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Week 16: Mission feeding

Lisa Bevere #2

James and Betty Robison

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. We're so excited to have our dear friend, Lisa Bevere with us. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: Well, and we do have a wonderful audience. You're really great. It is super to see people in love with the Lord. And a lot of you really like Lisa. You've heard her. I've invited friends to be here in person with her and I can tell they're glad they're here.

Lisa, we're glad you're here. The first program where we talked about, really, the book is a devotional book about *Strong* and you shared that strong is not wrong and wrong is not strong, it's not right. You just really took off.

We actually referenced that you taught here in the studio *Purity's Power*. The studio audience was just filled with girls and I could not believe how open and how honest you were. I thought, dear God! But I just watched people change. It wasn't like... there was not one thing out of place. I'm just thinking God, how desperately we need to hear this.

You know when I had the first date with Betty, I came from a broken home, and I lived in total poverty. I mean I lived in the roughest neighborhood you can live in. And I went out with this girl and I'm telling you, when I went back to the pastor's house where I was visiting and staying, I dropped down on my knees and I started crying. I was 15 years old. I said, "God, I met a pure girl. I met a really pure girl."

And if you remember I told you the next few times I was with you, that it really got me because I'd always wished there would be girls like that because a lot of boys are wishing girls wouldn't be like that but I thought, gosh, I don't want that kind of girl. I told you, I said, "You need to be strong, because sometimes I won't be so holy. And I want you to be real strong." Let me just tell you, strong is an understatement. I went with this girl four years. She makes Walker look like he ain't a ranger, he ain't got nothing to do with Karate. He know nothing! This girl has got more defense moves than anybody on the planet.

[Laughter]

I will put a move on her now and she'll say, "I'm still strong!"

[Laughter]

Lisa, you really, really helped a lot. You knew because of your own journey and I know your story. You didn't practice that until you met the essence of purity. I know it is big to you -- and it is big to you because you had four boys. All right, talk to us about purity because that's one of the strengths you talk about in this incredible devotion book.

Lisa: Well, and first of all, I think a lot of times the purity culture in the church has actually just heaped on more legalism. So we want to talk about purity in the sense of a pure devotion to God.

So I was not raised to be a Christian. I was raised to be an exceptional heathen. I was the kind of girl that you would not have liked and the one that Betty was not. So I went away to college at University of Arizona because I found out it was the biggest party school. So I picked my college, not according to my major but according to who Playboy magazine had ranked as some of the top party schools, and that was the University of Arizona.

So I went out there. Was wild. I thought rebellion was freedom. I just did everything and

found out I had become the person I didn't want to be. I remember between my junior and my senior year in college driving home from school, and on the back roads of Indiana and singing at the top of my lungs to make sure I could stay awake AC/DC, I'm on the highway to hell. And I thought, I think I am. I think I might be actually exactly on that highway. I had nothing good. I brought nothing pure.

Then I heard the gospel for the very first time. I didn't hear a gospel of you have to be good, I heard about a good God. And when I heard about this God who loved me, who actually shared the gospel with me is now my husband of 38 years but he was missionary date, I didn't know that was wrong. He didn't tell me that was wrong. So he'd taken me out because he had seen me at breakfast in a bikini top and cutoff shorts that I had slit up to the waist band so everybody knew I didn't have underwear on. I don't know why I felt like that was important for people to know, but at the time, when you're a heathen, you're like this is what you do.

So anyway, I went out with John. First date I thought about free food. That's why I went to a Bible study picnic. But there was a song where I looked at the words because everybody was making me uncomfortable because they were raising their hands. I'm like, do you have a question? Like why are your hands in the air? I looked down There was a song; it says that when God would look at me he would no longer see me, he would see Jesus. I had an awareness that I needed a covering.

So that night I went walking on the campus. John and I talked. I interrupted him. I said, "I want to get born again. Whatever this thing is, I want to do it." He said, "Okay, I'm not done preaching." Then I started getting scared that the rapture was going to happen because I had seen the end of *Thief in the Night*. I was like I'm going to lose my head. This guy is going to disappear in some cloud thing.

But anyway, he did get to pray with me. And I got... He said, "Now you're saved." I said, "What does that even mean?" He said, "It means your whole again, spirit, soul, and body." That was the beginning of a journey towards wholeness. See, I didn't understand

that the God that I went to church to meet cared about my sexuality. I didn't understand that he cared about my body. I didn't understand... Those were all things I didn't understand. So what happened was I had squandered my life in promiscuity and now I met somebody that I wanted to give everything to and I didn't feel worthy. Now John never made me feel unworthy but I didn't feel worthy.

