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Week 22: Spring Mission Feeding

Sheila Walsh

Kathie Lee Gifford and Nicole C. Mullen

Sheila: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Sheila Walsh. I'm so glad you could join us. I don't think it's an accident because I think there is an amazing free gift that's going to be made available to you and I think it will literally be life-changing.

I usually sit on this set by myself but today I'm joined by two amazing, powerful, beautiful, godly women. Will you please help me welcome Kathie Lee Gifford and Nicole C. Mullen? Girl!

Kathie: Thank you for having us.

Sheila: I am thrilled and honored. When I heard, I saw on Instagram -- because I follow you both on Instagram -- I saw you in the studio with Nicole and I'm like, well yes! That's a God thing! How did you guys meet?

Kathie: Our mutual friend who is actually here, Angie Claassen from *I Am Second*, which is an amazing organization.

Sheila: Oh I love *I Am Second*!

Kathie: She is like the heart and soul of that in Nashville where I have a home now. So she knew that I loved writing with everybody, and been writing for a long time with people in Nashville. So she said, "I really think you're supposed to meet Nicole and write a song with her." So she set up a write for us and we had never met.

Nicole: Nope!

Kathie: But God had put Hagar on my heart; Hagar from the Old Testament who was the handmaiden of Sarah. I thought, why Lord? Why Hagar? If something is in your head and you can't get rid of it, that's the Holy Spirit trying to lead you. So I knew he would reveal.

And then I was reading the Bible which I've studied really deeply, I thought, all my life, all of the sudden I see Zechariah 2:5, which I don't think I'd ever ever seen before. Where it says, "I will be a ring of fire around her. I will be the glory in her midst."

So the pronoun, especially in today's world and Me Too and everything, struck me because I know how patriarchal the Jewish, especially biblical times, society was -- all about males. Women were less than half value. So we've come a long way, not far enough. But anyway, so this precious thing walked in. First of all I went, oh my goodness! She's even more beautiful in person.

Sheila: I know!

Kathie: If I weren't such a fine Christian I could hate her.

Nicole: Whatever! Whatever!

Sheila: And her arms.

Kathie: She is disgusting. But I anyway -- nauseating, actually. But anyway.

Sheila: But we love you so much!

Kathie: I don't anymore.

[Laughter]

I just don't! I'm sorry! But I spent time with you now and I don't like you.

Nicole: Whatever! Whatever!

[Laughter]

Kathie: Anyway, she walks in and we sit down. It's always a little like what you got? What are you going to do? And she had not collaborated with me.

Nicole: Not very much at all.

Kathie: So you should take it from here.

Nicole: So I have my guitar. I played beautifully.

Kathie: Yes, you did!

Nicole: No, I didn't! No, I didn't! I stink. But I played well enough...

Kathie: You make it up with singing.

Nicole: So I started strumming some chords and she told me her idea. And ironically, I had tried to write a song on Hagar probably about six months prior to.

Kathie: You never told me that.

Nicole: Yeah. It wasn't any good. But anyway, and I hadn't finished it anyway so it was what it was. But I loved the idea because I loved the women in the Bible and I loved

seeing the interaction that God has with them, and how Christ really covered them. He shielded them. He was their champion.

And so the idea we're writing, it's actually for Danny Gokey. So she gave me her idea and I said, "This is great!" So we began to strum, we began to sing. At the end of it we had a great seed of an idea, a great seed of a song. But it wouldn't be until probably a month or two later that that seed would begin to blossom.

Kathie: Well, she was touring. She was touring so she -- and I was back and forth, back and forth. But you weren't home when I was in Nashville. So I tried to finish the bulk of the song. We thought it was going to just be about Hagar. The Lord, the Holy Spirit just, "No, no, now Ruth. Now Ruth." I then took the ring of fire and put a ring around her finger. And then I thought who else? I thought, we don't want to male bash.

Nicole: We love men!

