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Week 7: WFL

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

Jimmy Evans

Randy: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy Robison. This is Sheila Walsh, as always. Good to have you here.

Sheila: Well thanks! It's nice to be here. And I'm excited about today's show.

Randy: I am too. How's your marriage? Is it working out for you?

Sheila: Do you know what? We're about to celebrate 25 years.

Randy: Aah! Congratulations!

Sheila: And I love him more today than I did on the day I married him. Absolutely!

Randy: You know what? You must be following those basic rules because come to find out, there are some laws, universal laws that can make your marriage work. Of course, if you don't know them or go against them, it can make your marriage not so work. Would you welcome Jimmy Evans as we talk about *The Four Laws of Love*?

Jimmy: Good to be here. Thank you. Thank you.

Randy: Jimmy, good to have you back.

Jimmy: Thank you.

Randy: I love this topic. I love that there's only four.

[Laughter]

Jimmy: I do too.

Randy: Seriously! I'm a guy; I need a very basic, a very simple, and I want to fix things. And this actually makes an incredible amount of sense.

Sheila: I kind of wanted to ask you though, what was the journey that led you into this study? Because you're known for this. People come from all over. Where did this start for you?

Jimmy: Well, we got married, my wife and I got married when we were 19 years old. We've been married 46 years. And so we got married when we were 19 and I got saved a week before we got married. My wife told me a week before we got married, she wouldn't marry me because I was such a bad guy and I was. And so I received Christ a week before we got married. I was a horrible husband! I was dominant, I was just selfish, played golf all the time, worked all the time.

And so we were on the brink of divorce. One night I told her to get out of the house. She was complaining about me being a jerk and I was big enough jerk that I just told her to get out. And so she went in the bedroom crying and I went in the living room. I knew the Lord and I read my Bible. One day I had read, in fact that morning I had read in the Bible where it said that the Holy Spirit would lead you into all truth. And it struck me. I didn't know that we were going to have a crisis in our marriage that evening but it struck me. I just thought, the Holy Spirit will lead me into all truth? He would teach me anything?

So that night when she's in the bedroom and I told her to get out, in the living room I

asked the Holy Spirit to teach me how to be a husband. And I was not a humble person. So it was not characteristic of me. I didn't know what I was going to do if she left. I didn't know what I was going to do if she stayed. I was just in that place where I didn't know what to do.

When I prayed that prayer and I said, "Holy Spirit, teach me how to be a husband" it was like something fell off of my eyes. I don't know how to explain it. I was deceived about myself and about her. I mean a minute before I prayed that prayer, I thought I'm Mr. Wonderful. I just accidentally married the devil's ex-wife. Who knew?

[Laughter]

And the instant after I prayed that prayer, I could see myself for the jerk that I was, and my wife for how precious she was.

Well, that started the journey. And it was a few days after that that I was literally, I just clung to the Holy Spirit. And I kept asking him every day, help me to change. That's how I changed. Well, he led me one morning to Genesis two, *The Four Laws of Love*. It is for this cause a man will leave his father and mother, will cleave unto his wife. They two shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and unashamed. And he told me to turn there. When I turned there, I just didn't see anything at all. It was just to me like I don't know what I'm looking for.

Randy: Yeah, we've heard that a million times at Christian weddings; right?

Jimmy: Exactly. That's what I thought. I kept reading it and reading it and I just knew he wanted me to keep reading it. And all the sudden they just unfolded to me. It saved our marriage. I'm telling you, back 43 years ago, our marriage was saved by the four laws of love. So when it says that for this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, the reason that we know that God didn't just say that to Adam and Eve is they didn't have a mother. See, Adam and Eve both were directly created by God. So when God created

Eve, marriage -- and the instant after he created Eve and marriage, he spoke those words. And those words are four eternal laws that guide and guard the marriage relationship. So that saved our marriage. That's what I've taught, Sheila, all over the world.

Sheila: Amazing!

Jimmy: But most people are very confused and fearful of the marriage relationship. You know something? If there weren't laws governing the universe and the world, you'd be afraid too. You'd be afraid to walk outside but laws create stability, predictability and safety. Without laws there is chaos.

In America today, think about this, in 1983, 83% of adult Americans were married. Today that's between 45-48% and the reason for that is because we've rejected the Word of God. And we no longer look to the word as a basis of authority. But even Christians don't understand the power of Genesis 2:24-25. One of the problems with that passage is it's so short. But Jesus said, "Lazarus arise" and he came out of the grave. God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. God is not wordy. So when it comes to marriage God created the laws that govern and safeguard marriage. But also love.

See whenever *The Four Laws of Love*, the first law is the law of priority: For this cause a man will leave his father and mother. Before you get married your parents are the most important relationship you have. And then when it says "leave" it's this word, it's *azab*. It's just let go of, reprioritize.

