

2/15/21

Week 8: WFL

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

Mark Batterson #2

RANDY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Randy Robison. Sheila is here with me always.

SHEILA: Hey, everybody!

RANDY: You know what? We had a guest on recently who was so inspirational that we wanted to have him back because Mark Batterson has a new book called *Win the Day*. Let me tell you, the things in this book, the principles for success, and less stress, and they are godly principles that are so helpful and they're just helping people, so we wanted to come back and get into this a little more. Mark, great do you have back on *LIFE Today*!

MARK: Well, thanks so much. It's good to be back. When someone invites you one time that's honoring but the second time, hey! That's even more so. And so excited about continuing the conversation about winning the day.

SHEILA: It's interesting, Mark, because I told you when we talked a few weeks ago that the book has already begun to make a huge impact in my life. It's just these seven habits that I'd love for us to unpack a little bit. The first one is "Flip the script." What do you mean by "flip the script"?

MARK: Well, Sheila, if you want to change your life you have to change your story. So much of this is the idea that a lot of us are living the wrong story. And so sometimes that someone, a parent or a teacher or a coach maybe handed us the wrong script. That does happen. And so we've got to make sure. I like putting a hyphen in history; that God is

writing his-story through each one of us. And so we've got to understand the story that God is trying to write in us and through us. And so it really starts with flipping the script and making sure that you're living the right story.

SHEILA: I love that.

RANDY: Mark, I know you know this but one of the most powerful things in the Bible, and of Jesus himself, is this idea of redemption. I know a lot of people have this script and they're like yeah, I'd flip it but it is all bad back there. All these wasted years, what good can come out of it? Is there anything that we need to know about our past even if it is not good that can help us going forward in the future?

MARK: Yeah. The first thing I want to say is that everything in your past, even those things that were done to you, those things that maybe you would not have scripted yourself, God does not waste the past. Everything in our past can be preparation for something in our future.

Randy, I've walked through some situations. You don't pastor a church or live life as long as I have without having a few scars. In fact, I have a scar right down the middle of my abdomen because I almost died July 23rd, 2000; had ruptured intestines. It was -- I spent two days on a respirator. I should have died. It was the worst thing that has happened to me. But I would also say one of the best things that ever happened to me because I don't take life for granted.

Now listen, I had to go through surgeries and other surgeries, and it was a hard, hard year for me. But I don't take my wife or my kids for granted. I recognize that every day is a gift. Really, kind of at the heart of *Win the Day*, it starts with this idea that every day is the first day and last day of your life. Think about it. It never has been before, and it never will be again. So every day is this incredible gift.

And so those who are watching right now, you have walked through some tough

circumstances and you have some scars to show for it. Can I remind you that those scars are a reminder of where you have healed? And it's healed people who help heal other people. So I'm believing that for you.

SHEILA: The thing I love too, Mark is its very faith-building, your book, but it is also very honest and human. Because you talk about the fact that there are things that we are not going to understand, like your father-in-law's death. I love the fact that you keep a file of, "don't know the answer to this one yet" but you're not pretending it didn't happen.

MARK: Yeah. There are so many things, Sheila that are so far past my pay grade. Last year is a good example of this; is it not? 2020 -- has anybody figured that out yet? We're in a new year and I still don't know how to title that chapter.

So I've learned to just trust the heart of God and the plan of God. So when things happen in my life that are particularly difficult, as you mentioned, I put it in this Deuteronomy 29:29 file. And it says that the revealed things belong to us, but the secret things belong to God. And there are some things that won't make sense until we get to the other side of this space-time continuum that the Bible calls "heaven."

And the good news is this, I really do believe, Sheila that the day will come they we will certainly thank God for the prayers He answered, and He'll connect those dots in eternity. But I think we'll also thank Him for some of the prayers that He didn't answer. Why? Because we asked for the wrong reasons or at the wrong time. And so much of it goes back to "Lean not on your own understanding, trust in the Lord with all of your heart and he will direct your paths."