Kathie: We love good godly men. We tolerate the rest of you.

[Laughter]

Anyway, and then it started to have a thing about it. These are desert experiences, we all have them. Then I wanted it, and so did Nicole, so much we wanted it to be about triumph over -- so to go from the desert to a garden. You can still be in despair in the garden so it ends then with Mary Magdalene. I think you're going to show a little of that in a bit.

But we knew, Sheila, we thought we had something special but we had no idea the depth of it until we got in the studio to record the demo. None of the narration had been written just the song proper. And so it's going to be oratorio means narration and music. And so Nicole, I love this part. You tell this.

Nicole: Well, as Kathie was saying, "Go in there and just speak. We'll fix it later and I'll write the narrative after you sing."

Kathie: Get in and share. She knows the Bible so well.

Sheila: Oh yeah! I've toured with her.

Nicole: I love the word. We're word babies.

Sheila: Yeah, we're word people.

Nicole: So it was like I love these stories and I knew about them but I don't really like speak and then go into singing, speak and then go singing. I haven't done a project like that so I was kind of fighting back a little bit. Kathie was like, "No! You can do this! You can do this. Go and just do it." So I was like, "Okay."

Kathie: I said, "It's a demo, Nicole. Nobody is going to hear it if you don't want to."

Nicole: And so I was being melodramatic and I was like, "Okay, Hagar was a single mother." She said, "Just go in there, just go in there. Go and do it."

So I went in there and I prayed. And I closed my eyes and Sal began to play the piano on the other side of the glass. And before I knew it, I heard in my hearer, like the Lord would say it before I would say it, "Hagar was a single mother. She was abandoned by the family she belonged to. And there in the wilderness alone with her son with very little provision she was wandering, she was questioning, is anyone there?"

And then it was time to sing and I began to sing. And then after that it was time to talk about Ruth who I love! And on who I've taught on many years. I loved that. Then it was time to sing again. And then it was time to talk about David and to bring the lineage from Ruth being in Bethlehem to David being in Bethlehem to God using him. And this

mighty anointed man, who she did go back and edit a little bit of it, but to be able to speak about him and to sing about his journey, and still, although he was powerful, although he was anointed, he was still afraid, he was terrified. That's how a lot of us are.

Then we went to Mary and spoke about this woman who was tormented by evil spirits. She was depressed, I'm sure. She was probably an outcast and no one wanted to be around her.

Kathie: Definitely.

Nicole: She started following Jesus and Jesus set her free! And she loved him! She cherished him, she served him. I think, even with Mary Magdalene -- anyway, there's a lot of misconceptions about her because normally she gets pegged as the one who is a prostitute but that's not what the scriptures said. That's Mary of Bethany; that was Lazarus's sister. That's what the scriptures said. It was Lazarus's sister who was at his feet who was deemed as the one that was a sinful woman, not Mary Magdalene.

So I love the fact that we made that distinction; that this is the one that was tormented but Jesus set her free and she loved him. She was also the one that Jesus revealed himself to after the resurrection.

Kathie: We love that so much!

Nicole: We do.

Kathie: You know what, Sheila? This is the incredible thing. People who think the Bible is a dead book or that it was never alive to begin with, that it is just old and dusty, and there is no relevance to our life today. Every one of the people that the Holy Spirit had us choose is ripped from the headlines today.

Think about it. Hagar was sex trafficked. She was a slave and a single mother. Ruth was

an immigrant and a widow who thought she had no future. Guess what? Her future was to become the great grandmother of David. And one of the ancestors of the Messiah, Yeshua Jesus. That's -- what an honor, right?

And then David was all those things she said, but terrified, battling depression, despair and fear. How many people in the world today are being self-medicated and are on opioids and everything because of all of that stuff.

Sheila: So relevant.

Kathie: Finally, the mentally ill woman. All of them ripped from the headlines today although there are thousands of years old. That never dawned on us until we were done.

