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**Week 14: Rescue Life**

**Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh**

**Arden Bevere**

**RANDY:** Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy Robison. Sheila Walsh is with me as always. You know a few months ago I had the pleasure of speaking to the author of a book called *Redefined*. He's also by family virtue, friend of the ministry; he is the son of John and Lisa Bevere. And the other Beveres are just doing great works. And so we are excited, Sheila, I know you're excited too to have Arden Bevere join us on *LIFE Today*. Great to have you, Arden.

**ARDEN:** Guys, thank you so much for having me on. I'm excited to talk to you.

**RANDY:** We had a fun time on the live program, which is on, if you want to watch it, on all the social medias and stuff. We put the URL on the screen. But I thought it was interesting that you confront these labels. Because we sometimes put labels on ourselves, the world puts labels on us. But you're basically saying you know what? This is not the thing that's going to define us. So we need to redefine us according to God's word. Why was this message important to you?

**ARDEN:** Well, I think what we saw a lot in 2020 is that there is a lot of labels put on this generation. And I saw people react based off of those labels. I think as people of God we're not called to react, we're called to act to situations. So this book came not from a place of hey, like I want to write a book. It actually came from a place of my heart cry for my generation.

Five years ago I posted on my social media and I said hey, if you could describe the young adult generation in one word what would it be? And I remember that question

started such a massive response. I got all these things like broken, entitled, discouraged, disillusioned, fearful. And I was watching all these responses not from other generations but from my generation. I watched as I saw my generation really truly believing the labels that were being put on them.

I started thinking about this and as I looked through God's word, I saw that God never labels his people; he calls his people. And a label speaks to who you have been in the past or who you are right now, whereas a call from God speaks to the eternity that he's placed on your heart. And what I was seeing is that my generation is living confined to the things that they have done wrong or the things that they believe about themselves right now, not the future that they have.

So I remember God said take every single one of those words, write them down in your journal and write scripture that is contrary to what is being spoken about your generation and make that the prayer for your generation. So this is the book. I wrote this for my generation because I'm 26 years old. I have a passion for this generation, but we've watched as people have been saying, they've been carrying labels for 30 years, 30-40 years that their parents put on them, that friends put on them and they didn't even recognize it. And then they didn't realize what God had spoken over them in the calling that they had for them.

**SHEILA:** I have to think, Arden that 2020 just exacerbated all of that. Because I know like my son is 24, self-isolating in an apartment in Houston doing all his classes online. Why do you think so many of your generation are willing to receive labels like that? Do you think that comes from us, from the older generation?

**ARDEN:** I don't think so because I think there is that place of imparting it. But I think the major key is that I'm seeing a lot for my generation is we have a lot of information at our hands, and I think the problem I'm seeing is that we have traded information for transformation, and transformation comes from the Word of God. What I'm seeing is a lot of people are getting their identity based off of the most recent podcast they listen to or

their favorite pastor's Instagram post or the message that they heard rather than actually what the Word of God says.

Because what you see from Jesus when he's out in the 40 days of wilderness, the enemy comes and tempts him. Before he tempts him, he questions who he is. He says, "If you are truly the son of God..." And we went through an isolation period where we're out there in the middle of nowhere and the enemy has come for this generation and said, "If you are truly a son or a daughter of God then you'd be able to do this, you'd be this."

And I love Jesus' response. Jesus does not say like, hey, I know I'm Christ because my mom told me or because of this, or because I've done these things. No. He simply quotes back the Word of God to the enemy.

I think right now we have a lot of people that don't know what the Word of God says about them and I think that's why you're seeing so much confusion, so much just even changing the Word of God to fit a narrative that we've created for ourselves. Because I think the Word of God as we know it is that two-edged sword; that we know how to wield it. And so right now as our identities are under attack, we have to know what it says about us so we can stand firm.

