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Week 27: WFL

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

Bob Goff

Sheila: Hey! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Sheila Walsh here with Randy Robison. I'm really excited about today's program. I read a book called *Love Does* quite some time ago, and honestly, it was one of those books that's life altering. It shifts... It was like I felt like I had my eyes washed a second time. So I'm very excited to welcome our guest today, the one and only Bob Goff with *Dream Big*! Welcome!

Bob: Hey! Thanks so much. I'm so glad to be with you guys. Thanks for making time to just visit a little bit.

Randy: Oh yeah! This is great. We love the technology so we can have you here, I don't know, a lot more often because you don't have to fly all the way from San Diego to be with us.

Bob: Exactly! I should set up my own little T.S.A. I could wait for an hour. Yeah, go through the scanner. Sweet Maria Goff these days is like pretty anxious. We don't talk about viruses and all that. She talks about glitter. So we say, "Don't get the glitter on you." It's like living with Dr. Fauci. We just don't want to get the glitter on us.

Randy: What does that look like practically? If you lived with glitter, what would it look like for the rest of us?

Bob: What we're doing is this idea of being socially apart but what if we went a mile deep with our relationships with some of the questions we ask. This is just a beautiful

time to reset; to think about why you're doing what you're doing. What do you want and what are you going to do about it?

Sheila: That's why I think, Bob, your book is a perfect time because the title of your new book is *Dream Big*. I would think that during a time of crisis a lot people are shrinking in as opposed to dreaming big. What do you have to say to that?

Bob: Yeah! I think there is a lot of people who are just kind of confronted with your own insecurities and fears. I think half the people that are watching right now are afraid they'll lose their job. The other half is afraid they'll keep it.

[Laughter]

But this is the chance to say, what is an ambition? What is something you want to do? I've got a set of bagpipes upstairs and I don't want to get a kilt but I'm like, I'm speaking your language, Sheila. But I'm not going to get a kilt and I'm not going to paint half my face blue but I've been curious about this and I just think whether your ambition is big and lofty like going to the ends of the earth or if it's even more practical like going to ends of your street and just saying, what can I do for the people that God's put within reach? And for each of us it will be different.

I just want to do courageous things. And for each of us, God doesn't grade it on a curve. He just says, do what's courageous for you.

Randy: I have a serious question, but you sort of missed my cue. I was trying to set you up for some glitter, a display. Is there anything you can do to...?

Bob: Right here, baby, boom! Does this, oh! It's not going off! I always have at hand confetti cannons. Didn't work. It's probably going to go off in the middle of the night.

[Laughter]

Randy: That will work.

Bob: I think it will be awesome. I think living lives filled with wonder and surprise and anticipation. I'm on the Enneagram, that personality test, I'm a flaming seven, like the enthusiast. So I tend to have my eyes towards the horizon. But I think what our faith talks about doing is also being very aware and very present where you are. So I think that's for each of us, we're navigating how to look toward this hope for the future but be very aware and present right now. I think that's where some of our dreams are born. They're just an awareness of who we are, where we are, and what we want.

Randy: That's true. But you know, you mentioned the Enneagram which I find very interesting because it is easy for you guys, you're sevens, my daughter's like that, you dream, you just naturally dream and your dreams never die. But for a lot of other people whose personalities aren't quite so optimistic and hopeful, when they look at the circumstances that they face, especially in the year 2020, they may be thinking, how can my dream possibly have any chance at this point? What do you say to people who have a hard time believing that their dreams aren't completely dead?

Bob: Yeah. First of all, I just want to empathize with that. That is a really lonely feeling where you feel like you're all alone in your dream. Like you've had this ambition, it was a relationship that didn't work, it was an ambition for a career that didn't happen, maybe a place you wanted to live that you couldn't. And so I just want to empathize and say, that is not lost on Jesus. But he also enters in, that Immanuel, God with us. He just says, "I'm going to be with you." Whether you're like Tigger, like me bouncing off the walls or if you're like sweet Maria Goff who is very present in the moment. She's just like... she is not a seven. She thinks having me in the room is a lot of people.