Sheila: Wow! But the thing I love, I love the fact that the Holy Spirit dropped Hagar into your spirit and into yours because she's the first one who calls God, "El Roi," *The God Who Sees*.

Kathie: The first time he's named in scripture.

Sheila: So actually, I want to show a clip and I'm going to tell you that you're going to be able to get this whole thing. They're gifting this to us. It's life-changing. But I want you to see the part of Mary Magdalene where we see the breakthrough of the impact of the God who sees. Would you watch this?

Begin video clip

>> And then from the line of David, finally Jesus, the Messiah, the anointed one, Yeshua, the Christ, born in the same house of bread, to be the bread of life, in the town of Bethlehem. And he would grow and he would be called the Son of God. He would be called Immanuel, God with us. And he would heal and he would reveal.

And then he had an encounter with a woman named Mary of Magdalene who was plagued by demons, tormented by evil spirits. And Jesus set her free. And Mary followed him, she listened at his feet. She served him and she loved him. Oh, how she loved him! But then she watched as they nailed him to the cross. And as they placed his body in the tomb, in that moment her hope died. It died.

[Nicole C. Mullen singing]

She's crying in the garden
She's broken in this place
She's searching for her savior
But his body isn't there
Then he says, "Mary!"
Glory! Glory! Glory, hallelujah!
I will be the glory in your midst
And every knee will bow to me
Now every tongue confess
Yes, all the world will worship me in love and holiness
I will be the ring of fire around you
And I will be the glory in your midst
And the power of my presence
Will bring you to your knees
And I will lift you up
For I'm *The God Who Sees*
Who sees
I'm *The God Who Sees*
I'm *The God Who Sees*
I see
I'm the God who sees you in your wilderness
Sees you in your brokenness
When you're feeling lonely
I'm *The God Who Sees*

In your desert places
In your empty spaces
I'm *The God Who Sees*
I'm nearer than you dare believe
Here in the very air you breathe
I'm *The God Who Sees*
You!

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: In the desert places, in your empty spaces.

Kathie: We're so humbled by the whole thing. We really are. We're just going wow, Lord! Why did you bless us so big? But he wants to bless all of us so big. He wants to use every one of our gifts for his glory. And when we get to do it, I've never directed anything in my life. I've been in this business 55 years. Everything I've done I've handed off to somebody else. This time the Lord spoke so clearly. I was sitting there with Nicole. I said, "I want to direct this. I think I have a vision for it."

Nicole: And he gave you the exact scenes!

Kathie: He told me just the way he gave you the words in the booth, the Holy Spirit just anointed, we knew it!

Sheila: You have such an empathetic portrayal of a single mother. Is that an issue that is very close to you?

Nicole: Very much so. I am a single mother. I am a single mother. And in a certain way you are now too.

Kathie: Yeah. I'm a widow, an orphan, and an empty-nester. But I am available. Call

1-800. I'm only kidding!

Sheila: She just -- as far as I remember.

Nicole: But I do have an empathy for those who have been left to raise children on their own, who have been left to find covering from others. The Lord has shown me that he sees me. He knows me and he cares. Not only does he see me and know me and care about me but he cares about others.

Kathie: And your children.

Nicole: And my children too. Absolutely! And those who are going through hard times, those who have been crushed by life. Those who are left with questions, those who are wondering if God is there and if he cares. I love the fact that he always shows up with the resounding, "Yes! Yes, I do."

Kathie: Been here all along.

Nicole: Yes! All along.

Sheila: What kind of impact have you seen already from those who have -- and I'm going to tell you where you can watch this and download it, I believe. But what kind of impact...

Kathie: Both of us have said we've never seen in our lives from anything we've ever done anything quite like it. People are not killing themselves because they think for the first time maybe God does see me.

We just got one the other day from a mother that let me know that her daughter was dying in the hospital of cancer. She showed it to her in her hospital bed and she asked the Lord into her heart and died the next day. This is the kind of stuff that's happening.