**RANDY:** The thing that I noticed when I was looking through the book and when I was talking to you last time is that you are in tune with your generation, but these labels, it is every generation. You're applying them where you're seeing them but I'm like, there are things in here: Doubtful, broken, lost, fearful. These are things that every generation deals with. Which one of these kind of jumps out of you that you're saying people are going, yeah, that's me, regardless of their age?

**ARDEN:** I think the one that I've seen a lot is the regret one. Because a lot of people have regret from things they wished they would have done or didn't do. I think especially when you're in isolation you get in that time period where you're just in your thoughts, and I think a lot of those regrets have come alive. What I wanted to show is with all these

words, so I take ten chapters in the book and I address a different word.

And with all these words, they're not necessarily just the opposite of what the word is. And with regret I love how Second Corinthians talks about it. It says, "Regret from this world leads to death, but godly sorrow leads to life."

**SHEILA:** So good!

**ARDEN:** As a generation to use the Word of God, to be able to become awakened to the opportunity that regret presents in our life, where we get to be awakened to the life-giving response that we have. Whereas we use regret it will tie us--if we use it in an incorrect way--it will tie us to the past, it will tie us to all of our mistakes. So we've seen...

Like I said, I've seen people that have said, "I've carried regret for 30-40 years." And they're finally saying, "I'm getting set free. God has awakened me. He's opened up my eyes. He's led me to that place of like what David did."

David had that awakening moment to his regret with Bathsheba and he went into that time period of mourning. He came right out of it when he realized he couldn't do anything. And everyone was like, you're crazy! What are you doing? Why are you acting like this? He said, "When the child was alive, I could still do something." But he instantly became aware of his regret, changed his way, and was able to rule under this new leadership.

**SHEILA:** One of the chapters, in fact you tell a story, a very vulnerable story that speaks to biblical Christianity over cultural Christianity and it is in your chapter on doubt when you talk about praying for a young girl on a plane. Would you tell us that story?

**ARDEN:** So that was a very personal story, and this was actually the first time I got to share it. But I was actually on a plane from Colorado to Bethel, California, or Redding, California. We're going to Bethel, my dad was speaking at a conference. So we had

gotten on that last leg from San Francisco into Redding and there was a family that had gotten on. This family, they had a daughter that was obviously terminally ill. I remember, our team member who was with me, he like instantly jumped on the opportunity. He's like, "Can I pray for you?" And he jumped up and I loved that about him.

I remember we just started getting into a conversation. The guy just, he had actually listened to my Dad's messages for so long. They had been flying all the way from England all the way to Redding because they had this last-ditch hope. They wanted, they had been told by all the doctors you can't do anything. Just make her comfortable. They were like, "No, we're going to bring her to Redding. She is going to get healed."

So I remember in that moment when we got off the plane, God gave me a word for her. He gave me a song, even to give to her. All these things that had happened. And I watched as we continued to stay in prayer, stay fighting for this young girl. About five months later she passed away.

I remember the instant feelings that came to my life was that it was my fault, that I didn't pray hard enough, all these things. I watched as I began to allow doubt to stir up in my life. What I noticed from doubt is that doubt can be a really scary thing until we don't allow it to be. If we allow doubt just to continue to take our mind captive, it will continue to keep dragging us down or pulling us away from the heart of God. But if you take your doubt to God, he will show you a new aspect and facet of his creation or who he is through that doubt that you're experiencing.

So I remember I was sitting there, and I was kind of thinking about this story, or thinking about this young girl and thinking how wrong I was and how it was my fault. I remember God said go back to the song I gave you. That morning I had read about the story of Peter, where Peter was in prison and all these groups of believers were up in the upper room, or upstairs; and they were praying and praying that Peter would get set free from that prison. And he gets miraculously set free and he goes and knocks on the front door step. And the girl answers the door and thinks it is a ghost. And they're like, here you're

praying for this one thing up here. The miracle arrives on your door step and he said and yet you don't believe it is true.