So I remember we were living actually in Dallas at the time. We went walking around a lake and I knew John was going to ask me to marry him. I knew John was a virgin. I thought, he doesn't deserve me. He deserves someone better. He doesn't deserve somebody that's squandered their life. So when I met with John I said, "I need to talk to you."

He said, "Okay, but I need to talk to you first." He said, "I was praying," And he said, "God said that he sees you as a new creation. He said that the old things have passed away and behold all things have become new."

I said, "But no, that's what you need to know. I'm like basically a ho."

And he was like, "No! If God says -- if God says you're a new creation then we are not going to argue with him."

And can I tell you something? That love does more to wash away shame and guilt than any list of rules ever could. Most people nowadays have had encounters that maybe they didn't want to have. Maybe they saw something on the internet. Maybe somebody took advantage of them. Maybe they've done things that they wish they hadn't. Or maybe they're so afraid they're shut down. So what we have right now is we have a generation in a sexual nightmare. And what we have done to respond to this nightmare is we have handed out a list of rules. And the rules go like: Don't be afraid. Well, this is scary. There are no nightmares, there are no monsters. Yes, there is.

And so I remember when my boys were little and they woke in the night and they had a

nightmare, if John was gone, I'd put them in bed with me and I sang them songs and I told them stories to put back to sleep what had been awakened in the wrong manner. We have a generation of young men, young women and I'm even sadly going to say, old men, old women because it is coming in contact with everybody who had their sexuality awakened in the wrong manner. And when it is awakened in the wrong manner or the wrong time it awakens as lust and lust will drive you. It will shame you, it will drive you. And so what we need to do is put it back to sleep.

Zephaniah 3:17 says, "The Lord your God is mighty to save." This is what I love. It is not about my strength. The Lord your God is mighty to save. Then it goes on to say, "He will rejoice over you with singing. He will quiet you with his love."

We have done the "give them rules" and we've done the "no rules" and both of them have landed us into two ditches. It is time to press into God and say, "God, I need you to save me from this nightmare I found myself trapped in" -- a nightmare of pornography, a nightmare of promiscuity, a nightmare where I feel like as a woman I cannot say no because I've said yes. Or I cannot say no because somebody took my ability to say no away from me. And God wants to put this back to sleep. And legalism won't put it back to sleep and shame won't put it back to sleep and fear won't put it back to sleep. Only God can put it back to sleep. And that is what he did for me. He said, "Lisa, I'm going to put back to sleep what is awakened in lust and I'm going to reawaken it in intimacy and love."

James: Can we just pause just a moment here. I want all of you at home, you heard so much truth coming straight from God. Lisa, it is such a... It is as perfect as a person can say truth. And it was said in as perfect and as pure love as you can say it. And it was said totally redemptive -- unconditional, redemptive love.

And Father, there are so many trapped. And boy, did she put it right. We're damaged goods. We've been exposed. Lord, David saw a woman bathing and today, little boys can see women, many more than one bathing, doing so many awful things that will grab their

heart and capture them at all ages, both sexes, and they're trapped. Lord, I pray you'd lift the shame off. And God, Lisa has put it so well and you'd break the shackles and set them free. You're the only one who can do it.

And let me just look at all of you in the studio and all of you here, he wants to do it. He is able to do it. Don't put yourself down. Don't put people down. Lisa, I don't know how you could have said it any better. Somehow, John evidently gets this too, because you said he has a lesson that he teaches about...

Lisa: Porn Free.

James: Porn Free -- rather than Born Free, Porn Free. Where would they get it if they want to go online and get it?

Lisa: They can go to our Messenger website and it is in our Messenger courses.

James: All right, here's the thing. God has put in both of you as a couple and your honesty. I hope all of you here in the studio realize what you heard was not natural ability. This is a supernatural divine enabling flowing through her. This was God speaking to men and to women through a woman. Do you agree, Betty?

Betty: Absolutely!

James: As clearly, as perfectly as Christ like as non-condemning, as redemptively as you'll ever hear it. Lisa, you wanted to talk to and all of this is these little points along this line are in this incredible book about being strong; owning up and letting go. Wow! Then she has this little statement at the end of every one, "When I own my mistakes and accept the mercy I don't deserve, that's when I'm strong." "I'm strong when I own my mistakes and accept the mercy I don't deserve." God has given you a supernatural gift.