RANDY: Coming out of such a time of uncertainty, instability, I mean we still don't know what the future holds -- we just don't. It's natural I think for people to think, I better play it safe. But you say that playing it safe is risky. What do you mean by that?

MARK: Well, Randy, I immediately think of this parable of the talents where this one

servant buries the talent in the ground and then gives back to his master the same talent that he buried. So he broke even. Listen. In some economies, that's not half bad. You're just giving back what you got.

Isn't it interesting that Jesus calls him "wicked"? Now that seems like there is a part of me that has a visceral reaction to that like, really? But here's what I believe. I believe that potential is God's gift to us and what we do with it is then our gift back to God. And so God doesn't want us to bury our talent in the ground, he wants us to multiply it for his kingdom purposes. And the only way to do that is to take some risks along the way.

I define *faith* as taking the first step before God reveals the second step. I think sometimes we want God to give us that One Year Plan, God. But that usually isn't the way it works; usually he gives us about one day of revelation. And really, at the heart of this idea of *Win the Day* is this manna miracle. Do you remember this? Where God gives them enough for one day at a time.

I think sometimes we want more revelation so we can trust him less. But God loves us too much to do that. And so he puts us in this position where he gives us just enough, just in time. Because at the end of the day it is not about accomplishing your goals, it is about who you become in the process and the relationship that you cultivate with your Heavenly Father as you take some of those risks.

SHEILA: We touched on the fact that 2020 was just -- none of us thought that was a good idea. But now in this brand-new year, I love, and I can't remember where you have it but it is an Albert Einstein quote, the one about how we view life. Would you share that with us? Because I love that! I wrote it in the back of my Bible.

MARK: Yeah, it is one of my favorites. Einstein said there are only two ways to live your life. One is as if everything is a miracle and the other is as if nothing is. And so I just have chosen to live my life as if everything is a miracle.

And Sheila, right now we're on a planet that is traveling 66,000 miles per hour through space. It is spinning around its axis at 1,000 miles per hour. And we're not even dizzy! It feels like we're sitting still. I don't know anybody that at the end of the day then hits their knees and says, Lord, thanks for keeping us in orbit. And I wasn't sure we were going to make the full turn today, but you did it again. Like no one prays that way! But these are the big miracles.

So here's what I'm getting at. We already trust God for the big things like keeping us in orbit, now we need to trust him for the little things, which honestly is about everything else.

SHEILA: Right!

RANDY: It is. One of those little things that I think we miss a lot of times are moments. They can be seemingly small, but you say that life isn't measured so much in minutes, like we couldn't think of it, but it is actually measured in moments. What sort of moments are you thinking of?

MARK: Randy, I love it! That's habit number six: Wind the clock. It is this idea of living your life in a way where... Here's how I would put it: Choose adventure. Don't accumulate possessions, accumulate experiences. And more specifically, accumulate those experiences that come with living by faith and following Christ. And what happens is you begin to experience and identify some of those moments.

Now is it okay if I push that envelope a little bit? Because I think there are a lot of people that have goals that oh, they would love to go after them. Someday it would be great if I could do this or that or the other thing. I want to push a little bit right here and say if you wait until you're ready, you're going to be waiting the rest of your life. There is a moment where you've got to step out in faith and then watch God move.

I would also say this, you won't find time, you have to make time. One of the things that I

share in the book is this simple fact that the average person spends 142 minutes every day on social media. That represents 15 percent of our waking hours. So I have two thoughts right there. One, we better steward that because it is a stewardship issue. And two, do you know how many things you can accomplish if you did it for two hours and 22 minutes a day? Everybody could write a book in six months' time. You could train for a marathon and pull it off.

There are so many goals that you could go after if you redistributed some of that allotment of time. One of my favorite miracles, and it's counterintuitive because all of the miracles are so life-giving in the gospels but there is one, do you remember this? Where Jesus curses the barren fig tree? Why? Because it is not producing fruit.

