

1/28/20

Week 5: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Sheila Walsh #2

James: You want to tell them hello?

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty and this is James. We have one of our special co-hosts with us today, my dear friend, Sheila Walsh.

James: Yeah. And you know what? Sheila's written *Praying Women*. This is fabulous. It is just great. If you've really learned that you can have fellowship with the greatest power in the universe and you can talk to him like a friend, you can even talk to him like the father you never had, the father you wish you had. This is the most awesome Father and you can have this fellowship.

Now these *Praying Women* here, Betty and Sheila... By the way, welcome Sheila Walsh back to *LIFE Today*. She's part of *LIFE Today*. She's with us all the time.

Here's what these *Praying Women* here said. They said why don't you not talk a little while and let us *Praying Women* talk?

Sheila: We did not say that. That was you!

James: Now they said that. They said that at lunch, at dinner. They said we might just tell you... No, I said, "Why don't y'all tell me to hush?" That's what I said; wasn't it?

Sheila: Yes. And we said we would never dream of it.

Betty: Now I did not say that.

[Laughter]

James: Well, I want to tell you both, everybody watches says, "We wish you'd just be quiet and let these *praying women* talk about *Praying Women*." So let me just sit over... Where's that pillow? I'm going to sit here and listen because I'm going to tell you something, these are two of the greatest people I know -- men or women. And they are both praying women. They pray for you. And we love you. So I do want them to talk. Sheila, take off.

Sheila: One of the questions I often get is why would I keep praying if I've prayed for this over and over and over and I'm not seeing a difference? Well, it reminds me of growing up in this little church on the West Coast of Scotland and there was a man called Angus. And every Tuesday night at the prayer meeting, I would go with my mom, maybe just 30 of us, he would pray with tears rolling down his face for his wife. She would never come to church.

Then one day Angus took my brother and I, he had a little private plane and he flew us way up to the highlands where he was born to this tiny little church where he had grown up. I remember walking over these cobbled stones into this beautiful church. And Angus sat there at the front. I sat beside him and I said, "Angus, can I ask you a question?"

He said, "Of course, you can, lass!"

I said, "Do you ever get discouraged praying for your wife and you don't see any results?"

He just kind of paused a little bit and he said, "He's never failed me yet, lass."

Now the interesting thing was that was probably 35 years of him praying. The day that Angus went home to be with Jesus I happened to be back in Scotland from seminary and his wife was there. And his wife gave her life to Christ at Angus's memorial service. Now he would not have known that until the day three years later when she walked through the gates of heaven and she joined this husband that prayed for her day in and day out.

So never stop praying. Never quit. Pray and pray. That's what Jesus taught when he said about the persistent widow, there was a judge in a certain town who should have given justice to a widow but he was crooked. He wouldn't help her at all. So Jesus told this story and said she wouldn't give up. He would come out of the house and there she was. He would go to Kroger and there she was. Wherever he turned there she was. Eventually, just because he was tired of her, he answered her prayer. Jesus said, "What about your Father who loves you so much more? Won't he also answer and give what you're asking for when you keep asking and you keep seeking and you keep knocking?" I just want to say to those of you who are weary, don't quit! You are not alone. God is listening. Keep praying.

Betty: Wow! Wow!

James: Jump in, I'm trying to be really quiet.

Betty: You're doing good, honey! Are there some guidelines in this book? Somebody said, "Where do I begin? I don't know how to talk to God."

Sheila: That's a great question, Betty and that was very much on my heart when I started to write. I started by talking about my own experience when I was younger and honestly, I thought I stunk at prayer when I was younger because I'd heard people having these great lofty prayers and I couldn't do it. So I started there. I have ten chapters. By the end of each chapter there is like, step number one, step number two, step number three.

But I'll tell you one of the things that has been revolutionary for me is learning to pray the Psalms. It's like I believe the Psalms were given to the people of God to pray back to God. So when you feel like you're repeating yourself, let me give you an example, like say I chose Psalm 23. But I'm praying my life so I would say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. Lord, thank you that today you're the one that's going to shepherd me through this. I'm going for a doctor's appointment today and I don't know what it's going to be. Shepherd me through. Thank you that I have all that I want because of you."

And then I move on and I move on and I'll pause and I'll pray for my son and I'll pray for my husband. But I use the Psalms as a template to pray back to God. Jesus prayed the Psalms.

James: You can say, "He's my shepherd and we're having a hard time financially right now and you said you'd lead us in green pastures, not barren pastures. And we've really got some storms. You said you've give us still water. And we need you to calm some storms right now." That's such a beautiful...

I think David was crying out to God. Many of those Psalms where David is sharing his heart with God, they're prayers. Boy, that is a fabulous, fabulous let's say encouragement and recommendation to those who are listening to pray the Psalms.