I pray you increase it, Lord, in both Lisa and John. I pray you help them guard their time,

their thoughts, their actions, and Lord, continue to let them be a beautiful channel through which you just flow your life and your love, in Jesus' name.

You wanted to talk about virtue.

Lisa: Yeah! So virtue is powerful. There is people who have lost their virginity that maybe it was stolen from them or maybe they didn't understand the value of it but they can still recover their virtue. And we get our virtue, which is this force from God. And one of the women that I feel captures this better than any other woman is the woman in John eight; the obviously guilty woman caught in adultery. I was an obviously guilty woman. So as an obviously guilty woman I needed to know what Jesus would say to her.

And when you look at this interaction you've got the Pharisees, you've got the crowd that's the observer. Then you have Jesus making his statement that everybody loves to quote, "You who are without sin cast the first stone." They go away it says, one by one, the oldest ones first. Because the older you are the more you know you need mercy. They go away until it is just the woman, Jesus, and the crowd. And Jesus asks her. He says, "Where are your accusers? Are there any left?" She's like, "They're gone."

This actually really shocked me because if I was that woman obviously guilty, maybe wrapped in a bed sheet, as soon as the last person that could throw a stone, I'd be like thank you, Jesus, I'm out of here. But this woman waited because she was not content to hear what Jesus said about her, she was waiting until Jesus spoke directly to her. When he looked at her, he said, "Neither do I condemn you." Then he said, "Go and sin no more."

And there's a chapter break but there really shouldn't be because it says when Jesus spoke again he said, "I'm the light of the world." See we need to have a generation that hears when Jesus says, "Go and sin no more," he is not saying, "You do this again, you're under a pile of stones." He is saying, "I am the light of the world. I am the one who empowers you to leave shame and shadow and you walk in me and you will no longer walk in darkness."

James: And you will know the truth when you abide in me and it makes you free. This is the freedom he offers all of us, not condemnation.

Lisa, just thank you. I hope you'll get this incredible book that just touches on all the areas of strength that we all need. Would you like to say thank you, God and thank you, Lisa for sharing?

[Cheers & Applause]

Thank you for trusting God as your strength. I believe we could show everybody on the planet what the greatest Father looks like through his family that lives the way he wants us to live.

I have many dreams and he cares about all of them. When we delight in him, he gives us the desires and the dreams of our heart but we mustn't make them an idol. But you know what's happened to me? And maybe you say, well, it is just because you've gotten older and you're 76 now. But I'm going to tell you where I am, Lisa. I only have one dream now, I want to see his dream fulfilled. I want to see the desires of my Father's heart fulfilled for his family, through his family.

Lisa: That they might be one.

James: Absolutely! Exactly! I have absolutely been caught up in that. I'm telling you, when you really want that... you know what he said to me? "I just love to share my dreams with somebody who really cares about my dreams and my desires."

I'm telling it to everybody in the studio and everybody watching, we're here on God's earth, God's garden to fulfill his dreams, his desires and his vision. Father, I pray we'll do it, in Jesus' name.

Would you like to say thanks to Lisa for blessing us?

[Cheers & Applause]

Lisa, you've been with us many times to the mission fields and they really work. And these viewers are the ones that make them all happen. We can thank God for the missionaries that leave their comfort to go into suffering to offer hope and life and a future -- freedom! But you're the ones that enable them to be there. You're the ones that enable them to stay there. You're the ones that make all the vehicles possible. You're the ones that make all the resources and the food possible. And right now we're in mission feeding and boy, we need a miracle. I want you to listen and I want you to hear God, not just through just what missionaries say or do, but what he wants to do through you for his kingdom purpose. Watch prayerfully.

On the mission field:

Announcer: The death of one's child has been described as something that lives with a parent forever. For mothers like these, the death of one child is something they have not long forgotten because they have experienced the loss of multiple children.

Open Captions: Two of my children died on the same day because of hunger.

Isak: For me it is difficult to fathom, and I think you'll find the same thing. That it just blows your mind to actually understand what the people of this village have gone through. You know the house just behind me and the family that's there, they've buried two children -- three children in the last year.

Announcer: The devastating reality is children's deaths in Southern Africa are continuing to occur from the simple fact their mothers do not have enough food for them.

Isak: This is a mother who lost this little girl's twin, and two other children at the age of

three, six, and eight in January of this year because of something as simple as not being able to get enough food to feed her family.

