

4/13/20

Week 16: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Lisa Bevere #1

James: Okay! Hey! Well, we've got a wonderful guest who will be here with us for a couple of programs this week that you're going to enjoy. I'm James Robison, and my wife Betty and I welcome you. I don't know if you've heard but we celebrated, now listen, 57 years married.

[Applause]

We still like each other. As I've gotten older it's kind of month by month extension.

[Laughter]

Well, Lisa Bevere is with us. And her husband John Bevere, they're an incredible couple; their whole family just blesses us all over the place. I've been their friend for a good while and we're close. Would you welcome Lisa Bevere back to *LIFE Today*? Glad to see you.

Lisa: So great to be here.

James: You have this book that is devotions and its titled *Strong*: How to live a powerful, passionate life. You wrote about the importance. You actually I think referred to women as being strong as a lioness. You've talked about being strong. You're making it very clear that strong is not wrong. I think you wanted to talk about that. Now strong doesn't mean "*mean*." We're not talking about mean women, are we?

Lisa: Well, there are mean women, but we could talk about them but that's not what I'm trying to develop. That's for sure.

James: Strong is not wrong. Look at this. I just even referred to this. This is a woman in Africa. You've been there with us. Let me just say thank you for going. Now your husband went with us when we got held captive and we were told we were going to die, and he said he wouldn't because of what?

Lisa: He knew he was safe because he was with you. He was like, "We're not going to die. I'm with James!"

James: I'm so glad he knew. We didn't. The missionaries didn't. We thought it was over. But okay, so you've been over here and these women, here she is carrying water. She's probably walked many kilometers, many miles and has a baby. They are strong. This is a strong that is absolutely 100 percent right and inspirational. I have an idea you're talking about a strength that is very positive, not overbearing, not something that makes people terribly uncomfortable, but actually can be like this, it can be admirable. Am I right about that?

Lisa: Absolutely. It takes a whole lot more strength to lift people than it does to hold them down. And so I want to build a strength into women where they're lifting other women, they're lifting their relationships around them, they're lifting the men. I don't believe that I get my strength by taking it from men. I get my strength from God. I think it is a big mistake right now to think, hey, wrong is strong. I'm going to be angry! I'm going to tell everybody what they're doing wrong! It is time for me to find my voice and denounce everybody and everything!

There are some things that definitely have happened that are wrong, but strength actually speaks solution rather than just echoing out the problem. We have a whole generation that they are criticizing when they need to be prophesying. And so we need somebody to

get a strength from heaven and begin to speak into these situations.

In the world we hear "wrong is strong." Be angry. Embrace your anger. Then we have the flip side in the church, "Oh no, no! Strong is wrong! You can't be strong as a woman."

But I love how the *Message* paraphrases Ephesians 6:10. It opens up with "God is strong and he wants you strong." And I want God's daughters to know, their Father is strong, and he wants them strong. So he's made every provision for them to have the strength that they need. Because you and I know that the longer we live the more strength we need. This life requires strength. And what we have is a lot of people who have the appearance of strength, but they don't have the time to actually build a core strength.

When John and I first got married, I believed wrong was strong. I believed... like I'm fighting. I'm just going to fight in my marriage. And it is harder to fight for a marriage than just fight in a marriage. I had a real problem with anger. I'm half Sicilian, which just right there, that's... Hallelujah! Yeah, we need to pray. Half Sicilian -- I have a little bit of French. I thought I had Apache Indian, but they took it away from me in the D.N.A. test and gave me Arab, which I don't feel like that was helpful. So we have all these different things going on.

John, you know is not a shrinking Violet. So we would have these huge conflicts. And when you have a conflict what happens is there is always that place where you go into the place of the "no return zone." I would always... John would escalate, I would escalate. John would escalate it, I would escalate it. I had to learn that that wasn't strong. That wasn't strong. That wasn't helpful. I needed to actually have some tools that were going to build my marriage instead of every single week deconstructing things and then having to reconstruct.

So one of the things I learned and again, I go through this and I open up my own life. I have so many mistakes. I don't have to borrow anybody else's. I talk about how I wanted

to be heard but because I wasn't being heard I said it louder. I said it in ways that there was a threat attached.

[Laughter]

So what I had to do is learn if I wanted to be heard I needed to say it the way I'd want to hear it. That's just simple but that's not necessarily easy.