God said, Arden, I have healed this girl. And he showed me actually the song that he gave me. It is a long story so the song he gave me actually so beautifully was a song written to all the people that were around her and showing that she was going into this season of healing. And he said she is with me. The miracle that you guys have been praying for is right there at your door step. He said you are not believing it to be true. I've been working ever since you met that girl and all through that seriousness.

So I think it is something that is really important because what I've seen from my generation is when we come against hard things like that doubt, I think when I was even younger, I was told that hey, if you have doubt that means you have weak or little to no faith so hide that doubt. And we tried to hide that doubt and it takes us further and further away from the heart of God.

**RANDY:** Being raised in a ministry family I can relate. Have you always just been on board or have you actually had to struggle with some things?

**ARDEN:** Yeah, no I was the only one of my brothers that actually completely walked away from God. I was in high school when I just walked away. I remember, I knew there was a God, but I just didn't care at that point in my life. I was like, I'm young. I've got more fun things to do than go to church on Sunday. And I remember I got big into drugs and alcohol. I was actually at a church with my dad after it had been about three years that I had walked away from Christ and my parents were so great. They just always showed this beautiful illustration of what it meant to follow Christ because, I think, a lot of times we can see things on a platform and then behind the stage you see something different. And they were so intentional with us boys that they lived out those messages.

So I remember I was in a small church in San Diego and my dad was preaching. And in that moment, the fear of God hit me. Like people say they got saved by the love God. No,

I got saved by the fear of God. I experienced that in a mighty, mighty way. And remember God just said, what are you doing? I did a complete 180 but I watched as God used that whole season of my life of when I walked away because I remember about a year later after that moment he said go back to those parties.

I was like, no! I'm not going back to those parties. I need to stay away from those parties.

He said no, all those people were you. I'm giving you an opportunity to be able to go and impact them. So he said go back to those parties.

So I went back to those parties. I would go back, I would clean up throw up. I would take care of people. I would encourage them. They would just be like, you're just judging. I'm like no, I'm just here to love. I want to be here for you guys.

And I remember one party I was at there was a young girl off in the corner. And I remember God just, I felt this tugging on my spirit. And actually, up until that point I really did not know the voice of God. Like there was in those moments but I know how to be led by the spirit. And I felt this tugging in my spirit and said, go talk to her. I was like no, I'm not going to go talk to her. That girl has got a bad reputation. I'm staying away. And just again, go talk to her. And I was like okay. So I went up to talk to her for about three minutes of awkward conversation. I just asked her, how are you doing? She broke down crying and just told me, "Hey, I told myself that after this party I was going to commit suicide if no one had shown any kind of love or compassion."

So I watched as God used that season in my life. But I talk about it within the chapter of "Lost" where he uses those seasons where you maybe are not so focused on him, he will always restore those seasons where we feel like we lost so much. We lost opportunities, we lost time, and God is the amazing miracle orchestrator that he is. He can always bring restoration to those things.

**SHEILA:** As I was thinking about you being here Arden, and reading the book, and then

thinking about our audience, one of the words that really jumped out to me was "offense." When I think of the number of us in the church community who carry an offense for years and the damage it does, you write beautifully to that.

**ARDEN:** So every single one of these chapters were really personal experiences. That one was very recent, like when I was in the writing process. Because I had thought, I grew up, my dad wrote *Bait of Satan*. I was like I will never deal with offense. I've got these principles in my mind. I remember I prayed the silly prayer of hey, God, give me a personal experience of offense. Like let a friend come to me and tell me like how they got set free so I can share it within this chapter.

I fell into the trap of offense just two months later and I was trapped in that for ten months. I remember during that whole period what I realize is that in that period I saw the people I was offended with as the complete enemy to me. Like they were completely against me and anyone who took their side was against me. What I'm seeing a lot from this generation is that we love like causes. We love to get on board. We want to fight against things. But we have to be careful as a generation that we do not fight against things and make other people the problem rather than, because they're our mission, rather than the actual problem. I think right now we have to be careful not become offended because the Bible talks about the blessing that comes when we become a generation that is unified.