[Laughter]

But just delight in who God made you to be.

So that's where the good stuff happens where we just ask, like Jesus to the blind guy, what do you want? And it wasn't because Jesus was confused. I think he wanted to know if that guy... do you know what you want? So for each person listening, I would just say, like, do you know what you want? And don't give me a Sunday school answer. Don't say because you're supposed to want this. Just get real about it and to say, can you want God more than that? Can you want God more than the relationship that you lost or the economic headwinds that you're facing to say, is there something I can learn in this? And so I don't want to gloss over that in the enthusiasm but to also be joyful, to be who God made you to be.

Do you know what I wanted? It wasn't high on the list but kind of low, a 1962 Jeep Willys, and one just totally thrashed. It came up for sale. This thing, it's about older than me. And this Jeep, the thing about it, it can climb hills like a Billy goat. Here's the problem, no brakes.

[Laughter]

Sheila: That's a problem!

Bob: So for a seven, I'm like, yeah! This is like a ticket to a roller coaster every time and you never know what tree you're going to hit. But for other people, this could be a time to just pump the brakes a little bit. You don't want to be all gas and no brakes. That's my take away. You don't want to be just like go, go, go. And earth threw the entire sock drawer, which was your life, on the floor, six weeks ago. And so now we get to match the socks. We can say, if I'm a new creation, what's new Bob look like? What's my big ambition? How am I going to get there?

Sheila: Bob, I wanted to ask you, why do you think so many of us have a hard time believing that God is crazy about us?

Bob: I think it would be these limiting beliefs, kind of like an underlying thing that if you see a role of a father as giving correction constantly. My dad loved me a lot, still does. He's 91 and lives right next door. He taught me that rattlesnakes, what they do to get out of the sun they go underneath logs. So when you get to a log you need to jump way out from away the log, or it will bite you. I think he did this because he really loved me, and he didn't want me to be bit by a rattle snake. Or he didn't want to suck the venom out of my calf. But one of the things that he did is inadvertently instill a fear of me, every time a see a log, do you know what I think? There's a rattle snake underneath that log. So it's this limiting belief.

It's the thing, maybe your parents broke up when you were young and you started thinking, eventually, if I give myself away to somebody wholly, they'll leave me. And you just need to figure out what that thing is so that you can do it. Once you understand it, then we can fix it. We can't just say, I'm going to bring it. They say in Ephesians to make your request known to God. It's not because he's confused about it, I think it's making it known to yourself so you can make it known to him and you can find some words to describe it.

Randy: A lot of us, some personality types, myself included, we have a hard time when we see those obstacles right in front of us because we're like, okay, I know what I should think and what I should believe and what I should dream but there is this very real thing right there and I don't see a way around it. What are some of the, maybe the tools or thoughts or processes we can go through to circumvent or get over or get around these obstacles?

Bob: We had a... We live way out in the bush for about a quarter of the year. Our nearest neighbor is 10,000 square miles away. Isn't that crazy? We are just, we make our electricity off a glacier, and we grow our own food. We're like hippies without all the tie-died T-shirts. This rock fell down on this... There are no roads for 100 miles, but I had built a road and a huge rock landed on this thing. Well, I tried to get around the rock, but I couldn't get around the rock. I tried to get over the rock and I couldn't get over the

rock. So I blew the rock up.

[Laughter]

Randy: Where was this?

Bob: The rock was the size of a school bus. It was just in the way. Here's my point. I think you need to take a look at it but not think that God has thrown this big obstacle. I think some people talk a lot about open doors and closed doors. You've had an ambition for 20 years. You've always wanted to practice medicine, whatever it was, this is your ambition, and then you apply and somebody says no, for like this job that you wanted for 20 years. You apply and you get a "No." I don't think that God shut the door. I think Billy said, "No." I think that's the entire transaction right there. And so I would go around it, over it, or -- I'm not saying blow up Billy but I'm saying what you need to do is try to figure out a way to do this. To say, God has put something unique in your heart, let's go for it. And if you feel a roadblock here, I'm saying, what can we build?