So marriage only works in first place. It won't work in second, third -- if your children are more important than your marriage, if your work is more important than your marriage, if church is more important than your marriage, your marriage isn't going to work because God created it in first place.

The second law is the law of pursuit and that is a man will cleave unto his wife. Again, that's an unfamiliar word to the English language, cleave. It means to pursue with all your

energy. It means marriage is work.

Randy: With your energy.

Jimmy: With your energy. That's right -- with all your energy. So God says I want you to reprioritize your family and now this is your new family. And some people say, "Blood is thicker than water." That is true. But spirit is thicker than blood. And when God yokes you together by... Jesus said, "What God has joined together let not man separate." So this has to be number one and you have to work at it. It's not going to happen if you don't work at it.

Number three: "They two shall become one flesh" is the law of partnership. Marriage is about sharing. An independent person, marriage is brutal on selfish people. If you're independent and selfish it is not going to work because you're not going to share. If you're dominant it is not going to work because research proves any time you have dominance in marriage, the satisfaction and intimacy of the marriage dramatically declines. So we're partners, the two shall become one.

Sheila: How do you define dominance?

Randy: That's a bit of a cultural issue right now.

Jimmy: Disproportionate control of the relationship. So let me say it this way. If your marriage is a company, you both own equal shares of stock. In a dominant relationship someone owns more shares, through the force of their personality, through manipulation, through whatever means. They're not sharing with their spouse. They're dominating it. We're not created by God to be dominated. Humans, we love to share in an equal relationship.

First Peter three says to men, "You treat your wife as a fellow heir of the grace of life lest your prayers be hindered." I was a chauvinist. I came out of generations of chauvinism. I

saw chauvinism when I was growing up. The women in our family, not my mother necessarily, but other women in the family, very docile, the men very dominant, and I thought that's of God, and I want one of those.

Randy: Well, we're taught -- in some churches we're taught that man is to be the head of the wife because there is language in the scripture that can read that way.

Jimmy: But it's as Jesus.

Sheila: Understanding what that means, yeah.

Randy: So I'm with you, but I want you to explain that.

Jimmy: We're supposed to be the head like Jesus and Jesus is not a dominant head, he is a servant head. So women love... Leadership is one of the woman's basic needs. Women want to be led by their husbands, not dominated. They want to be treated as equals. Women feel secure -- security is a woman's number one need. Women feel secure when their husband is the loving initiator of the well-being of the home.

See Jesus never dominates us. He never makes us pray. He never makes us read our Bible. He never makes us go to church. He leads us. He is the loving initiator. So the whole concept of it... By the way, there's as many dominant women as dominant men. It is a gender-neutral issue. But the law of partnership says you're going to share: They two shall become one.

And then it says the man and his wife were both naked and both unashamed. The word naked there is the word *erom* in Hebrew. It means exposed on every level: Mentally, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. You have total access to me. This is where intimacy comes from. As long as they were pure, they had that environment. As soon as they sinned, they covered themselves. Because if you're not careful I can't trust you.

By the way, when they sinned, blame transfer was the original sin of marriage. When God came up to Adam he said, "That woman over there... "

Sheila: "The one you gave me."

Jimmy: He was accusing God, "that woman." And men have been saying it ever since. And the woman said, "The devil made me do it." So rather than taking responsibility...

And so the law of purity says this, I have to be careful and when I make a mistake, I need to take responsibility. When I went into my wife the night that our marriage almost ended, I had never said I was sorry. When we got in a fight, I was a prosecuting attorney and I was awful. I went in that night and I said, "I'm sorry." And that was the beginning of the healing in our relationship.

Now she didn't trust me, and I didn't blame her, and our marriage wasn't wonderful that night. But day after day as I was careful and I took responsibility for my behavior, all of the sudden we had an intimacy that we'd never had before. So let me go back to the four laws of love: Priority, it's got to be first, I have to work at it. Pursue, we have to be partners and I have to be careful, law of purity here.

So how do you fall in love? How do people fall in love? They naturally... when we're falling in love we naturally follow the four laws. Okay? I put you first, then I work at it, I treat you right, I treat you as an equal, and I take responsibility for my problems.

Sheila: Yeah, otherwise it's not going to work. You're not going anywhere.

Jimmy: You're not going anywhere, and you fall in love. *The four Laws of Love* create love. But they also guard that love because as long as we're following the four laws... see, God created marriage to get better every year. "The honeymoon is over" thing, isn't that the most depressing concept on earth?

Sheila: It's terrible!

Jimmy: Now that the rookie, when do we ever look to the rookie to teach us how -- the veteran is the better one. And so in marriage when you do it God's way it's an upward trajectory. And you know, marriage is the safest relationship on earth when you do it God's way.

Sheila: That's fascinating... I love that! I've never heard anybody say that before. Unpack what you mean by that.