You look at the Tower of Babel. There's that conversation that God had, and he said hey, because the people are united in language and mission, he said, whatever they do will be possible for them. And he had to scatter them because they were trying to make a name for themselves. But if we see a generation that gathers together on a righteous cause and under the name of God, I can only imagine what that generation can do.

I'm seeing right now is the enemy knows that and that's why he is trying to divide everyone. He's separating everyone on social media, making these arguments. You're never going to win an argument on social media. You're never going to change someone's



mind. You have to get out of this mind-set of seeing people as the problem and seeing them as the mission.

**RANDY:** Here's like the difficult part for me, for many people in general is that there are things that are offensive. We talk about sex trafficking. That's probably, if not the most offensive thing there's few that would rival it. But how do we deal with things that are rightly offensive? If we're righteous it's going to be offensive without carrying offense and being always offended and angry at the world and angry at the people that are doing the wrong things?

**ARDEN:** I think you've got to see the heart of God behind it. I think what we do is we always sit down at the table and we see the other person as the problem. I love how, I remember it was told to me this way, if you want to get through a conversation and really see resolution in something you disagree on, it's don't see the other person as the problem, see the problem as it's being in the middle of the table and you two are actually attacking and having conversation around that problem.

I love it because God talks about how he hates--like there are things that God hates. He talks about how he hates the things that unmake his people. So we have to have that same zeal for hating those things that are going to unmake the people of God, but we cannot have that offense or hardened heart. The Bible talks about how an offended brother is harder to win back than a fortified city. We have to make sure that we do not separate ourselves from the mission that we have been placed here on earth, but we do try to dismantle the things that would dismantle God's creation of his people.

**SHEILA:** As you can tell, you're going to want to order several copies of this book. I certainly am sending one to my son and to all his friends that he shared a room with at college. I'm going to tell you how you can get a hold of this book. But first of all, we would love you to watch what Randy has been talking about, this horrible, evil, demonic sin of sex trafficking. And then we're going to ask you if you will help us be the light in that darkness. Would you watch this?

**On the mission field:**

**ANNOUNCER:** Every person has hopes for the brightest future possible this world has to offer. Myra is no exception. Wanting out of a dysfunctional family, she was ready to move on with her life.

**Open Captions:**

>> I had been living by myself, jobless with no income. I knew an older man that promised me job training elsewhere.

**ANNOUNCER:** Deception is a powerful tool of sexual predators. They can promise desperate girls like Myra a better life and opportunities to make a lot of money. For Myra, this sounded too good to be true. A chance for that bright future she always dreamed of, or was it?

>> Well, many times you see young people, especially young girls. Sometimes they are with an older gentleman and sometimes these young girls carry nothing except a cellphone. And when they come to the border station just like this, they're looking for somebody here. They think they are maybe waiting for them because that's the information they received. But in reality, that's all a lie.

**ANNOUNCER:** Myra was moments away from being taken into bondage. A life where girls like her are abused, tortured, and forced into prostitution. But this is where our mission partners stepped in and intercepted Myra before she took that fatal step across the border and into the hands of a sex trafficker.

**Open Captions:**

>> I am fine now. I am well taken care of.

**ANNOUNCER:** Myra is one of the fortunate ones that we were able to reach. But there

are so many more just like her that need to be rescued. Together with your help, we can reach girls like Myra before they unwittingly become another victim of human trafficking.

### **End of video**

### **In the studio:**

**SHEILA:** Now this is one of the most important things that we do here at *LIFE*. Just watching that footage, I remember crawling over that dismantled place where so many people were living and the thing that struck me was how very vulnerable they are. The thing is the sex traffickers are very organized. It is a multibillion-dollar industry. And yet here's what I think; you know there is evil in this world but there is the church of Jesus Christ and as long as we are here it is our joyful privilege to step in in the name of Jesus and make a change, make a difference.

So many of these young girls think that nobody in the world cares about them; that they are forgotten. But it is our joy to say you are not forgotten. That you have a name. That God knows who you are. You have a future, and you have a hope.