A lot of the things that I wanted the most, I didn't get and I'm so glad I didn't get it. Boy, does that resonate for you guys? The things you wanted the most, it was like somebody, it was high school sweetheart, it was a car or whatever and then you, you're just so grateful you didn't get it or for those things that you did get, you go, "Actually, I didn't want it that bad."

One of the things we need to understand about ourselves and our faith is I want to want things that are going to outlast me. I want to want things that are going to stick around a lot longer than my kind of transitory, if I was... On day one, if I said I wanted a horse, on day two, if I ain't got the horse, you know what I'd be saying on day three? What horse?

[Laughter]

I'd be off to the next thing. So I think God doesn't wave a bony finger at us but I think his

message to us throughout the scriptures is to want him. And so what I'm trying to do is remain undistracted by all these little things and to say, I just want Jesus.

Sheila: I remember in seminary in London when I was 19 getting dumped very brutally by this bloke. I had been heartbroken. And then I saw a photo of him last week and I was like, God, you are a merciful God. Yeah! You love me. How kind! That's a little mean.

One of the things in your book, Bob, though, that I found I really related to is your earliest memory of shame. I don't think I'll ever look at an eraser the same again. How did you overcome that?

Bob: Yeah, we were talking in this idea of kind of going down this cave that is our life and to see what's been written on the walls. Because for some of us, we had something written on them that's just not true. It could be something as innocent as there is a rattle snake under every log. It could be that you're not good enough, you're not smart enough, you're not bright enough, you're not beautiful enough, you're not handsome enough. And so what we do is I was talking about a pencil and then an eraser was created 200 years after the pencil was invented. And so I just think that is fascinating.

But here's the deal. The eraser is here, what can we erase? What can we say is no longer true about us or was never true? But it got written on the wall and we passed by that so much that we actually believed it was true. And what Jesus said is that we're his beloved, that's what's true. And if you're hearing another word, you're listening to this and you're hearing any word spoken over your shoulder, over your biggest screw up, it ain't Jesus talking. He calls beloved.

Sheila: I love that! That is huge! You say that if you're going to take big risks, you're going to face plant big, but you should always hear that spoken over your shoulder. That's beautiful!

Bob: Oh heck yeah! And then I'm not just putting a smiley face on these things. These

things where I actually, I felt at the time I was prevented and then like you with that bloke, you found out you were protected; right? You may say I'm out but really, a little bit later you'll stand back, you've written way more books than I'll ever write but one of the things about writing is that I never put a chapter title on until much later because the better titles come later.

So if you're listening and you feel like the chapter of this is, I'm all alone, just wait a little bit longer before you title this chapter in your life. Let Jesus fill this in; come up with a better title.

Randy: That's true. One thing that you talk about that I kind of related to, and this probably says odd things about me, but you said there is a difference between dreaming and sleepwalking. I know that I feel like so many times I'm just kind of going through life doing the routine and I'm not really dreaming but I'm not really awake. What is the difference between pursuing a dream and kind of sleepwalking it?

Bob: You'll know, one thing is you'll be taking notes. Like I take notes on everything. This is like, this is one hour of my life. I'm taking notes on things. Things that you said, I want the same of that bloke that dumped you foolishly. Like one of the things I want to do is take notes. And if we live engaged lives, we won't be distracted by all the other things.

Because here's the deal, Satan doesn't need to destroy us, he just needs to distract us. I just don't want to be giving in to it. We've got these crazy iPhones. They're constantly, it wouldn't be the first time an apple did us in. But this whole idea of just live lives undistracted, to know what you want, why you want it. And then when there are things that happen along the way, where you realize oh my gosh, I've actually kind of just cruised through this dinner without actually, we were adjacent, we were in proximity to one another, but we weren't fully present. And you can do that.