By the way, there is a block of them in about 33-34 through about 37 or 38 that are so applicable in those trying times. A lot of them are applicable right now today.

Sheila, you've really downloaded something wonderful here. You can go online and get it, you can go to the bookstores and get it. Most of you don't anymore. Amazon changed everything. Betty can shop for everything and doesn't even get it tomorrow. We had it before sunset. It's an amazing thing! And you're getting a little older, you're glad you don't have to go run shopping, you just shop there. But you can get this book. I'm telling you get it. I'm sure you can get it on... what is it like Kindle where you can read it?

Sheila: You can get it on all sorts of things, Kindle and E-Readers and all sorts of...

James: And you know what? You just came back from Zambia and you've been all over Africa with *LIFE Outreach* and you said this really changed your life, and we're trying to drill water wells. We will actually, if people would just give a cup of water, just help us with the water, we'll send you a book to say thank you. Give us some more insight on prayer.

Sheila: Well, I decided to go as far back as I could with understanding praying the Psalms. Like Augustine, he gave this great insight. He said, "If the Psalm prays you pray. If it laments, you lament. If it hopes, you hope." Whatever you're going through on any given day, you can find a Psalm that will give words...

In fact, Athanasius said, "In the psalter you'll learn about yourself, all the movements of your soul. It is a spiritual gymnasium." We often pay attention to working our bodies out but the Psalms help us work out our souls and our spirits in the presence of God. And you never have to think, well, was that prayer okay? It's in the Bible -- it's a good chance it's good.

Betty: I have done this myself. And I mean it is such a special prayer time and worshipping of the Lord. It is just like... and I'll be the only one there on my knees or wherever in the room and I just feel his presence because it is his word.

Sheila: I do it every day, Betty. There's never a day go by that I don't find a Psalm and pray that Psalm out loud to the Lord. And you're joining your voice with all the millions who have gone before us. There's such power. We know the Word of God is not a book, it is a living love letter from God. When we pray those prayers back to God we know we're praying in line with his word.

James: God said to Israel when he delivered them from bondage, he said, "This book,

this word is not an idle word, it is your life."

Sheila: Often, there is a prayer that we refer to as "The Lord's Prayer," but really, it's not. It's the disciples' prayer because they said to Jesus, "Will you teach us to pray the way John taught his disciples?" So you have this beautiful prayer and there's only one thing in it that we're asked to do, everything else is we're asking God to "give us this day our daily bread, lead us not into temptation."

The only thing we're asked to do is forgive. In fact, Jesus goes on and unpacks it for two verses. What if the one thing that's holding up your prayer life where you're not seeing revival is because we refuse to forgive? If we forgive it's like the enemy has nothing in his arsenal to combat forgiveness. That's dragging your will in line with the will of God. Forgiveness is God's gift to us to live in a world that's not fair. So many of our viewers could talk about things that happened to them that are outrageous and you think, how could you ask me to forgive them? It's not about them, it's about you. When we choose to forgive, we're the ones who are set free.

James: And Jesus said of those who spit on him, scourged him, spiked him, and speared him, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do." Jesus was not ill-informed. He knew they were under the control of the spirit of this world and the Father of lies and the spirit of deception. They were blind -- leaders of the blind. They were in total bondage.

We need to pray for people that the deceiver is directing into the ditch. And we need to realize all these people shouting and screaming and yelling are under the control of the wrong father's influence, the father of division, dissension, deception, death and destruction. There is a father of life and truth and freedom and we've got to choose who we listen to. You are telling people that praying to that father can change the people that are being controlled and held captive by the wrong father. That's what we're praying for.

Don't you like the reality that God will answer prayers like that? Do you appreciate that Sheila has taken these two years of just diligent work and prayer to say, "I want to talk to

you about praying." It's interesting. Even those of you who just can fight at the drop of a hat, notice that this woman is very careful to, she is not saying "praying men."

Isn't it silly that you would say that Sheila couldn't talk to you if you're a man? Well, you're talking to me Sheila and I'm listening. And I want to thank God for every woman that's ever shared what God says and that's what she is talking about. But you were very careful. You were very gracious because you want men to pray too; right?

Sheila: Of course! But I have a heart for God's daughters because when God's daughters get down on their knees, the battle is not over, the battle is just beginning. I believe that's what God wants to do. But sometimes you need to take it to another level. You know when you need a breakthrough.

So I studied the book of Daniel. You have this 15-year old boy dragged off to Babylon and yet he refuses to honor anyone but the Lord. So you have this place where he prays three times a day towards the ruins of Jerusalem and he ends up getting thrown in the lion's den. But it says the Lord sent angels to seal the mouths of the lions. But sometimes it takes longer.

