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Week 18: Spring Mission Feeding

Sheila Walsh

Dr. David Jeremiah #2

SHEILA: Hello! I'm Sheila Walsh. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I just wanted to remind you that although we talk about all sorts of things on the program, we care about you at home. So if you're struggling, if you feel kind of hopeless or lost, we have wonderful prayer partners who would consider it an absolute honor to pray for you. So please remember that.

I'm thrilled to tell you that Dr. David Jeremiah is back with us today discussing his amazing book, *Where Do We Go From Here?* Thank you so much for staying for a second show.

DAVID: You're welcome.

SHEILA: One of the things you write about in this book that has been just driving me nuts is cancel culture. You call it a political prophecy. What do you mean by that?

DAVID: Well, the Bible is filled with illustrations. I think, for instance, of Jeremiah in the Old Testament. You talk about somebody who got canceled for what he believed. Today, our culture is such that it does not tolerate any other opinion than the one that is believed by everyone. So cancel culture is their way of shutting down the opposition. I don't want to get into the socialism thing, Sheila, but that's very much a part of it.

Socialism is totalitarianism. We would say it today, "It's my way or the highway." There's only one opinion. If you have an opinion other than that, get ready because we will find a way to shut you down. We find that coming into our culture more and more, even into the

church. There are so many illustrations of that now. It would be foolish for me to start down that road. But it is something we have to be willing to stand up and be counted for what we believe. And no matter what we think people might say, we have to speak the truth.

Solzhenitsyn, when he left Russia, gave a speech, and the title of the speech was "Live Not by Lies." And he challenged his people, "Whatever you do, don't live by a lie."

You say, "Well, do we live by lies?" It's beginning to look like we don't live by any truth because lies pervade everything. In fact, when you watch the news these days, much of the news is just how the lie has been manipulated for that particular situation. So finding a way to live by truth is our goal and should be a passion for us.

SHEILA: Absolutely! I'm thinking of people watching who are in the workplace and where things are very sensitive. How do you graciously live your life and share your faith, aware of all the opposition there is?

DAVID: Well, I don't have a perfect answer for that any more than anybody does. But you live your life, and you -- the Bible gives us some guidelines. For instance, Jesus was full of grace and truth. And if we're only full of truth and no grace, you're going to get in trouble in this time. And if you're full of grace, it doesn't matter. If you don't have any truth, why worry. So grace and truth. And I believe those are the two rails that we live on. We have to be filled with truth and filled with grace.

So if we don't like it that people who don't agree with us cancel us, then the question is what do we do to them if they don't agree with us? Do we cancel them, or do we love them? Or do we say, I know what you're doing, but it doesn't make any difference? I still love you, and you're still somebody for whom Christ died.

Somehow in the midst of all this, we have to bring it back to that because otherwise, we just get into a shouting match, and we're hollering back and forth at each other. One of

the things that we have to be is we have to be Christians. We have to be Christ people in the midst of this. Somehow, in doing that, the difference will be seen.

SHEILA: One of the other, then you move on to spiritual prophecy, a spiritual famine. What do you mean by spiritual famine?

DAVID: Well, in Amos, in Amos' prophecy, he said there is coming a day when there will be a famine; not a famine of food but a famine of the hearing of the Word of God. And if it's true that future prophecies cast their shadows before them, if that's going to happen, and it will happen, is it happening now?

You see, what some people forget is that when Jesus comes back in the rapture, there are no signs for that. That could happen tomorrow. All these things are going to happen right after the rapture. They're almost as close as the rapture. In other words, let's suppose that Jesus came back tomorrow. All these other things would start, but they don't start on a dime. They start back here. So you start seeing some of the signs before the event.

I've written pretty pointedly in this book about what's happening with the marginalization of the Bible, even among Christians. We have access to the Word of God, we've published the Bible in 1500 different languages in some form or another, but the Bible doesn't say it's a famine of the Word of God. It says it's a famine of the *hearing* of the Word of God. So people won't -- people can have the Bible, but if they won't listen to it, what difference does it make?

Today, in our churches, the Word of God isn't centered like it once was. I've been around for a while, so I've watched this. If you teach the Word of God in what we would say in an expository manner, like you do when you teach on this program, you are rare. That doesn't happen a lot. There is a lot of popular motivational stuff. There is a lot of surface stuff. Grab a scripture here, grab a scripture there, but it's the teaching of the Word of God that builds strength in people.