And then I had this problem with anger that I took as my own. I said, "Well, of course, I'm mad. I'm me and I'm Sicilian. Of course I'm mad. Of course I'm mad. I've got terrorist blood." Whatever it was. I was like, "Of course I'm mad!" So as long I made excuses, I didn't make any progress.

You'll probably remember because I've had so many opportunities to be on this, but there came a crisis moment for me where I almost hurt my firstborn son. Where I'd had my second child and I felt completely out of control. I thought I will never brush my teeth before noon again. My husband was coming home every day from work saying, "What did you do all day?" And I'd be standing there with my nursing flaps down, a baby in my arms, and spank spoon in my hand. I'd be like, "I don't know! But I have been busy, John. I don't know! Stop asking me this question."

Then one day Addison came down the stairs and I no longer saw a child, I saw an enemy. I thought this is the one keeping me from getting anything done. I don't know how to keep him on his bed. James and Betty, I grabbed my little two-year-old son and I went storming up the stairs with him. And I remember thinking, I'm going to lift him up eye-level, I'm going to slam him into the wall, put him down in the bed. He'll know to stay there.

I lifted my son up at eye-level and what I saw stopped me because my son was not afraid of what I was going to do. He had no idea what I was going to do -- he was afraid of me! And when I saw the terror in my son's eyes, I remembered my own growing up in the

physically and emotionally abusive household. And every time I was slapped, every time I was kicked, every time I was shoved into a wall, I made myself a promise and it went like this, "I will never treat my children this way." But there was a born-again, spirit-filled pastor's wife getting ready to slam my baby and it broke me.

I remember I went down stairs. I hit the carpet. I said, "It is not my parents, they're not here. It is not John, he is at the office. It's me! I have a real problem with anger, and I don't know how to get free." And in this devotional, I talk about how I did get free because what happened was it was a process. First of all, I wept that day like a baby until there was nothing left. And in the stillness, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Because you're no longer justifying this, I'll take it out of your life." He said, "What you justify, you buy. You say I've earned the right to be this way because of what's been done to me." But the truth is yeah, there are things that have been done to all of us but what was done for us is greater than what was done to us.

And so that day, weeping, I called my mom. I forgave my mom of a particular incident that I had hidden in my heart. She started crying. I remember, I felt horrible that she was crying. We prayed together. The pattern, because see these are things that become patterns, that this pattern of abuse, this pattern of unhealthy anger would stop.

And when John came home, I told him what I had almost done. See I was forgiven when I confessed it to God. I was healed when I confessed it with my mom -- and she was healed. But I was accountable when I talked to my husband. And when I talked to my husband, what happened for the first time I was positioned to develop strength in my life because I was going to develop something.

I remember I would lay in my bed before I even got out of bed and I would say, "Heavenly Father, put a watch over my mouth. Let me be slow to speak, quick to listen, slow to wrath." Every single day that was my movement forward. We have a generation right now that I like to say is hangry. You know hangry is a really bad combination: Hungry for more and angry. And they are spewing things out and they are tearing down

the very things they want to build. The Bible says, "Be angry and sin not." So I'm not going to ask anybody to stuff anything. I'm going to teach them how to be constructive with their anger rather than destructive with it.

James: Do y'all appreciate Lisa and the wisdom you're hearing? While you were going through all these things, I really wanted to pick this book up, *Strong*. Here's what I want you to hear. You see how she's downloading. This is a gift from God. Our minds don't think that fast on our own. Something's happening, it is called inspiration.

By the way, you said something about women, it was a phrase a while ago. You said they are doing something when they should prophesy. What did you precede?

Lisa: We have a generation that's criticizing rather than prophesying. Let me hang on that prophesying for a moment. A lot of people think prophesying, Lisa is you're foretelling the future, which that's not at all what it is. Because you remember when Paul said, "I wish you all spoke in tongues but I'd rather you prophesy." Didn't he say that to the whole New Testament church? Which that included men and women, all of you, the whole church. So prophesying because I really, really examined this and talking to the Lord about it, prophesying is simply speaking words of life.

So what Paul is saying is every time you open your mouth, church, I want you to prophesy, I want you to speak life. And I've said to a girl going out on a date, you may hear dad say, "Honey, you need to be real careful today." Or one of the children may be leaving and the mother will say, "Hey! Be careful! Keep your eyes on the road." That's prophesying. That's a word of what? Life! And we need to hear it. And when we look at others and speak to them, we need to be asking God is life coming through my lips to you? Am I prophesying? Not forth-telling, not future telling, not making predictions, speaking words of life.