You go further on in Daniel, now he is 85 years old. 50,000 Jews have gone back the year before to start rebuilding the wall and the temple. And Daniel gets word, it's not going well. There is so much opposition. So for 21 days... It is what we call the Daniel fast, for 21 days Daniel fasts and prays. And on that 22nd day, he's standing up by the river and an angel appears and Daniel faints. Now he's been in a den with lions and he didn't faint. This must have been glorious!

And the angel said, "Daniel, the first minute you got on your knees we heard every single word." But there is a spirit in that area so the Father sent Michael the archangel, he's holding them off so I could get to you and tell you God's heard your prayers and answered your prayers. So if it feels like you're just not getting a breakthrough, keep praying. Fast and pray, and then you will see the breakthrough that you need.

James: Lord, I just thank you we're hearing truth. Sheila keep going. Betty, you want to jump in here? I'm trying my best to keep quiet. I want to shout. I want to shout glory! I'm trying to behave myself but I'm just telling you, if we'll do this, God can change anybody's life. God can heal our sick land.

Betty: Prayer, I've learned too is not a last resort. It is not the last thing we do. Well, if all else fails, we can pray. No, that's not -- we start with prayer.

Sheila: That's what Corrie ten Boom said. She said, "Is prayer your steering wheel or your rearview mirror?" It should be the steering wheel of your life. She was such a phenomenal woman. But I love this scripture from Psalm 61, verse 11 says this: The Lord gave the command and a great company of women brought the good news. So sometimes girls, we're going to have to...

James: Wow! That sounds like gospel to me. Good news!

Sheila: We're going to have to dig in our heels and determine because I remember James when I was in a psychiatric hospital at the lowest point of my life and the enemy would whisper to me in the middle of the night you'll never get out of here alive. Your dad died in here. You're never going to make it.

What I would do is I would literally drag myself out of bed and plant my feet in the floor and I would say from Psalm 27, "I believe that I will live to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." So keep fighting, girls!

[Applause]

James: I'm telling you, I'm sitting here looking at the glory and beauty of God. Let's face it, God's glory is all over you. You can see it. Get a close-up of her. Is that God's glory on you? Get a close-up of this lady sitting right here by me. I live with a woman that's

adorned in glory every day. We could all get dressed up in glory. I tell our audience many times, you've got the glow of God on you. Many times, Sheila, I'll watch the group we're speaking to, the more they yield, the glory just begins to settle on the whole crowd. You've seen, what you saw with *Women of Faith*, you've seen it where you're speaking now, I see it wherever I go.

Will you join as *Praying Women*? Get the book. But all of you join me and Betty in saying a big thanks to God and thanks to Sheila Walsh for sharing this? Sheila, you keep inspiring people and blessing people and letting them just see the glory of the Lord in you.

For all of you who are watching, we're just giving this book to anyone who will help us give a drink of water, in Jesus' name. "If you will do it for the least of these," he said, "you're doing it to me." I believe you love like that. And you're not going to overlook the thirsty when you could give them water. I want you to watch closely and prayerfully. I want you to be the answer to the needs you see because you are, you hold the answer, you hold the hope, you hold the future and the life in your heart and you express it with your hands. Watch closely.

Open Captions:

>> His name was Chimomo. We were so happy to have him. He always made us laugh. He was three years old. The diarrhea started, but we had no way to transport him to the hospital. We finally found a bicycle and traveled as fast as we could. But we never made it. He died along the way.

Announcer: Put yourself in Cecilia's place. Your tiny son struck down by the very water that should sustain him. Waves of grief that leave you breathless. The unrelenting fear that screams at you from every bucket of water you draw from the village's only source. Water containing the same contaminants that killed your son. Water you have no choice

but to give to your other children.

Open Captions:

>> I will never forget what happened to my son. Each time I go to the water, I remember. I am trapped by fear when I see my other children drinking the dirty water.

Announcer: Like countless mothers in Africa, Cecilia is so strong despite the dire situation that threatens those she loves. With courage and humility, she spoke to us from her heart in a language not her own, desperate to be understood as she pleaded on behalf of her village.

Open Captions:

>> We are asking for the borehole (well). We are suffering here at Seshia village. We drink dirty water in the streams. We are asking for help.

End of video

In the studio:

James: That precious lady worked very hard to be able to say it where we could understand it. I just hope everybody understands the grief that these precious mothers and families experience in losing their children. I think, Betty that our viewers, you are, we've told you, the most remarkable people because you don't turn away when you see a need. Our viewers have seen a need and they've stepped up and said, "Hey! I want to give -- I don't just want to give a cup of water, I want to give them a well."