What if you do this if you're tempted. Let's say you have a career and you work during

the day and you come home and change your clothes when you walk in the door and then when you are tempted to go back and check this for messages, I want you to go and put a suit and tie on and then go check your messages. Because you'll be clear to yourself. Everybody else knows you're back at work. You'll know you're back at work. And then you can put it down and get back in your sweats and go about your day.

But if we made it that obvious to us, that we're like off track or deviating, because our attention is distracted. If I was talking to you but I'm looking over here. You'd be what the heck? You'd be like...

[Laughter]

I think that's Paul to us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and creator. If you want to get distracted by something, you go suit up. Get distracted and then you come back and get your eyes back fixed on Jesus.

Randy: One more question and this is perhaps the toughest one for people. When we *Dream Big*, how do we know the difference between our dreams and God's dreams for us.

Bob: Oh, I'm telling you! Here's the deal, you check for return addresses. You don't need like, somebody was saying a plan for my life like it was a treasure map, somehow in the back pocket of Jesus. In Matthew 25, hungry people, thirsty people, sick people, strange people, naked people, people in jail. James, like widows and orphans. There's your plan. So literally, it is hard to tell when people are hungry, but you can always tell if they're naked.

I would say what I would try to do is actually do this. Ask people, are you hungry? Give them a pie. Give them a sandwich, give them something... Say are you thirsty? Like I have little water bottles with me everywhere. I say, are you thirsty and I give them a water bottle. So if we start doing these things, James 1:22, don't just be hearers of this

stuff and get distracted but do what it says.

So there's your starting point, Matthew 25, just go right down the list and don't keep track because your left hand and your right hand aren't supposed to know what they're doing, but that's a great guide.

Sheila: What I love about that is then life is ministry, it is not something we do on special occasions. It is 24/7.

Bob: Yeah! And the crazy part is that you'll find what you're looking for. I had wanted this '62 Jeep for the longest time. As soon as I decided I wanted one, it felt like every third car going by me was a 1962 Jeep because you'd start seeing what you're looking for. And if you're looking for Jesus, even in some people that are really difficult, and there are difficult people everywhere. And here's the crazy part, listeners, you're one of them.

[Laughter]

I'm one of them. We're all a little less lovely than we'd like to think we are, sometimes. But as our empathy and our compassion grows for them, as we get our eyes fixed on Jesus and get about the stuff that he said was important to him, these will be the conversations we'll have for eternity. We'll just start seeing the opportunities.

Randy: Yeah. And you know what? Sheila, I know some people that are thirsty. Have you seen some recently?

Sheila: Yeah, absolutely! On my recent trip in Africa we found some people who are desperate for some clean water. So now we're going to show you how you can do what Bob's been talking about and we're going to give some clean water to some thirsty people in Jesus' name.

On the mission field:

Open Captions:

Zambia: How to get water.

Sheila: So they walk all this way, and this is what they come to. Wow!

Ralph: Oh wow! Look at the flies and all. That's just nasty. That is so filthy.

Sheila: It's so hard. I mean watching them pull this up knowing that potentially this could make them so sick. You just want to...

Ralph: She drinks that.

Sheila: But they're thirsty. It's all they've got. The thing that I find horrifying, honestly, Ralph is not one of these children has ever had a glass of clean water. Not one in their whole life! It's wrong! It's just wrong!

Ralph: It breaks your heart. It's very dangerous, even deadly. We've heard stories of death.

Sheila: This is normal for these children. They have to do this 2-3 times every day. So this water, this contaminated water, they think this is normal. That's all they've ever known. But when we come in with *LIFE Today* and we drill a well, deep down, encase the well, suddenly, clean water will become their new normal.