Let me ask a pointed question. At the beginning of this year, is there anything in your life that's not producing the kind of fruit that you want? All of us, have a barren fig tree that we need to have the courage to curse and then redirect some of that time and energy into the things that God is really calling us to.

SHEILA: Your seventh habit: Seed the cloud. It kind of reminded me of that old Chinese proverb, the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago and the next best time is today. What do you mean by "seed the cloud"?

MARK: I love that, Sheila. That's so great! By the way, according to rabbinic tradition the first thing Noah did after getting this vision to build a very big boat, we remember this moment, the Lord told him to build a big boat. And according to rabbinic tradition, the first thing he did was plant trees. Because he knew that it would take about 40 years for those trees to mature and God prescribed a certain type of wood and he knew it would take a lot of planks to build that boat.

And so those who are watching right now, don't get overwhelmed by the outcome. You can't even control it. Just focus on the input. We plant and water and God gives the increase. So it is not about going out and running that triathlon, it is about doing a few

laps in the pool, and maybe a few laps around the block. It is about doing the things day in and day out that are going to add up over time, and eventually, not just seed the ground but seed the clouds.

Sheila, you know a lot of history and science so there is a little bit of science behind that that there is a way. We'll tease those who are watching with the story but there is some fun science behind it that you can be a rainmaker and there is a way to seed the clouds and actually change the meteorology around us. And we'll maybe leave it at that.

RANDY: We can tease them, and we'll tell you how to get the book in just a minute. But there is one thing that I want to kind of go back to. We talked about this a little bit in the last program but the idea of we want to see the supernatural in our lives. I think every believer watching is like yeah, I just want more supernatural God in my life. You talk about God brings the super, but we have to do the natural. And throughout scripture there is the if/then kind of construct from the old covenant into the New Testament. God says, "Draw near to me and I'll draw near to you." There is definitely a partnership going on. As we wrap up talking how to *Win the Day*, how important is it that we realize that God's really kind of waiting on us oftentimes to just do a little bit so that he can do a lot.

MARK: Yeah. Randy, now we're wading into some interesting theological waters. And speaking of, imagine staring at this Jordan River. You're a stone's throw from the Promised Land. You're in Joshua three, and this is the moment you've been dreaming for for hundreds of years. What does God tell the priest to do? He tells them to go and step into the river. Now I'm going to be honest. I want God to part the river before I step into it because otherwise my shoes are going to get all wet. But so often we're waiting for God to move and God is waiting for us to take that step of faith.

So the way that I think of it, and this is actually a kind of theology that comes right out of Joshua three, God says, "Consecrate yourself for tomorrow I will do amazing things among you." We want to do amazing things for God but that's not our job. God is the one who does amazing things for us. Our job is to consecrate ourselves day in and day out. If

we do that, here's what I believe, I believe that if we do the right thing day in and day out, God is going to show up and show off. I think often we get stuck at these Jordan River moments.

And so my exhortation is would you have the faith in this New Year to step into that river? Well, what does that mean? Well, it could be as simple as making the phone call that you know you need to make but you haven't made it. Or applying for that program or that position that's kind of the dream but you're almost afraid to do it because you're afraid you might experience rejection, or it might not happen. Listen, you can't control the outcome, but you can control the input.

I think I would share one last thought. I live really by this idea that we've got to pray like it depends on God, and work like it depends on us. And it's not either or, it really is both/and. And if we do the natural, I've seen this so many times in my life, God will show up and do the super.

SHEILA: Okay, so I know by now you want this book! And we're going to tell you how to get it. But there are a lot of people in the world where if they step into the river, they discover they're in some pretty contaminated water. And here at *LIFE*, we're determined to change that. So please watch this and then we'll tell you how to get a hold of Mark's book.

On the mission field:

RALPH: Imagine living in a village where people are dying on a regular basis all because of the water.

Is this a water source for the village?

>> Yes. That's the water source for the village.

RALPH: And they drink that?

>> Yeah, they do!

RALPH: What do you see in this cup? What we don't see is what should really alarm us. All types of germs and diseases are in this one little cup of water. We've heard countless stories already of how many people have lost children from drinking this water.