Betty: That's right! Every time we have asked you have helped. Thank you so very, very much. And I know your heart had to be touched by that mother that had lost her little three-year-old boy that was so full of life, she said. And now that he's gone, she's concerned, she's worried, her heart will go through that same sorrow with her other children if she doesn't get some help for them. She can't do anything else. She has to give them that water; that's all they have.

Let's be that hope. Let's be that miracle for her in her life with her other children. Please continue and let's join together hearts and hands again and let's give to the needy that so desperately needs some fresh water.

James: I'm looking down here at this beautiful picture of a beautiful person, Sheila Walsh. She's got her hands folded and the title of the book is *Praying Women*. I can't tell you how much we love you. That was a praying woman we just heard, Betty. And I'm telling you praying women, I know there are a lot of men that help. There are men that actually, we've got a few men that try to drill a well every month. They've been blessed to be able to do that. God bless you men. But I know it's because a wife, she may have been the one that got your attention. But I know it's praying women that are moving mountains. I know it's praying women that are bringing about the answers to... Prayers like that. Lord, today give us an outpouring.

We're just beginning now this emphasis on Water for LIFE. We're in the early stages. You've enabled us to drill thousands of wells but we drill them one well at a time; they're \$4800. You can see they have water available but in those rivers it's filthy. But when you get subsurface water, there is a filtering system that takes place and we're able to deliver clean water and make it accessible. In areas where they have boreholes we know the water is subsurface; we can get it easily. That's why we're able to do it for \$4800.

Could you drill a well? Could you give part of a well? Maybe \$2400 and pray somebody matches it, you've got a well. \$1200 and three people. You know what? If you can do it I believe you will. But be sure you hear what I'm about it to say. The majority of the support comes from people who will give \$48 -- \$48! Ten people water the rest of their life. \$144, 30 people.

Now where could you put \$144 or \$48 and have a lasting effect like that? Totally life-changing! And we'll be telling them about Jesus. We're sending Sheila's book on *Praying Women* and on a great prayer thrust that's being initiated right now that's going to

shake the world to everyone who gives. We've got a beautiful pillow cover that will bless you. And a beautiful throw that you can use as a place of warmth that has the Lord's Prayer on it. You can be covered with the Lord's Prayer. You're going to appreciate these gifts but you're giving the greatest gift of all, you're giving life because of the love of God.

Would you go right now and get your bankcard? Go online or dial that number and use that card like a check? Please do it now. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us. We need to know that you're sending it in so we can tell the missionaries. Thank you for making that gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Today, a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable, give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice what's a mother to do?

With your help clean water is on the way. Mission Water for LIFE is the answer to a mother's prayer to save the lives of her children, to offer them a bright future free from the fear of death. With your gift today you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year.

Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15. \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift we'll send you *Praying Women*: "How to pray when you don't know what to say." In her new book, Sheila Walsh shows you how to reignite your conversation with God to become a strong praying woman.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the “*Power of Prayer*” bundle. This bundle includes a cozy throw blanket adorned with words of The Lord’s Prayer, a decorative pillow cover, as well as Sheila’s book. All three are encouraging reminders of how there’s power in your faith-filled prayers!

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our brand-new commemorative bronze sculpture, “A Mother’s Strength.”

Please call, write or make your gift online!

End of video

On the mission field:

Ralph: I’m kneeling here in the land of Cambodia. I just heard a story this morning about a little boy named Pana. Pana drank contaminated water in this village, and it killed him. When I heard Pana’s story what struck me was he has six surviving siblings who now know firsthand that the water they drink every day could be their last cup of water. The water that’s supposed to give life could actually kill them.

I travel all over this globe and I hear stories over and over of children who drink contaminated water and it literally kills them instead of giving them life. We drill wells all over the world not just here in Cambodia, all over the world we need clean water in several different villages.

We need your help. So please today go to your phone, go online, whichever gives you the best opportunity to give a generous gift that we can bring fresh clean water all over the world this year. Give that gift today so that we can tell families, “The water that you’re drinking is not there to take your life, it is there to give you life.”

End of video

In the studio:

James: We have some beautiful gifts. I really do love this incredible bronze, "A Mother's Strength." I don't know if you can see that little baby. I've watched all of them carry their children. Never seen anybody love like these mothers do. I'm telling you what. If we could just get God's arms around the continent of Africa, boy, what a miracle! We're sending this to those of you who will help either drill a well or give \$1200 toward that and then the other gifts will come.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to God again. Know this. We are sending all of you who help us with the wells one of Sheila's books; that you're going to be praying, all of you, men or women. But let's just thank Sheila for sharing with us again. Sheila, we love you!

Sheila: Thanks, James! Thanks, Betty!

James: Bless you Barry. Bless all of you. Thank you for helping us put loving arms around so many people all over the world.