I would never let my child drink water from this, and I don't want these children to do it anymore. Would you help us drill a well so that for the first time in their life they have a new normal, fresh clean water? But we need your help and the need is urgent, we need your help now.

End of video

In the studio:

Sheila: I cannot even begin to tell you how that Zambia trip has impacted my life. I've been on lots of our missions trips before and every one of them, I mean every single one of them has left a mark in my heart. But somehow this trip, because I spent so much time with moms and their children, and the fact that that's all they have. And some of these women, they get up at 4:00 in the morning to get in line to get that horrible water. Because it's a well that they dig themselves, it doesn't go very deep and there is a limit to the amount of water, so if you're seventh in line or something, even though you got up at four in the morning and walked for miles, by the time it gets to you, there is none left and you have to wait for hours until it fills up again.

To think that that's the only... And they're just like us. That's the thing that blew me away on this last trip. It's not like these are some different kinds of people. They are moms like you and like me. Or maybe you're a grandmother or maybe you're a father and you look at that and you think, there is no way I would let my child drink that. But they don't have any choice.

But here's the deal, we do. I'll never forget seeing the water coming out of that. They go deep and deep and deep until the water is crystal clear and the joy in the children's faces. We promised them that we will come back, and we will tell their story. So we need you to help us. And honestly, Randy, it is very doable. It is not like we're asking for something that is impossible.

Randy: Oh no! It is so possible. In fact, let me just break down some of the numbers so you can see what kind of impact you can have right now today because the average well costs about \$4,800 to drill it and make it functional and encase it and make it suitable where it is going last for most people, a lifetime. When you break that down, and obviously, if you can give \$4800 to give a well, please, please do it. You will change people's lives forever all in the name of Jesus. So do it.

If you can partner with three others so \$1200, you know, four of you doing that, you'll drill a well. But even if you can only give \$48, do you know how many people that will provide clean drinking water for for a lifetime? Ten people! \$48 -- 10 people. \$144 -- 30 people! I give those numbers to you just to illustrate how doing something means so much. Very little can change someone's life forever.

You know 2020 has been a rough year. I think one of the good things to come out of it may be that we see how we can each play a part in helping others in need. Just by doing a little bit we can have a huge impact for good. I'm asking you to have that good impact in the name of Jesus today. Go online, go to the phone, and make the best gift you can. And when you join us in Water for LIFE, you will be giving Water for LIFE.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Dirty, diseased filled water! How desperate would a mother need to be to consider giving this contaminated substance to her child? For many mothers and their families living in extreme poverties, this is their only choice.

With your help, they won't have to make this choice ever again. Mission Water for Life provides clean disease-free water for thousands of children and their families, giving them a life free from the fear of death.

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish the final 150 water wells this year. Your gift of \$48 will help provide water for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15. \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime. And a gift of \$4,800 will help sponsor a complete well, serving up to 1,000 people.

With your gift we'll send you Today is a Good Day, seasonal devotional sets, broken out into the four seasons of the year. This beautiful set features a daily scripture, inspirational thoughts, and a place for you to journal your own thoughts, prayers and insights from God's word.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the leather-bound life-giving Proverbs Journal, filled with wisdom and daily encouragement from Proverbs, including lined pages for your personal notes.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request “A Mother’s Strength” bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of video

In the studio:

Randy: Please do go to the phones. Go online right now. Give the best gift you can. We really can make a difference in these people's lives when we just give them some fresh clean water.

Sheila, there is something we would like to give people today, just today, when they'll support Water for LIFE.

Sheila: Ta-da! For any gift at all, we're going to send you *Dream Big*, Bob's new book. "Know what you want, why you want it, and what you're going to do about it." Bob, thank you so much for being our guest on *LIFE Today*. We love you!

Bob: What a treat to be with both of you. God bless you and your listeners. Just have them keep you safe and thriving.

Sheila: Thank you. And sweet Marie too. Thanks for being with us today. We'll see you next time on *LIFE Today*!

Randy: Bye-bye!