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Week 41: Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Sheila Walsh #2

JAMES: You know, I'm 77 years old. Betty doesn't like me to say, well, we're the same age, or shortly after. Well, you're going to be 78 -- we'll be 78 here right away, and she will be right behind me. Here's the deal. In all of my life, I don't think I've ever seen such hatred where people just walk up to a stranger, hit them, beat them up, rob them, and say, "No law enforcement!" Have we lost our minds?

The enemy is trying to destroy wisdom and reason, coming to the table and reasoning together so that even though your sins are as scarlet, they can be as white as snow. God is inviting us to the greatest invitation in history, "I will give you life. I will give you light in the midst of the darkness."

Now listen closely to me. I am telling you, you are a special group of people who have chosen to watch *LIFE Today*. You'll be so glad you've watched this when Sheila Walsh is going to talk about having hope when there doesn't seem to be any reason for hope. Listen! I'm telling you. This is a phenomenal book. And what she's going to share is phenomenal. But let me tell you this. The enemy is going to be more evil and more forceful in evil than he's ever been, and he's going to have more subjects. But he does not have to rule God's planet, God's earth. God gave us oversight of his garden, this planet. The light can be brighter than any darkness. And light dispels and disperses the darkness. You are sharing the light in the darkest places on the planet, and it is working!

And Sheila Walsh is going to talk about how God will give us hope when we, really as she said, "You cling to hope when your life is falling apart." Sheila, I thank God for the

people who are watching us and who watch you. The love they share concerning you and Randy, what you do, and then as you teach, is a blessing. You've blessed people for so long. Right now, what we're doing together as a team, and I try to get people to see this. The body of Christ, the family of the perfect Father, is in the process of coming together with such supernatural unity that we're putting his loving arms around a broken world.

And it's only the body of Christ that can get the arms of the Father around the world he gave his Son to redeem. Think about it! We have been left here on a divine assignment. We've not been left here to be walked on and trampled. We are going to hold on to hope, hold on to the blessed hope, and it is not just the return of Christ, but it is the glory of God coming on the family, on the bride that he's coming back to get. He's coming for a church that's dressed up in Jesus, a family that looks like the Father. And we can do that now. We don't have to give the world; we don't have to give our nation, our marriages, our homes, our communities to the devil. We can walk over his intentions, and that's what I think you are trying to inspire people to do.

SHEILA: I'm going to let you into a little behind-the-scenes picture in a second. So one night, I go on to Facebook live, in the middle of COVID, in the middle of 2020, and I say, "Guys, how are you doing?" Within an hour, 42,000 people from Australia, from the United Kingdom, from South Africa, from America, responded and the majority of people were like, I'm lonely, I'm afraid, I'm losing hope, I'm going to let go, I can't make it.

So Barry will not believe I shared this with you. So I think, okay, Lord, we need hope -- not wishful thinking. And hope comes from one place, and that is the Word of God. So upstairs, in one cupboard, I have the clothes I wear for Africa when we go on our mission trips; I've got army boots that I use. I went upstairs, and I put on my army boots. I'm in my pajamas, and I put on my army boots, and I'm like, okay, Lord, I need a game plan here.

There are three verses of scripture that just jumped out. The first one we know really

well. Romans 8:38 and 39, where Paul is writing about there is no separation between when we love the Lord Jesus. I looked up the word; he said, "I am convinced." So I go back to the original language because I want to know: what is Paul actually saying? So the word *convinced* in the original Greek is the present-perfect tense, which means Paul is saying, "I was convinced, and I remain convinced."

So I thought about that. When Paul gets converted in Acts chapter 9, it is dramatic. If you're on your way to have Christians arrested because you think that they're a cult, and suddenly, the living, risen Christ appears, that's a dramatic conversion. So at that point, I'm writing home to my mom, and I'm saying, "I'm convinced that nothing can separate me from the love of God."

But when he writes this letter to the church in Rome, it's almost 20 years later. And he has now been stoned and left for dead. He's been imprisoned. He's been flogged. He's been shipwrecked. He's been starved. He has literally been abandoned. And that's the brother who writes to us and says, "I'm still convinced. I was, and I've gone through all of that, and I'm still convinced. Nothing, nothing, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus."

BETTY: And that kind of hope only comes from God. We must not allow the enemy to slip in and try to steal that hope from us.

JAMES: You know one of the reasons that people do enjoy *LIFE Today*? We do try to encourage you and try to give you hope. But do you know what else we do? We give you an opportunity to be the arms of God. We actually give you the opportunity to give someone hope and to give them help. And not just discuss love or even declare or preach love but demonstrate it. And you can't deny the effect of it. And you are literally putting God's arms around people all over this world.