What do we do about... how do you stop this death? How do you stop a village like this from burying child after child? How do you stop the pain and suffering that these families go through because let me explain something to you. These are children who when they die, their mother and their father, a piece of their heart dies as they bury their child. What do we do you say? It's simple. We bring mission feeding to this village and we save this village children's lives.

End of video

In the studio:

James: That's Isak Pretorius, Peter and Anne Pretorius' son. And he's just a treasure. He's an example of God's love through a yielded missionary.

Betty, we've seen those beautiful mothers with a broken heart and those little children that are really the greatest treasure in their life. They don't have great means and enjoyment and pleasures like we do. Their family is their pleasure. And it's their joy and they're such awesome moms. Hard to imagine how much pain they feel just because they can't give their child something they need. But we can.

And Betty, our viewers have literally helped us save over 15 million children and people's lives that were desperate like that. That is not an exaggeration, that is a fact. We've led far more people than that number to Christ in those areas because they've seen the love of God and they want to hear about the God of this love and how to know him through Christ.

So Betty, I'm believing every believer watching today is going to make a gift to help us feed 350,000 children right now that we have found that need our help. Gifts of \$30, \$50, or \$100 feed three, five or ten children. Betty, what do you long to see everybody

watching us do right now?

Betty: You know as I watched that along with you, my first response was, thank you, Jesus! That you have given me an opportunity to give of myself, to give of you and to give hope to those mothers that love their children as much as we love our own children. Thank you God that I can reach out in love and support to feed these precious little ones that need an opportunity to run around and play and be children like God created them to be.

So please join with us. Let's be that blessing, let's be that hope for this mother.

James: Father, I ask you to touch every heart right now and they'll respond in love; in Jesus' name.

Would you go get your bankcard and know I'm going to use it like a check? Or if you write a check, just know that I'm going to make a check to *LIFE* because that's what I'm giving. But get your bankcard and go online or dial the number that's there as a prayer line and say, "Here's my gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to feed three, five or ten children for the next months."

Will you do that right now please? Just go and get it. And know that the moment you put that gift in the mail and we let the missionaries know, "The help you pray for that those parents, those mothers long for, that those children desperately need is on the way." You're going to meet the need joyfully.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you. The *Global Impact Bible* is really quite phenomenal. We have the journal too. But for those of you who will help us with ten, this Bible shows you in the word all the different events and people that have been effected by the Word of God. They were not necessarily great Christians or leaders or preachers, but they were impacted by the Word of God, and it impacted everything around them. It is a phenomenal, phenomenal book.

We also have the beautiful bronze of "A Mother's Strength." These precious ladies not only go and get the water or the load but they so often are carrying a child, sometimes more than one, and leading others. A beautiful example of the Father's love through these mothers. And we're sharing the Father's love when we give them life and hope. Thank you so much for making that call. Thank you for the gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Mission feeding began with a promise to be there in times of crisis for thousands of hurting and hungry children in their time of need. Now more than ever we need your help to save lives by feeding and caring for children across the continent of Africa.

With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish our supplies to reach the 350,000 children who are counting on us.

Your gift of love can be the miracle answer to a desperate mother's prayer. Call now with your life saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 that will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift we'll send you the *Global Impact of Life Journal*. This softcover journal includes pictures from the mission field and inspiring scriptures as a reminder of your impact in giving to bless lives around the world.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the *Global Impact Bible*. This English Standard Version presents a fascinating guide to the impact of the bestselling book of all time filled with quotes from well-known figures, photographs and reproductions of fine art. It highlights the many surprising ways scripture has shaped civilization.

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, "A Mother's Strength."

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

End of video

In the studio:

James: You know I really feel like we've been blessed this week to have Lisa with us. Like I told you and you've heard if you've listened to her, she's kind of been with us all over the world sharing Jesus. This is phenomenal. I pray everyone watching will help us feed a child, \$30, \$50, \$100, whatever you can do -- \$1,000 if you can do it because 100 kids need your help. And we're sending you some incredibly beautiful gifts that will bless you. But if you'd like to have Lisa's book *Strong*, a guarantee you it will bless you. You say, "James, we're going to help you feed those kids. Would you send us Lisa's book?" Yes, we will!

Would you join us to say thanks to Lisa again? And thanks to God for Lisa. You know how much we love you.

Thank all of you! Thank you. Thank you! Great day! Thanks for your help.