Open Captions:

>> Unclean water is killing the people of our village.

>> The children say they are concerned about the dirty water, but they have no choice.

>> Families are dying because of this unclean water. People are disappearing. Many homes are closing.

>> Every day, we bury kids who have died because of this water. The first was my ten-year old boy. Then I lost my daughter, Francine. She was just six years old.

RALPH: They have no other choice. They have no choice then to drink this germ-infested water. We have a choice, and we can drill a well in this very village. We can drill down and bring clean beautiful water that will bring life to this village. We can stop the deaths. We can stop the burials. We can stop the tears and bring beautiful clean water to this village who desperately need a touch of God's love.

In the studio:

RANDY: When we look at Water for LIFE, Sheila, the thing that really inspires me is when I see the smile on a child's face when they see that clean water.

SHEILA: Honestly, Randy, the thing that touches me is the relief in the eyes of the

mother. I remember so clearly my last Water for LIFE trip. I had no idea. I knew that there was a lack of clean water, I just didn't realize how... these women are in villages where there is nothing for miles. So the only hope is for one of those hand-dug wells.

And I walked with these moms and with their children as they lowered their buckets and pulled up the dirtiest water I've ever seen in my life. Honestly, I wouldn't let my dogs drink that water! Yet it's all they had for their children. And sometimes these women, they get up at 4:00 in the morning to get in line at the hand-dug well before it runs out. And they know there is a possibility that the very thing they're giving hopefully to save their child's life could be the very thing that's going to take their child's life. But you and I can change that, Randy.

RANDY: Absolutely! Recently, I was doing an interview and afterwards the gentleman I was speaking to said, "My mother, she gave a well. Is that the right way to say it?" I said, "That is absolutely the right way to say it."

Because I've seen what that does and what a huge gift that is in a community when you go into some remote place, Sheila, I know you've been there too. You're in this remote place and there's this water well out in the middle of nowhere -- but then there are people around it. Why? Because water is life. That's why we call it Water for LIFE.

Maybe you can't give an entire well, maybe you can. An average well is \$4,800. If you can do that, God bless you. Give a well, you will be giving life. For many of you, you need to partner with other people. \$48 will help provide a well that will service for a lifetime an average of ten people. That's sort of how it breaks down. So you can kind of picture that in your mind. Maybe your gift of \$144 will provide a well for 30 people.

When we go in with these wells, they provide clean drinking water for a large group of people. It actually changes the landscape of the people and what goes on there. You bring life into a desperate situation because it's really, really bad.

The water that's contaminated is wreaking havoc and we come in and we say, "In Jesus' name we give you clean drinking water. Come and drink!" And it changes lives -- it saves lives. I'm inviting you to be a part of that right now. Go to the phone, go online. Request Mark Batterson's book today. If you want it, we'll gladly send it to you. And make the best gift that you can.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Dirty disease-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 poverty, this is their only choice.

But 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 350 water wells this year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide ten. \$72 will provide for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift, we'll send you *Speak Your Name* devotions and declarations on the reality of Jesus. Filled with stunning imagery, these 40 encouraging devotions by Laney Rene serve as a reminder of the power of Jesus' name.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "Be Refreshed" pitcher. This beautiful ceramic pitcher is decorated with Proverbs 11:25 and is sure to make a lovely addition to your table or home.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our brand-new, inspiring bronze sculpture, "Divine Servant."

Please call, write or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio:

RANDY: I hope you are going to the phone or going online right now. You can change people's lives through Water for LIFE. And Sheila, I know if they will ask for this book today, they can get *Win the Day* and it will change our viewers' lives.

SHEILA: Trust me, you want this book! Mark, thanks so much for coming and the visiting with us one more time here on *LIFE Today*.

MARK: It is always a joy and privilege! And excited about what this New Year is going to bring.

SHEILA: Me too. Just remember, that we love you here at *LIFE Today*. Please join us next time. For Randy, I'm Sheila, we'll see you!