Sheila, you've been all over the world with us in *LIFE Today* and *LIFE Outreach*, and it's absolutely amazing. A lot of times, people think, well, it's just Sheila, and it's Betty and

James and the missionaries. No! We couldn't do any of it. The missionaries could not stay there. If they did, they would be empty-handed and brokenhearted -- and couldn't do a thing about it. But because of what you do, they have the ability to demonstrate the love of God and to illustrate true compassion, which is getting involved with the person's need. As Christians, we're doing exactly what God has told you to do, and you make it possible.

Sheila, you wrote this book out of your own challenge, all that you faced, the difficulties, and when you had no place to go speak because they wouldn't let them come together. If they came together, they could be arrested. Well, this book was born. So touch on some of the things that you want people to hear today. But I want them to get the book, and I want them to let you take them on a journey that in so many ways, is like a journey into the fullness of God's presence. But share some of the things you really hope they get and gets them.

SHEILA: Second army boots scripture: Romans 8:28, we all know it so well. That God will bring all things for good to those, who love him according to his purpose. It does not say that all things will feel good; it does not say that all things are good, but God himself, who is not man, who cannot lie, has promised that out of everything you're going through right now, he will bring good.

So we bring our whole story to God. The bits we don't understand. The questions we have, the broken pieces. We bring it all to him in faith. I read this thing that Warren Wiersbe wrote, which I love. I wrote it down: "We live by faith and not by explanations. We live by faith and not by explanations."

Sometimes we think, why, Lord? Why Lord? That's why we're called to live by faith. We're not going to get all the answers here right now, but we know what God has said, and I stake my life, the marrow in my bones on that, that God has promised he will bring -- think about it. When I was hospitalized for a month with severe clinical depression, I prayed that God would take my life. I didn't want to live. I thought it's too

hard, Lord, I can't do this. But now, I'm able through that broken place to say to other people, "You are not alone. There is hope; you can make it!"

It's like Joseph, "You intended this for evil, but God intended it all for good."

JAMES: And none of it was good. It was awful to throw your brother in the pit and hope he literally becomes a prisoner. They didn't care whether he lived or died. They figured he'd die. They didn't care. That's what hate does.

Look what God did. They intended it for evil; God used it for good, even blessed the brothers that threw him in the pit. And he continues to bless us. That's really the way God is.

SHEILA: And we're not victims. So often, we feel like we are victims, but it is like we have to remember who is still on the throne. If you live on a diet of the news and everything else, and social media -- aah!! Which can be wonderful and can be disastrous because we compare our lives to a snapshot of somebody else's life where they've done all these different things to make it look like they're 20 years younger than they actually are, then you're going to get into despair.

Here's the mirror. Do you want to see what you look like? Hold up the mirror. This is who we are. You're going to like this one. You're going to like my third army boot scripture. It is Isaiah 40:31, "Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength." That word *wait* in Hebrew means hope. It means look for God in everything. It means living amazed.

I have become, at this stage in my life, a God stalker. I just look for him everywhere.

JAMES: You can see him everywhere. He revealed himself in everything he created so that we are without excuse. You can see him everywhere you look -- just look!

SHEILA: Yeah! And to me, that's one of the most -- like yesterday I was flying home from Philadelphia and I'm in the airport. And I'm like, Lord, anybody I need to say a word to? Because we're living in such a negative time. You touched on that, James, where everybody is angry. But I'm thinking, let's be this underground army of love and hope.

I see a woman, and I go up to her, and I say, "Can I just tell you that your hair is beautiful. It just looks lovely, and you just look..." It lit up her face. Then I'm buying a magazine, no, I wasn't buying a magazine, what was I buying? Oh, I was buying cough drops. I don't buy magazines anymore; they're full of rubbish. Anyway, I realize she's got an arm in a cast. Do you mind me asking what happened? And her eyes filled with tears. She said, "Actually, I have cancer in my bones." I said, "Ma'am, can I pray for you?" I mean, I held her arms, and tears flooded, and it became...

Do you know that anywhere God is, becomes sacred space? A bookstore in an airport can become holy ground when God is there. Because I love what Jesus said in John five, "The Father is always working, and so am I." So even when it looks like nothing is happening in your life, nothing good, where are you, God? God is always working, and he hasn't finished writing our story.

BETTY: And if we'll just be sensitive like that in our daily walk and our daily lives. Sometimes I'll feel impressed to call somebody and just be an encouragement. They hadn't heard from me in a while, or I hadn't heard from them. Or just text them, I love you! Just wondered how things are. That can mean so much to people. Or like you said, walk up to a stranger, someone you feel a drawing there. Give them a smile, if nothing else. Let them know that somebody cares and recognizes that they exist. Because a lot of people don't think people even notice them.

