

3/23/20

Week 13: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Sheryl Brady

James: Thank all of you. I have a little bandage on my hand. I'm James Robison with a bandage on my hand. This is Betty. I had a little surgery for lack of feeling. They call it carpal tunnel. Can't imagine. I guess when you're 76 and you're holding stuff, or talking on the phone, Betty says it's from talking on the phone, but I had to have this. So just know that we will be okay and do thank you for your prayers.

Don't Miss the Moment, Sheryl wrote this book, Sheryl Brady, and I'm really anxious for you to hear, and for all of us to hear what God has really revealed to her that I think is important to all of us. Would you welcome Sheryl Brady back to *LIFE Today*? She's been here before.

Sheryl: Thank you. Hi!

James: I want us to cover some ground because I feel like, I think you've touched something. If Jesus says consider the birds, it would be pretty to overlook them unless you consider them. You could consider them insignificant except for the significance of the one who said consider them. What I have found, and I'm anxious to hear your take, is that we can see God in all of his creation if we'll just look, and even look for him. And it seems to me that you're saying, when you talk about the moment, you may be looking at something that seems insignificant, but it actually becomes extraordinary -- not even ordinary, extraordinary. Explain to us.

Sheryl: First of all, thank you for having me on your show. You've ministered to me for

so many years from afar. I so appreciate the price you've paid in the kingdom to be who you are.

I totally hear what you're saying about the sparrow. One of the reasons I wrote the book was because I feel like a moment is one of the most undervalued and underestimated things, especially in this generation. People, they rip through moments and there is such a fast pace that if we're not careful, a moment is small enough to be missed but it is large enough to change our lives forever. So one of the reasons I wrote the book was because I wanted people to understand that we might just need to slow down because we could be missing God on so many levels. I think it is imperative that we do slow down.

A lot people look for the grand moments as opposed to the God moments. Now all God moments can be grand, but at the same time if we're only looking for grand moments in our life we're going to miss God moments. So I just talked about how we can find God in the many different aspects of our life.

I really found a destiny and a purpose in my life many years ago. I had no idea that God had touched me, that he had called me to preach. I lived with the preacher in me for 32 years that I never knew was there. If you asked, who is Sheryl Brady today? I'm going to tell you she is a worshipper and I'm going to tell you she loves God, she is a wife of going to be 43 years. I'm a mother, a grandmother. But I would have never in my wildest imagination told you that there was a preacher in me.

But all of the sudden one day I heard this preacher preaching and it was as if the voice of God in him woke up the voice of God in me on a whole new level. All of the sudden I realized that God had called me to preach. And I wonder, where would I have been if I would have missed that moment? My life could have gone in a complete different direction but because the Bible says that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, he had me at the right place at the right time.

He woke up something in me that I didn't know was there. I was quiet. I was shy. A lot of

people that might see me preach today would think, I can't imagine you ever being shy but that was me to the core. And that's really what I thought I was. For many years that's the demeanor that I exhibited. But I'm going to tell you something. When you have a God moment, and for me a God moment was when God just kind of pulls back the curtain and he allows you to see something that you would not have normally seen had he not given you that opportunity. When he did that for me, woke up that gift in me, it was like God said, "It's been in you this whole time, but you didn't see it. You didn't recognize it."

Really, the way it happened for me was God used, my Bishop was Bishop T.D. Jakes and he was preaching. One night I was just watching him, and it was like God was saying, "Sheryl, I want to use your life to speak to hurting people, to broken people, to needy people." As a result of that, which was I'm almost 60 today, so you can see how many years that has been, but I say to somebody who might even be watching us, what is in you that you didn't know was there? What gift is in you? What calling is in you? If we would just slow down for a minute, we might hear the still small voice of God.

So that's kind of how the book was born and it was also born because I feel like a lot of people are trying to discover, what's next? What's next? What's next? And if we're not careful, we will be so consumed with looking for what's next that we'll miss what's now. And we actually miss the moments God has for us.

