd even done that. You can see the little bags hanging.

What that is, that's the last attempt, the last chance for love that you share to say, "We'll give them one more chance." We didn't get food to them but now they found out there's a clinic and you make the clinic possible. You need to understand that when these missionaries say, "We're going to do our best," they mean it. You're the ones that enable them to do their best. You're the only way they're able to do it because you make everything possible. Number one, the support even for the feeding keeps the mission workers there. Many of them are volunteers who are volunteering to work because they're going to be able to take food home for their family.

We give them clothes. You see them sometimes wearing clothes that have been donated. We don't talk about it a lot because we get most of them from Asia and Europe so we don't have the shipping costs of getting over the oceans. So that's why we don't talk about that a lot but it is happening. It's all part of love.

But the food that Randy and Ralph are talking about, that's what goes out in the feeding programs where these missionaries have already located and organized, think about what I'm saying, 400,000 children that are in place. In other words, they said, "We're going to take care of you here." That means that they had enough to launch. But now for the next months to feed them, that's where you come in because it was love that people like you expressed that enabled the program to even have the hope to be established for the missionary to go and say, "We're going to do something for you" and it not be dishonest. You're the ones that make it all happen.

Would you right now dial that phone number or go online? Take your bankcard, I want you to prepare -- listen! Think bigger than automatic. In other words, if you say, "Well, James, a \$50 gift will be big for me." Well, could you do \$100? I just want you to think that way. Ask the Lord to help you do exceedingly, abundantly more because he exceedingly, abundantly wants to bless us and bless through us. So \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five or ten children for the next months. Can you do that? Could you possibly give \$1,000 to feed 100? I don't know what you can do but ask God to direct. And would you please right now write a check to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it? Or take your bankcard, go online or dial the number and make the gift God puts on your heart.

We're going to send you Peter Pretorius's incredible, *Death-Defying Faith*. This is the story, the journey of the man that impacted and changed our lives and our ministry in so many ways. He's in the presence of the Lord right now but what he established and started is going on, and I believe will grow because the love of God flowing through people just like you. We're going to send the book to say thank you. And we have some beautiful pens, "faith" and "hope" that bless you and inspire you, as well as the "Bridge of

Faith," beautiful painting by Kinkade. So please, follow the leadership of God's spirit right now. Make the gift God put on your heart. Thank you so much for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and drought-stricken areas of Africa, children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face severe malnutrition -- even death.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach you can save lives by feeding and caring for children currently suffering in parts of Angola, Mozambique, and South Sudan. With previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding helping in areas with severe crop failure, we urgently need your support to replenish food supplies to reach the 400,000 children who are counting on us.

Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift of any amount we'll send you *Death-Defying Faith*, the extraordinary life of miracle man, Peter Pretorius. This autobiography, completed just days before his unexpected death, chronicles the thrill-seeking adventures of missionary, Peter Pretorius. You will love reading how God took this ordinary man and performed extraordinary miracles throughout all of Africa.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the beautiful "Faith and Hope" pen set; two beautifully crafted pens featuring the key words of Hebrews 11:1; a key verse for every believer especially when facing adversity, trials and challenges.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request the "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I feel like getting to share and Sheila, thank you for being such a blessing, asking questions that people are asking. Hopefully, we've been able to be a help to our viewers.

You're going to be blessed by this book and you're going to be blessed when you help carry on this faith and this love that Peter birthed in all of us. Peter, we love you buddy. We love you.

Thank you for loving others. Thanks for loving us and for praying for us. Tell everyone you know to watch *LIFE Today*. I believe they'll get *LIFE Today* and they can share *LIFE Today* every day so tell them about it. Thank you so much.