So if we're full of the words of life that's what comes out. You're full of it, lady! You're full of it. And I've been in -- and I mean you're full of the right "it." Okay?

Lisa: Okay! I probably have a little bit of both.

[Laughter]

James: I've been in some of these heated discussions they've had, and you know what? I can --

Lisa: And you stood up for me. And I love you for it.

James: I was absolutely going to say that because you were right. John, she was right. You understand that. Don't you ever forget it. Okay? Here's the deal... and he knows it. And you adopted me. You know what? You know why you would? Because you saw something of him that was not just standing up for Lisa in a situation but for the calmness and peace of God. But you happen to be right so I might have tried to help you say it better right. But the point is...

Okay. Here is what I want you to see in this book because you say, wow! I wish you'd just come sit in the room and talk to us like this! That's what she does. Go hear her! If they want to find your schedule, where would they go online to see where you're going to be speaking?

Lisa: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter. Lisa Bevere. Yep!

James: Do you have a ministry thing they can go to?

Lisa: We have Messenger International, but we also have, I actually have my own page that's Lisa Bevere.

James: So find it. Don't worry about John. He'll be all right.

Look here. Here's the thing I want you to see. In this incredible, this is just like her flowing, the first part is: Strong in God. Strong in spirit. Strong in purity. She taught Purity's Power right here in this studio. It was awesome. I remember the first time I heard her. I said dear God, I can't believe the wisdom flowing through this woman's lips to all these girls. It was phenomenal!

Strong in truth. Strong in relationships. Strong in battle. Strong in grace. Strong in self-control. Strong in freedom. Strong in holiness. And that doesn't mean religiosity. That means Christ-likeness. It is not spooky holy either. It is attractive. It is magnetically beautiful to live in his holiness.

All right. We're going to talk to you in another program, but do you think if people would get this devotion... and I broke down the parts. I can go in here. This thing is phenomenal. I want you to get it! See it is like taking... We really would like Lisa to be there talking to us. Here she is, talking to you. And what she's talking to you about is from the Word of God. It is what God showed her and put it in her to where she didn't just carry the word around anymore, the word is carrying her around and it just flows like a river. So she's put all this down. And it's just absolutely wonderful!

Leaving the Land of Regret. When you get down to the end of it there is this little caption here, this is in every one of them, "I'm strong because I redeem my regret with purpose." Do you like that? Don't you think this is helpful? So you see someone anointed and she's placed something in your hands that God put in her heart.

Lisa, you've been to the mission field with us. It's indescribably awesome what God does through yielded vessels, isn't it? And can you say to all of our viewers that their love gifts work miracles that are indescribable? That's not an exaggeration, is it?

Lisa: It is not an exaggeration at all. As a matter of fact, the people in the lands where we've got to go, they actually thought we were angels because of the extent of the love that you brought over there. And I have witnessed it in Cambodia. I have witnessed it in

India. I have witnessed it in Thailand. We've witnessed it in Africa.

It isn't just giving them a piece of food or a drink, it is giving them life. And I understand that food and drink give life, but I'm talking about life that is transformative. And our relationship with you guys has transformed how we did life in ministry, how we did marriage, and how we raised up our children. You actually have given our family an idea around a generosity culture.

I still remember the first time I ever watched *LIFE Today* was when I was nursing Alexander and it was Betty and Ann and they were talking to a mother in Africa. She had carried her baby for days and by the time she had gotten there it was too late. The baby couldn't even receive nourishment. I was breastfeeding my son and I saw this mother in Africa, her breasts were completely empty, and that child died -- died! And all I know is a well came out of my spirit and at that moment I looked at my second son, Austin and I said, "You are potty training. I need your diaper money." And I know that sounds...

[Laughter]

But I was so thrilled that I could partner with you guys. I'd never met you at the time. I just took that \$25 a month and I knew that you would take it and that you would break it in like loaves and fishes and it would go all over. I never dreamed -- I never dreamed when I sowed that I would ever be on a show. I never dreamed when I sowed that I would ever get to go overseas. But I can tell with complete assurance that every single seed we have ever sown into *LIFE Today* has been well tended and come back in our own lives in multiplied ways.