The Bible says clearly, it's only when you are faithful over a few things that I'll make you ruler over many. I came up in the church, so I grew up hearing that message, be faithful! Be faithful! I didn't realize as I was faithful to keep the nursery as a young girl that God would ultimately make me a pastor. I had no idea I could do that. But it is when it is about being faithful over those few things that God extends grace to you to operate in another dimension.

Betty: It's about realizing we need to be mindful of God in our lives. And like the phrase, "Slow down and smell the roses" because I look back and yes, there has been

some wonderful, big, so to say big events to happen to us but it is those small ones that bless me so, so much. And it is sometimes when it is not good things that you're going through, but God brings good out of it if we're watching and listening and yielded to him.

Sheryl: Absolutely! I call it the long road. I kind of say I came up the long road. I'm going to tell you, I wouldn't take anything for that right now because it is the things that I went through. It is the nights that I cried. It was the days that I was confused. It was the days I needed healing. It was those kind of experiences, the days of grief, losing a mother, losing my sister -- and my father, it was all those things that really make us who we are so that when God does bring us that grand moment and he does bless you elevate you and raise you, then you can stay up there because all the way up you built an infrastructure. A lot of people want to pass A, B, C, and D without understanding that you can't jump to E because if you get up on E you don't have the infrastructure to stay up there. That's why we see so many people today shoot up overnight and then we don't see them anymore.

And that's what I want to say to you all, I commend the fact that it's been years that God has just kept the trajectory of your life. That speaks volumes to this generation! And that's what I want to see more of.

James: You tell a story about a hundred-dollar bill. You want to share that?

Sheryl: Absolutely!

James: Some people are saying, "I've never seen one. I'd like to see a lot of them."

Sheryl: We need more! Yes! It is those significant moments when God moves in your life until you recognize that it is him. We were going through a very rough time. We were in Nashville at the time trying to build a church and it was very difficult in those days. We had three children. And we were pretty much sacrificing it all for Jesus.

I got sick in my body and I went to the doctor and the doctor said I needed a certain surgery. I didn't have health insurance at the time, so I was just a little down, a little discouraged. I went home one night, and I laid in my bed and was just going through my routine of thanking God for his blessing on my life. And all of the sudden I found myself just kind of exploding on God. Instead of praying by faith I was praying more like okay, God, this is what I need. I don't even know if you're going to do it but I'm going to ask anyway. I almost felt like me and God were not on speaking terms. I don't know if anybody has ever felt that way but I sure felt that way that night.

And yet, I just began to talk to him, and I said, "God, I need work done on my car. I need work done on my body. This is Easter weekend. I have three little girls. I would love to have a new dress to put on them." You know, I was just going off on God. I fell asleep and I woke up in the morning. That night I said, "God, if I just even had a hundred dollars it would help me. But you know, okay, whatever you decide to do."

So I went to sleep that night, woke up the next morning and I said, "Now where do I need to go and take my car to get it fixed?" I mean the Lord told me where to go. So I really took it to this place, and I walked over there and I gave them my keys. I went and sat down. I was still kind of a little mad at God. Even though I loved him with all my heart I was still a little frustrated.

And God said, "Sheryl, go over there to that McDonald's."

I was like, "I'm not hungry. I'm not hungry God."

He said, "No, just go over there to that McDonald's."

I went over there, and I got something to drink and I started to come back and I was just still fussing. I got to where I should have turned off to go to get my car and the Lord said, "Walk toward the mall," because it was a little repair shop in the mall parking lot.

I said, "God, it's only 9:00 in the morning. The malls don't open on planet earth until 10:00."

He said, "Just walk toward the mall."

Y'all, I took three steps and as I took those three steps, I went to put that third step down and God said, "Stop!" He said, "Look down."

I looked down and under my right foot was that \$100 bill that I had just asked God for 12 hours earlier. I reached down and I grabbed it. I clutched it to my chest. And I ran as hard as I could toward the mall, tears running down my face.

The devil kept telling me all along the way, "It ain't real. It's counterfeit, it's play money."

I wouldn't even look at it. When I got to the door of the mall, I opened it up and I remember my hands were shaking. And I looked at it. Here's the deal. It was as real as any hundred-dollar bill that had ever been printed. And it was just exactly what I had asked God for. But it was more than a hundred dollars could ever be to me at that moment because I realized that God knew exactly where I was mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually. And I was able to do what I needed to do.