And we read these stories and we go we were just in Israel three weeks ago shooting this. We shot it in five days; took us two weeks to edit it. Our team was amazing. We give all the credit to our team -- that we don't give to God, we give it all to -- thank you, honey. Mine is under her tushie.

Sheila: I know. I just didn't know if you wanted to go there.

Kathie: Thank you so much. No, we've never seen anything like it and it's going worldwide. So we have no idea. I'm getting messages in other languages and I go, I have no idea what they're saying but I hope it means that this meant something to them.

Sheila: So how do our viewers see this?

Nicole: Www.GodWhoSees.com.

Kathie: And it's free. Just like grace -- just like salvation.

Sheila: But that's what blows me away. It must have cost a lot to film it because the film is spectacular.

Kathie: It cost half a million dollars to do it, and the proceeds from my book, *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* went to do it. And if people want to see more because I have two more planned to do, we're going to need help because I don't have that kind of money hanging around. I'm not Kelly Ripa; okay.

Nicole: Whatever! She needs to put her money where her mouth is.

Kathie: God will provide. Jehovah Jireh will show up and provide.

Nicole: And he uses his people to do so too.

Kathie: So if you go to our website there is a donate, and it's all tax-deductible through my foundation.

Sheila: But the fact that Kathie Lee would take all -- I mean this book, I've told you before is phenomenal -- the fact that you would take all the proceeds and put it right back into the kingdom of God.

Kathie: I've done that for the last 30 years, anything I did for kingdom work. I live on my career that's other than obvious, everything is kingdom work to me, but you know what I'm saying, specifically. And so it's God's. It's not my money anyway. It's God's money.

Everything, every good and perfect gift comes from above streaming down from the Father in the heavenly realms. I love this part: Who does not change like shifting shadows. And all the change in this world, all the craziness, all the chaos, the eternal one does not change. Here, do you want this back? It's a little used.

Sheila: Oh it's all right. It's all kingdom fluid.

[Laughter]

So go to WWW dot God Who Sees --

Nicole: No "the."

Sheila: GodWhoSees.com. It will literally blow you away. Invite people, a group of people that you know are broken. Your friends, your family, they're broken, they won't come to church, invite them over for a cup of coffee and show them this.

And there's something else I wanted. When you realize how much God has blessed you

and redeemed you and sees you, then you want to be able to see other people. Let me show you this and I'll tell you how we can help those people.

On the mission field

Open captions:

>> We left home because of the attacks. Many people were killed. The fighting became too much so we left for our safety.

Announcer: Fueled by tribal warfare, a wave of violence continues to spread throughout South Sudan destroying communities in its path. Like Susan, so many mothers are forced to flee their homes for the safety of their children. There is no warning so they must leave quickly unable to bring anything but the clothing on their backs.

Open captions:

>> We walked for one week to get there. On the way we had nothing to eat and survived only on water. My children kept asking me for food, but I had to tell them there is still no food. They cried the whole time... I was very sad. It broke my heart.

Announcer: Susan and her children survived the journey but many South Sudanese families aren't so fortunate. Thousands die trying to reach safety. And those who do make it arrive on the brink of starvation.

Luke: You've seen the situation we face here. Innocent lives fleeing, seeking refuge. Many mothers and children have traveled weeks without food not knowing where their next meal will come from -- if they'll even have another meal. The situation is critical. Please do what you can to help mission feeding to bring hope and life to people in need.

End of video

In the studio

Sheila: It's interesting that the first time we have that name of God in the Old Testament, Hagar -- Hagar called him "the God who sees." We have a God who sees every child who is abandoned at the moment, every mother who is walking through desert with no food, no water, nothing to give her children. You know our commitment here at *LIFE Today*. It's been James and Betty's commitment from the beginning. We feed children because it saves their lives.