SHEILA: I don't think I've ever asked anybody if I could pray for them -- no, actually that's wrong, one woman said no, I couldn't. But most people, in this world of despair and loneliness and isolation, if you say, "Could I pray for you?" They will gladly receive that,

and it is a moment where the light of Christ can shine into the darkness of where they're living.

JAMES: No question. You are literally showing people what God can do, regardless of the circumstances. You work with Dr. David Jeremiah a lot, and he's right now talking so much about what we can be and do as the body of Christ. Because if the enemy could demonstrate his ugliness, can't we demonstrate the beauty of our Lord and our Savior? Well, we can! You are, and so many who watch us are, and all over the world, we're supporting those little lanterns that are burning. We just together keep putting the oil in the lantern, and we find that that light just spreads. And that love just spreads, and it is miraculous! People are set free from the most horrible things!

And right now, we have too many isms, and too many divisions and trying to pit people against people. That is the enemy's scheme to take over. That's what the godless world, that's what a communist mind-set wants to do, a Marxist mind-set, that's what just doling things out and throwing things at problems rather than dealing with them with hands-on love and compassion and involvement. And that's what we do together.

Sheila, what you're writing about people right here is your own journey. It goes back a lifetime. You and I had a father issue. I was never affirmed. You know how much I'm encouraged if you say, "James, that blessed me," it's an encouraging word that every child wants to hear from their parents. They want to hear that. We really want to hear it from God, and he pours it out on us. He loves us so much. You took your journey of challenges and difficulty and showed people, even in the present difficulty, how God gave you so much hope.

Please, let every viewer know right now that as they get this book, what you are praying, hoping, and even believing, will happen when they go through what God has led you to share.

SHEILA: What I discovered, James and Betty, is that God is holding all the missing

pieces of our story. This is the most personal book I've ever written, but it is also the most current. Because I've talked a lot about what happened 20-25 years ago, but I had a miracle that happened in my life last year. It's the last chapter in the book because I didn't know it was going to happen. It's to do with my dad, and it was a piece that I thought would always be missing. God showed up and did something that brought me to my knees. So if you think all the pieces of your story are missing, God is holding every piece of your story, and he's not finished fighting your story yet.

JAMES: Yeah, you didn't know where your father was. When he took his own life, you somehow ended up trying to throw some responsibility on you, but you never even knew him. She was able to find out where he is, and nobody knew, but God did let her see. And she put a marker there. It could be a marker that said all the bad memories, but it actually became a marker of precious memories, how much God cared. She just cared, and God did that. Somebody else became the instrument of blessing, which is what our viewers are, Sheila.

Gosh, we see the missionaries that went over to start the Destiny House; it's the most magnificent facility. It's just changed so many people's lives. They were like a Hollywood power plant; let's say, they provided the power sources for all the sets out wherever they were, and they were making tremendous money in Hollywood. I think she had either a five or seven-carat diamond ring.

They got moved watching *LIFE Today*, and they went and moved to Thailand, the sex capital of the world! They started renting houses, and we found them. And we -- you, we invested in their lives. She sold something to get there. Nobody really even knew what was going on until we showed you. And boy, you've put God's arms of love.

You've taken little children that were being trafficked and used, and ladies have gotten college degrees. Some of them are teachers in schools, in college, and in various schools. Some of them are leaders in the community. They have families because of the love of God. In the midst of horrible circumstances, God became the hope and the light.

SHEILA: I've led worship in Destiny House with all those young girls. When you see those trafficked girls now in love with Jesus, raising their arms in worship!

JAMES: It is indescribable. And we can't show you their faces anymore. We can't show the workers because they get hurt. So we show you from the back singing. But it is so beautiful. I wish you could see all their faces. I wish you could see the love in them.

I want you to get Sheila's book. I tell you what. Right now, we're setting girls and children free from sexual trafficking. We're reaching them, rescuing them, beginning the restoration process. It doesn't fail. People like you who so believe in this, we did not even know that you would allow us to show you what's going on. The first time we did it, we said, we'll probably show people one time. The viewers said, "We've got to help them."

And think, \$320,000 has been put up to say to you, "We'll match your gift." \$128 is the average to rescue one and start that process of literal restoration. If you gave \$64, it would rescue one now because it will be doubled. If you gave \$128, you'd rescue two. I always say, and I'll always do this, Betty, I'll always try to help people think beyond their instant think and really meditate -- \$1280 helps rescue ten, now 20!

I want you to watch the need and know that you are the miracle. Yes, you are! You're going to be the miracle today. Don't turn away. Be like the good Samaritan; I'm not walking past that. I'm getting involved. I'm going to set people free. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

ANNOUNCER: Imagine all the dreams young children have for their future that never come true.