But now that I look back on that in hindsight, I realize there were so many little steps along the way that I would have never gotten to had I not just slowed down and heard the voice of God. And sometimes, some of us are stubborn and we kind of go through things before God... we can really give God our attention.

But I learned something from that that day and that is that if I would slow down that he would help me, that he would hear me, and that he would sustain me. And from that point on I realized that God, I need you! I don't just need religion. It is like our nation, our nation just doesn't need religion. Right now we need a genuine move of God. That's what I needed in my life that day and that's what God gave to me. I've never forgot the

importance of it because he knew where I was.

James: If you were speaking to your church family on Sunday and you were about to see them go out into the fields that could be white unto harvest, what would you suggest they consider as they leave to not miss a special moment?

Sheryl: I would tell them number one never take a moment for granted because tomorrow isn't promised to any of us. And I would just remind them as I do every Sunday, as you go out of here shine! Because we are the light of the world. The body of Christ is the light of the world and we cannot hide this light in darkness. We can't hide it up under a bushel. Sometimes we hide it behind our personality or our demeanor.

I think I hid it for 32 years because I thought I was shy. But then I realized, listen, this ain't about me! It ain't about my personality. This is about something God has called me to do. And when God has called you to do something that you don't feel like your personality matches up, it causes you to want it and not want it at the same time.

I would just remind people, you have been given life for a moment. You've been given life for a reason. I don't care what age you are, take advantage of this moment. Listen for the voice of God. Sometimes he'll speak loud, sometimes he'll speak silently. Sometimes you'll be standing in the grocery store and God will say pay for somebody's groceries. That's happened to me. So I know, I know what it is like to be on both ends of that. So I know how valuable it is to hear God.

James: By the way, I appreciate, Sheryl, you realizing that Betty and I both, believe it or not, I was the shyest person you said you'd ever seen and everybody always assumed you were shy and maybe still are to a point. But you know what brought us out was just noticing people that might tend to feel unnoticed and being the water for that flower, the encouraging word to just notice and to care.

I think if we would allow love to carry us and then love would direct our eyes and our

heart, and I believe we begin to touch people with that love by noticing, and you've done that so freely as you've shopped, and done things and noticed people. It's just amazing what happens when we open our eyes and realize every moment could be a God moment. Not just for us, but so often for other people.

Do you appreciate Sheryl and her sharing her story from her gifts? God bless the Potter's House in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. We've now got branches in Fort Worth, and the Potter's House over there that I've dedicated, the original. But boy, praise God! Now in Frisco. Thank you for sharing.

I know that our viewers don't overlook what the Lord's looking at. One of the things, I was really quite thrilled here while we're talking about trafficking and trying to tell people we need to rescue that just a while back the President joined with his daughter and signed an incredible bill to fight trafficking, and a tremendous amount of support financially from the United States to really battle against this. So I see that as an answer to prayer.

What I'd like you to know is when we showed you the reality of it, we honestly didn't know if our viewers would even want to hear about it much less know more about it. But you stepped up and said we want to do something about it. We showed you how love never fails even in that area. Thank you!

Did you know some friends have stepped up right now because they believe it is so important and said they will match what you give to set people free from being trafficked, to reach them, to rescue them, to restore them? I want you to listen closely. You're going to hear someone that is I think as great a blessing as we've ever had. But you're going to hear more than her voice, you're going to hear God's voice through her. Listen closely. Listen to God's heart.

On the mission field:

Sheila: James and Betty, this is the hardest trip I have been on with *LIFE*. We have been out on the streets at night and we've seen these little girls being forced into sex trafficking.

Announcer: Human trafficking is one of the darkest evils in this world. The depravity it takes to kidnap, to sell, and to rape a child is matched only by the virtue and strength needed to oppose it. Fighting such systemic evil requires a prayerful strategy. Our teams on the ground work alongside local law enforcement to rescue girls who have been trafficked into the sex trade by conducting raids and arresting the criminals involved.