But we need to do something now because it is happening right now. We work with the most amazing partners who are boots on the ground day in and day out, but we need your help. When I left on my last trip back home from Southeast Asia, I told our partners, I will come home, and I will tell your story. You're not alone out here. We have a whole family at *LIFE Today* who are going to get underneath you and hold up your arms, in Jesus' name.

But Randy, it takes all of us.

**RANDY:** It does. We're going to show you some of the numbers as to how this works just to illustrate that you can actually make a difference in someone's life. You can actually reach and rescue and restore a person's life. It costs on average \$128 to put

everything together to reach and rescue and restore a child. But we have some friends of the ministry that have come together and said, we will match that. We have a \$320,000 matching gift right now. That means your gift of \$64 will go all the way to help reach, rescue, and restore that child.

Will you do it? It's easy for us to think, if I'd have lived almost 200 years ago, I would have stood up against slavery. I would have been an abolitionist. Or if there was somebody in my neighborhood who was being trafficked, I would step in, I would do something. Well, here's your opportunity. Here's the chance to be what we want to be, which is someone to stand up for righteousness, to stand up for hope, and to say, no, that's not just wrong but we're going to be the agents of change in that person's life.

So as you watch these images, as you see these pictures of these young girls that are being trafficked, many of them held in horrifying, unimaginable circumstances, really. Things you see on TV but sometimes it's just too hard to believe. I'm asking you, will you do something about it? We've been doing this for many years, we know how to reach into these areas. We know how to rescue these victims! And with God's love and your support we will restore them.

Will you go to the phone? Will you go online? Will you make the best gift you can and know that when you support Rescue Life you are saving a life?

**Begin video clip:**

**Announcer:** Human trafficking is one of the world's darkest sources of criminal activity and money. As a result, children and young people are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators into a never-ending nightmare.

Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to warn children who are at the risk of being trafficked, rescue those already enslaved and restore young lives giving them a

future. With a generous \$320,000 matching gift now your gift of \$128 to help reach, rescue, or restore one child can be doubled to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help save one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 mission rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift today, we'll send you *Natural Remedies*. This beautifully illustrated and essential book explores ancient nutrition and the health benefits found in God's creation. A valuable reference with biblical insight to help you live your best life.

With your gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive the *Jesus My Refuge* journal and pen set filled with scriptures reminding you of God's covering in times of need. You'll also be reminded to pray for those seeking refuge from the horrors of human trafficking.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280, which will now help rescue 20 children! And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Divine Servant."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

**End of video**

**On the mission field:**

**LISA:** These children are absolutely beautiful. They are filled with families that love them. Now they're poor and just because they're poor, it puts them at terrible risk for being taken, for being kidnapped, for being trafficked and forced into labor or sex trafficking. And if they get taken, nobody is going to know where to find them, and people can't go after them and look for them. We don't want to see that happen.

Friends for LIFE is building a network with partners around the world so that children in these kinds of conditions don't get trafficked, don't get taken away from their families. Won't you partner with us? I want you to pray and ask God what he would have you do. I

want you to pick up your phone, I want you to go online, and I want you to be part of the Friends for LIFE to partner for rescue.

**End of video**

**In the studio:**

**RANDY:** I do hope that you will go online and go to the phone right now and make the best gift you can. You really can make a difference. And we would like to give you something special just today, Sheila.

**SHEILA:** If you are a millennial, if you have a millennial in your family, if you ever knew a millennial you need this book. It is so good. I'm going to tell you that we'll be happy to send it to you.

Honestly, Arden, we just want to thank you so much for your vulnerability in this book and yet for your wisdom. In Sons and Daughters, is that your website?

**ARDEN:** Yeah. So they can go to SonsAndDaughters.TV. That's the ministry with actually all of my brothers and sisters. So we'd love them to check it out.

**SHEILA:** SonsAndDaughters.TV. Okay. Awesome! Thanks for being with us. We will see you next time on *LIFE Today*!