Open Captions: I used to have hope but not anymore.

ANNOUNCER: Young women are held captive and forced to smile or suffer the consequences.

Open Captions: I was forced to have sex with many men, or they said they would kill me.

ANNOUNCER: The life-destroying industry of human trafficking tears at the very soul of these precious girls.

Open Captions: I have no memories of being happy. I am broken inside.

ANNOUNCER: This is all done through lies and violence.

Open Captions: They took my passport and sold me to a brothel in another country. They made me sleep with many men, and if I did not, they would beat me and threatened to kill me.

ANNOUNCER: These young girls believe that no one loves them. However, we know that they are loved. And with your help, we can show them that they are loved. *LIFE Outreach* and our mission partners will not rest as long as there are young girls trapped in the sex slave trade waiting for someone to rescue them.

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Betty, it was nearly 30 years ago, the first time we walked down the streets of Thailand, the sex capital of the world. 747's were coming in every day from all over the world, just dumping men out who were trafficking those kids. And when we walked down the ways, it just broke our hearts because they were so young.

BETTY: James, I can't even imagine being where they are, so many of them at their

young age. And they're waiting for someone to come and save them. They're waiting for someone to open the doors and take the chains off and set them free.

That's us -- we can do that! God has allowed us to have the heart to reach out to these precious children that should never have been put in these situations. But through evil, they have been. So let's, please, let's join together and let's go and let's set these children free so that they can feel what real love is about, so they can know what hope is. Please join us and do it.

JAMES: This is not some test program. This is a proven, effective outreach. And it's because of people that planted their lives in the midst of this suffering, who was sent by God. They became the light, the lantern that was there. And even in the Holy of Holies, in the tabernacle, the people would press out the oil from the olives and the other oil substances that would produce that, and they brought it to keep the light burning even in the Tabernacle of God. That's what we do. We don't duplicate. We find where God has placed someone and anointed them, divine enabling and gifting, and they have placed their lives in the midst of that darkness, and we bring the oil, and it multiplies. In other words, we're doing it together. We're the miracle that they need.

Would you please reach out and rescue one today? Could you give \$128, knowing it's going to be doubled? You may say, "James, I can't do that." Know this, \$64 will be doubled, and that \$64 gift will now become \$128 and rescue one. If you give \$128, you rescue not one but two. If you give \$1280, which Lord, I pray many will do this, it is not just ten now you're rescuing, it's 20 -- it's doubled.

We have some beautiful gifts. One of our mission partners that travels all over the world and is right here in the studio with us right this minute, took a picture, "Beauty out of Ashes." This was in some of those areas where people were hard hit, but she found something beautiful! And God wants to make something beautiful. We got this in a really good puzzle, and then a little puzzle for children, "Beauty from Ashes." If you want Sheila Walsh's book, you just help us love those children that Sheila's put her arms

around many times, and you help us rescue them, and we'll send it to you.

Go get your bank card. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you are putting it in the mail. And please do it! But if you'll get your bank card and dial that number or go online, you can make the gift right now. Use that bank card like a check. That's the way you should always use a bank card, like a check. Would you do it?

Put God's arms around someone. This is a miracle that works because love demonstrated through yielded vessels never fails. Please make that gift.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer, and because of it, children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we often take for granted -- like a simple pair of shoes. Far too many children living in extreme poverty have never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk with life-threatening infections and diseases that could lead to crippling consequences and even death.

By responding today, you will help secure and make ready 150,000 Christmas shoes to be shipped and delivered to children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pairs, and a gift of \$180 will help provide 50 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

As a thank you for your gift of support, be sure to request this beautifully crafted, green crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to display each Christmas. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may also request this keepsake boxed set of all four shoe ornaments celebrating the various outreaches of LIFE.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes

or two children with corrective cleft lip or palate surgeries. And you may request the beautiful "Divine Servant" bronze scripture.

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

End of video

In the studio:

JAMES: Well, I just pray that the phone keeps ringing here. It's always here as a prayer line. Right now, it is a lifeline. You're going to set a lot of people free. It's a joy to sit here in this studio with Sheila to share her all over the world on *LIFE Today* and to be a part of what she does and what God does through her. She is with us in everything we do. We want to send you the book because I want you to hold on to the hope that will never let you go, the blessed hope. We'll send it to you.

Sheila, we just thank you and know that we're praying for you and Barry, and Christian. I'll never forget when Christian came out with his little bag, Ziploc Bag, where he'd been saving money to help us with missions. Boy, he didn't know mom was going to be doing it all the time, but it is wonderful.

We love you. I hope you feel loved. You're in the family room here with us in the presence of God. Thank you for not just watching *LIFE Today* but sharing it so effectively. Thank you so much!