We've been to malnutrition clinics and watched children and the only reason they're taking their final breath is because their mothers, through tears, cannot feed them. We have the ability to help and we've made that commitment -- that will not change, 400,000 children. We've committed to our partners who are on the ground, to our boots on the ground in Jesus' name that those finances will be available. And it's possible. We all can do it. \$30 feeds three children. \$50 feeds five. \$100 feeds ten for three months! Can you imagine? Think of how quickly you can go through 100 but that will feed ten children for three months.

So we've committed to that for years and we will never walk away from that. But there is a fresh need. The situation in South Sudan at the moment is desperate. There is nothing. There is no food. There is no shelter. You saw the picture of children walking with -- sometimes with a mother, sometimes alone. Now those who are in that area of the world know that we have the ability to get food that will be nutritious and turn from death to life.

So what I'm asking today and this is really important, it is critical, we need an additional gift. It will take \$270,000 approximately to be able to get food into the right position, to be able to follow those broken mothers and broken children who are -- Uganda has said, "You can come here. We can give you space but we can't feed you." We can feed them so we need your help to do that.

I think James said not so long ago that its \$270,000 sounds ridiculously a lot to most of

us but if 270 people gave \$1,000 or if you had 540 gave \$500 we could do that. This is not something that's a few future projects like our Christmas shoes or any of that stuff. This is a need at this very moment. These children, these mothers, these people who have -- can you imagine as a mom and you don't have a home? You don't have a roof? It's not even that they lost their beautiful homes; they lost the shacks that were their homes. And now they have nothing.

So you and I, we're the body of Christ on the planet at this moment. We can make a difference. Please, please go to your phone and give the best gift possible. Would you please do it now? And would you consider giving an extra gift? We need your help like we've never needed it before.

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.

With previous reserves gone and mission feeding helping in areas of great famine, we urgently need your support to replenish food supplies to reach the 400,000 children who are counting on us. Your life saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months!

Please consider an extra gift to help ease the suffering of innocent families who, due to tribal warfare, have had to flee their homes in South Sudan to neighboring Uganda, in desperate search of food.

World Food representatives have asked for our immediate assistance. That's why an additional \$270,000 is urgently needed to help provide food to those who are starving.

With your gift, we'll send you The James Code by O.S. Hawkins. You'll also enjoy this beautifully crafted leather bookmark.

With your gift of \$100 or more request *The Passion* translation Bible. This edition ignites *The Passion* of the Bible to modern readers by merging *The Passion* of God's heart with the life-changing truth of his word.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our commemorative bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call write or make your gift online.

End of clip

On the mission field

James: No way for me to tell you how grateful I am to see these bags of food, I'm told over 70,000 meals on this one load. Betty and I started out really helping Peter feed 10,000 children. Now we're approaching nearly a half million. I just say thank God because I've seen so many things happen. Children that were dying are now being fed and going to school. It's all because of the food factory. It's all because of mission feeding and mission feeding is all because of you.

I'm saying to you right here from a miracle in Africa, you are the reason for the miracle. To God be the glory but it's God's love being expressed through and you are glorifying God by your action and by your gifts. Thank you for helping. Let's keep doing it.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: Thank you so much for helping. We want to be able to bless you. I actually, with this beautiful oratorio piece that Kathie Lee and Nicole have done, you can get it free on

that website. What I did is I went to iTunes and I downloaded it because then that money will get poured right back in to this next project.

Let's be part of this. I get this feeling this is part of the revival that's coming around the world. That God is on the move and our sisters are part of that. So I just want to say to both of you, may God bless you. May he enlarge your borders. May fresh favor rest upon you. We thank you that you are on the earth at the same time as us. Kathie Lee and Nicole, God bless you. Thank you so much for being with us.

Kathie: Thank you, Sheila. We love you. Bless you too.

Sheila: Love you! And we love you and we'll see you next time. Thank you.