Jimmy: Well, so, God created us for marriage. God would never create anything to harm us. Remember marriage was created by God, not a lawyer or a lonely Neanderthal. God created marriage. And God created it to bless us, not to harm us. And he created the laws to protect that relationship and to guide it and to guard us. God's a loving God.

So when you're married God's way it's the safest relationship on earth. When you take the laws away it is just chaotic. When I was... We were about to split up. I remember the confusion and fear I felt. Marriage to me was the greatest mystery in the world and that's what the devil wants it to be, is a mystery, something we're all terrified of. And you said it, Randy, at the beginning, I was an idiot.

Randy: I didn't say that.

Jimmy: No, I'm saying it. If there would have been more than four laws, I wouldn't have made it. If there had been five or six, I don't know if I'd had made it. It's so simple. So I was the biggest idiot in the world in marriage. I didn't have a counselor, except for the Holy Spirit. And when I asked the Holy Spirit to teach me how to be a husband and he taught me the four laws and all of the sudden I realized, I've broken all four for an entire marriage. No wonder our marriage is so damaged!

And the hope that I want everybody to hear if you're not married and you're fearful of it, I

totally get it, but I'm telling you, you don't have to live that way. But if a person is married and they just feel helpless like their marriage is spinning out of control, you can get it back and it is not that hard. It's just the four laws.

Randy: You mentioned this trajectory; right? It reminds me, as we spoke of before the program of the laws of aerodynamics where once you understand that some things aren't going to change and that they affect each other, gravity, velocity, resistance, lift, once you get that down and you master them, if you will, then you can fly. So you're saying that these are simple enough and proven enough that it's not going to change. It's going to work for everybody.

Jimmy: Every single person. God is no respecter of persons. And the wonderful thing about marriage because when you are struggling in your marriage and you see people that are happy, you're just thinking, I'm just unlucky. I'm trapped in this unlucky relationship. It has nothing to do with luck, it has to do with law. And so if you see a plane crash and a pilot that's up there fooling around and not paying attention and doesn't respect gravity and he crashes, he wasn't unlucky, he was messing around with the law.

And so when our marriage was failing, I had no idea that I was breaking the law. When I realized the laws of love, and as a young ignorant husband just began to, I hung up my golf clubs. The first thing I did, the first right thing I did, after I apologized, is I hung up my golf clubs. And that's when Karen knew that Jesus had my heart.

Sheila: The Lord is in the building.

Randy: Right! I want to go to that because one of the things you say that we demonstrate love by how much we're willing to sacrifice, why is that important?

Jimmy: Well, so you have to prove, you have to prove your priorities in real terms and not just words. So love, and if you say to a woman that you love her, women will be nice and smile at you. But here's how women define that, what will you give up for me? Jesus

gave up his life for us, so when Jesus tells us he loves us we know he loves us.

And so I would say to Karen, she would say, "Can you stay home and not go play golf?"

I would say, "I need to go play golf, but I do love you."

She would just give me that look like only women can give you. And she just looked at me. Basically, what she was saying is liar! If you love me, you'd be willing to sacrifice that. So love is measured by what will you give up for me?

Randy: And that works in a relationship where there is the equal 50/50. Because if it gets domineering the other way then obviously, then that becomes out of balance.

Sheila: One of the things I wanted to ask because I'm thinking of people watching in at the moment and maybe it is a wife who is willing to change or a husband who is willing and they think, but my partner is not willing. What do you do then?

Jimmy: Great question. First Peter chapter two talks about redemptive love; that Jesus loved us when we were in sin. And then in First Peter three, Peter uses two illustrations of redemptive love, the first is a woman, the second is a man. And what he is saying is, "In the same way you wives, if your husband is disobedient to the word they may be won without a word by the chaste and respectful behavior and so on and so forth. Husbands love your wives with understanding as with a weaker vessel, as a fellow heir of the grace of life lest your prayers be hindered.

So here's the issue, Sheila, and this is a big issue because many, many people watching this right now, they're willing but their spouse isn't. Well, Karen, before I ever changed, Karen went to the Lord one day and she said, "Don't change Jimmy, change me." Or "I'm not going to try to change Jimmy, I just want you to change me and I'm going to give Jimmy to you." And what happened in our relationship... She was always so reactive to me. And you didn't want to fight with me, I just wasn't righteous in that regard. And she

kept coming to me and coming at me and I would just come back at her and damaged her in the process emotionally.

But she stopped. One day I noticed that her spirit toward me changed and she started being kind and loving, even when I was being a jerk. And it made me feel bad.