Survivors of sex trafficking have often spent years in captivity and their minds and personalities have been altered. To restore these girls we provide them with shelter and offer them the hope and healing only found in Christ's love. It's been said an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Sheila: As I watched these kids today, I thought, this actually could be the most important day in their life. This could be the day they learn what human trafficking is all about.

Announcer: In another part of the world there is a girl entirely unaware she is about to be kidnapped and sold. But if we can reach her before the predators, we'll save her from a horrific future. Reach. Rescue. Restore. More than words, this is a fight against hell itself.

Sheila: God is moving in the darkness and saving lives. Please keep helping us. It is changing the world.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Well, and it is doing it one life at a time, and really one gift at a time. And because there are believers and those who love the Lord like you, and I believe you do,

and they realize this is so important that they've been willing to match what you give.

Now let me just share with you the reality. In order to start this process it takes an average of \$128 to reach one. Sometimes we get the ones that have been set free because the law enforcement broke in and set them free. But what do you with them after they've broken in and set them free from their captors? You have to take them somewhere. And you begin the rescue and restoration process. So it takes the support in order to do that.

We're asking you to help us right now reach out and touch the lives of hundreds and hundreds of people who will be set free, who will oftentimes be stopped, as you saw that beautiful girl that she's a target. Well, the individuals that work on the borders with God all over them and with such compassion and courage, they head them off before the predator gets them.

But we're breaking that cycle. When I say we, Betty, it is certainly our prayers and the missionaries we meet but we... It's you, the viewer. If you would right now help us rescue one from trafficking, \$128, if you give that, it will not rescue one but two. If you're able to give \$64 it will now be doubled, and we'll rescue one. So we're asking you please do what you can. I always encourage, if you're able, if you've been blessed by God where you can do this, \$1280 will rescue ten, but now it is doubled to 20.

Would you go get your bankcard and very prayerfully just say God, what do you want me to do? I believe God will direct you. I believe you want to help. And your gift will be matched. Get your bankcard, go online or dial the number and make the gift God put on your heart. Those who have been set free and are now learning a craft and a trade have made a beautiful bracelet to give to you to say thank you. Also a tote bag that we're putting some beautiful gifts from *LIFE Outreach*, spiritual inspiration will be in those bags. And then we have the "Mother's Strength," the beautiful bronze that we will send to those of you who are able to make a gift of \$1280.

Whatever you can do please just follow the leadership of God. Would you do it right

now? Knowing this, what you give will be matched all because of God's love flowing through you like a healing stream. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Behind the bright lights there is a darkness where a world of innocence is lost and abuse runs rampant scarring the souls of children with no one and nowhere to turn for help. With bodies broken and hopes crushed, these young victims are trapped in a never-ending nightmare.

Today you can shine the light of God's love in this dark world to reach, rescue, and restore these young ones to the life God designed for them to live. With a generous \$250,000 matching gift, now your gift of \$128 to reach, rescue, or restore one child can be doubled to help *two* children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help save one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 mission rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift we'll send you this beautiful "Freedom" bracelet handcrafted by survivors of human trafficking who want to say thank you for helping those still trapped. Wear it as a wonderful reminder to pray for the outreach.

With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive the "Freedom" tote. This quality canvas tote bag is made by trafficked survivors who are now learning a new trade and includes spiritual life resources such as books, devotionals, CD's, or DVD's.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help rescue 20 children! And you may request our beautiful new bronze sculpture, "A Mother's Strength." Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I find it difficult to express the gratitude that we feel in our heart and that these precious individuals who are set free have forever. Thank you!

If you'd like to have Sheryl's book on how *Don't Miss the Moment* God gives you, and you'd say, "James, would you send me that book if I help rescue some of these?" Sure! If you'd like to have it, we'll be glad to send it to you. Of course, you can get it online or get it in the bookstore. But I know Sheryl will be putting God's arms around a lot of people in Frisco at the Potter's House. And we just thank God for her. T.D. Jakes, we love you. What a gift you are to the church and to the world.

Would you say thanks to Sheryl for being here and being our guest? Sheryl, just bless you in all you do. Thank you so much for sharing. Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*. Thank you for setting captives free.