James: Do you appreciate just her testimony? Because she's talking about, she's really -- listen, she is talking about you. That really is the truth. We came with a broken heart. The missionaries said, "Please go back and ask so we don't just live here with a broken heart and empty hands." And we came back and told you. We didn't know if you'd

help but you reached out and put God's arms around a broken world.

I want you to listen to a truly anointed person just like Lisa is. I want you to listen to Sheila. And listen to God speak through her. How I thank God for Sheila. Thank God for the missionaries. But just listen to what she is sharing with you please! Because you really are the answer. You are the miracle that people rightly long for! You are that miracle right now that Lisa's talked about. Watch closely and prayerfully.

On the mission field:

Announcer: The birth of a child is one of the most transcendent moments in time. The miracle of life! Tiny hands and feet. We instinctively see they're created in the image of God. And over time they grow into the young men and women they were designed to be. At least that's every parent's hope and prayer.

Sheila: I don't know if you can see... Darling, I don't want to touch it. I don't want to hurt you. But can you see her skin? Her skin has begun to literally peel off her body.

Announcer: Throughout Africa terrible events like famine and drought have decimated entire communities and left many with little or no food. The devastating effects of severe food shortages are most visible in the children.

Sheila: With severe malnutrition the first organ to shut down is the skin. It is as if all the reserves go to try and protect what's left inside.

James and Betty, you have sat here over and over and over through the years faithfully serving and feeding millions, but I know you see this. This mom who is desperate, like any mom would be, to save the life of her precious child had to travel 30 kilometers to get here. But it is why mission feeding matters so much. We talk about life where it is needed most. Where it is needed most is in the villages where these darling children live. Because this mom shouldn't have to travel 30 kilometers with a desperately sick little

lamb. They need our help and they need it now.

End of video

In the studio:

James: When Sheila's saying they travel, that wasn't by vehicle. They walked. Many of them are weak and they come with the hope that my baby, my child will live -- and they have by the millions. You've got to see them as one at a time though. I'm just trying to tell you the effectiveness of your love that's saved millions of children like that.

And Sheila's just such a treasure. But you're the greater treasure. That's what the missionaries say. I used to go around and say the missionaries are the greatest Christians I've ever met. And the missionaries said, "No, no, we're not! The people that keep us here, they're the greatest Christians." And you are!

Would you right now help us get God's arms around hundreds of thousands of little children that we've got located and ready? I was looking, Betty, at us when we were so young. My hair was dark, 30 years ago we started. We're still young.

Betty: Mine hasn't changed at all.

[Laughter]

James: I see us there with those precious kids and I'm thinking, really, it's all happened because of you. You can say, well, it is the missionaries. The missionaries made it clear to us. They said, "If just came over here and stayed with us, James, and we don't have help, we'd just all be here with broken hearts. Why don't you go back and see if you can get us help?" We came back and started selling stuff.

And we started but we were stunned by the yielded vessels watching us on television that saw the need that love can meet. See I'm praying for love to be poured out on all the

needs in the United States and Canada and Australia and the U.K. and all over the world! Because you never really assist a person in need without a compassion connection. You can't target somebody's money at it. You can't just put government resources -- you've got to be there with the love of God. And these are anointed, separated, called by God vessels that just release this transforming power and you make it possible! You support it.

Would you get your bankcard? Use it like a check. Go online, call the number that's there as a prayer line always and make the gift God put on your heart to make. \$30, \$50, \$100, we can feed three, five, or 10 children. If you can possibly help us feed ten please do it. If you could give \$1,000 and feed 100, please do it. Whatever you can do, you make that gift.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you. But you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life! Thank you so much for doing it.

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: Weren't you blessed by what Lisa shared? I mean everything she shared, and about the missions, because that's what you do -- that's what God's love does through you. And we're strong in him.

This is a phenomenal book. I think frankly, everything Lisa does is so anointed of God that I wish it would be in the hands and hearts of everybody. You help us give hope to those children and those mothers and you say, "Would you mind sending us Lisa's book, *Strong?*" You better believe we will, to say thank you, along with the other gifts.

Would you join me and Betty in saying a big thanks to Lisa Bevere? Lisa, we love you!

[Cheers & Applause]

Thank all of you. Thank you for watching. Thanks for sharing life. Thank you so much!