[Laughter]

I just thought, you fight with me! Don't treat me like that. That's when the Lord started convicting me. And so if you fight fire with fire you get a bigger fire. The only way you can defeat a spirit is with the opposite spirit. And the tendency we all have when we get our feelings hurt and we get angry is to -- like this. Jesus did the opposite. When we were his enemy, he was our friend. When we were rejecting him, he was pursuing us. That's the example of First Peter two. It says, "You've been called to this, wives, husbands." The most important place that you have to be redemptive. And it's not just when your marriage is terrible, it's on a daily basis. When you're married, every day your spouse does something that you could react to. And sometimes you need to talk about it and resolve it, but a lot of cases the only answer is to come back with the opposite spirit.

Randy: Yeah. Yeah. If your marriage is wonderful and you want to keep it wonderful, this would be good for you. If your marriage could use a little work, these are the laws that will make it work. And if you're not married but you think you will be some day, what a good place to start.

We want to send you this book when you help us as we reach out and help others. Watch this.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Mothers in underdeveloped countries continue to watch their children suffer and die at an alarming rate. One of the reasons is a crisis you don't hear much

about in the news -- a water crisis. According to the United Nations, millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with an unfit water supply and sanitation issues. Verena knows all too well what unclean water is doing to her children.

Open Captions:

>> My daughter got very sick at 6 a.m. I made her a rehydration mixture because she had diarrhea. It was raining and I couldn't take her to the clinic. She was sick the whole day and she died at 6 p.m. the next day.

Sheila: No mother should have to bury a child because they simply don't have a clean water source. And that's why we're here.

Announcer: These deaths do not have to happen. There is a simple solution that can stop the heartache and pain these families have experienced.

Sheila: I'm asking you to help us. The need here is urgent. So here's what I'm thinking. Can you think of one thing that you can live without to give them the one thing they can't live without? What they need is clean water. They just want to provide their children with clean healthy water so they don't get sick.

So I'm asking you in Jesus' name, it will make such a difference in their lives. It will give mothers hope and it will give children a future.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: Someone said to me after I came back from this last trip in Zambia, "Do you think that these mothers, you know they're experiencing this all the time, perhaps they would get more used to it than we would." There is no mother on the planet who would ever get used to burying their child.

Some of these moms I sat with, there was a language barrier but there was a mother bond. We would sit beside each other and simply weep together. I didn't know how to express in words but we didn't need words because there was an understanding of the grief and the helplessness and the hopelessness.

But that last trip has changed me forever because it's not something that I think, well, there is nothing we can do about this. This is something we can do something about. Because I went from those villages where the water was filthy, and I almost wanted to stop the children drinking it but it was all they had. But then I would go to a village where there was a well and it said, "Given by *LIFE Outreach International*" and I watched these children drink clean fresh water. Death and life! And you and I can bring life-giving water in Jesus' name. And it's so easy! It's not something that you need millions to do.

Do you know that we can put a whole well in a village for \$4800? I think if we could just get into the habit of skipping something. Who needs to go and see one more bad movie or go out for dinner? Make yourself something at home and let's change the world for some people. And Randy, if we do it together, this is very doable.

Randy: Yeah, \$4800 is a lot to me. But \$48, that's a little more realistic and that gives water to ten people for a lifetime -- a lifetime! \$144 will give water for a lifetime on average to 30 people. We've been doing this for years. We've got the system down. We know what we're doing here. We just need you to partner with us. And it is as simple as going online, going to the phone, giving the best gift you can.

Sheila, you said something there where you said, "Is there something we can do without to give something they can't do without?" That's such a powerful statement because literally, one cup of coffee would give water to one person for a lifetime. That's a vast exchange.

Sheila: Well, I was standing beside a well and there was a snake in it and it's filthy and

the water is dirty. And I'm watching this darling mom put her bucket down and that's all she's got and I'm thinking, you know, we could give up something that we could live without to give them the one thing they can't live without. So we can do it together. We can all do something. If we all do something together, we can literally change the world. Please go to the phone. Give the best gift you can.

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

James: These are beautiful children, beautiful families that have come here to contaminated water sources where people are dying of diseases from contaminated water.

Well, we need every person watching to do your part in helping provide families like this and children like this water sources, non-contaminated water, clean water and every time we do it, we inspire others to join us. If you would help drill one well. Maybe you could drill a well or join one or two other people to drill one.

So would you be that source of inspiration and help by making the best gift you can today?

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Thank you so much! If the lines are busy, please keep calling! And for any gift at all we'd love to send you *The Four Laws of Love* by Jimmy Evans. Guaranteed success for every married couple.

Randy: Yeah, it's great. It will help you as you help us help others. So please do give the best gift you can.

And would you give a warm thank you to Jimmy Evans for sharing such great insight with us?

Jimmy: Good to be here.

Randy: That's so encouraging. You've encouraged all of us. Thanks for watching. Don't miss *LIFE Today*! Every day you can watch us online at any time. Thank you for being with us.

Sheila: See you next time!