The famine is interesting because in our physical world, if we don't eat for a while, we get starved. And then we eat, and when we're full, we quit. But in the world of the spirit, it's just different than that. If you don't eat for a while, as a Christian, you don't get starved; you lose your appetite.

SHEILA: That's scary!

DAVID: Isn't that interesting? I've told some people -- I just preached on this the other night at an event. I said the only way you can overcome that is a program I've called "Force Feeding." Sit down at your desk, pull your chair up, put your feet on the floor, start reading the Bible, and don't stop reading it until you sense that God is speaking to you again from his Word. Because if you wait until you feel like doing it, it's not going to happen.

SHEILA: Every morning, I go out on my balcony, and you gave me a little book one year, and it's going through the Psalms.

DAVID: Yes, right.

SHEILA: Every morning, I read three Psalms and a chapter from Proverbs out loud because I find it so good for my ears to hear what my eyes are reading. And it shifts something. I don't always feel like it; some mornings, I would rather stay another 30 minutes in bed. But reading the Word of God, which is alive, shifts something.

DAVID: We've taken that to another step. We have our people writing the Word of God out in their own handwriting.

SHEILA: Barry and I ordered both of that. We've been doing Romans.

DAVID: It says in Deuteronomy when you do that, a lot of good things will happen. And it's true. I've had letters from people from everywhere who are doing this saying -- I got a

letter last week from a lady who said, "I've always loved the Bible. I've read it, I've listened to it, I've even memorized it, but Dr. Jeremiah, nothing had ever happened to me like what happened to me when I started writing it out in my own handwriting."

So I think we're at a desperate time now where we need those kinds of really aggressive programs to infiltrate the noise and the static that's out there so we can get into the hearts of people with the Word of God.

SHEILA: We touched on this in an earlier program, but I just wanted you to say one more word about this theological prophecy of what you call "the falling away." If someone is watching this and concerned, what if that's me? What do you do to ensure that you will not be one of those in the falling away?

DAVID: Well, when we talked about this before, I mentioned that a true Christian does not fall away. It's somebody who believes they're a Christian but has never really trusted Christ. In Peter, it says that if we do certain things, we will never stumble. That doesn't mean we won't ever make a mistake, or we won't ever sin; but it means we won't fall away. So the best thing I can say about that for our viewers today, Sheila, is this, number one, make sure you're a Christian. First Corinthians 13:5, find out whether you're a Christian. You know. And secondly, if you are a Christian, don't be satisfied just to be a Christian that just kind of got in the door.

There is an old little story about a little girl who fell out of bed one night. Her mom came up and said, "What happened?"

She said, "Mommy, I fell asleep too soon after I got in."

And that's where a lot of Christians are. Do you know what I mean?

SHEILA: That's a great illustration!

DAVID: They get in bed, and they fall asleep, and they don't grow. To have a growing Christian life is the best anecdote I know to keep from worrying about it; I don't ever worry about falling away. And it's not because I'm anybody special. But first of all, I know I'm a Christian. And number two, I'm in the Word of God every day; I'm trying to grow in the Word of God, and that's the best thing you can do.

SHEILA: You talk about a biographical prophecy: End Times People. That's a very interesting term. What are End Times People?

DAVID: Well, Sheila, you've met them.

[Laughter]

And so have I. This was kind of a revelation. This is kind of a funny thing for me because, during the pandemic, a lot of people got kind of mean. I remember we were in Florida with our whole family, and we walked into a restaurant to eat. The girl who was maitre d', she says, "Well, I hope you didn't come in here to eat. You're not going to get in here for a long time. If I were you, I'd go find some other place where a group like you can eat."

I thought, well, she's a really great salesperson for her restaurant. I'd never had that happen before. In the Bible, it says in Timothy that in the end times, people will be a certain way. There are 19 characteristics, like lovers of money rather than lovers of God, and all different kinds of characteristics. And those characteristics are showing up in people. So here again, the prophecies of the future cast their shadows before them.

In the end times, during the tribulation, this is the way people will be, but it's casting its shadow back toward us. Some of those characteristics, profoundly so, are manifesting themselves in our culture today. People today, Sheila, you don't have to believe this, I'm just going to tell you. People today are different than they once were. There is a whole different climate. You have to be careful today because people are different. So I think

that prophecy has cast its light back across our culture.

SHEILA: Barry and I were walking our dogs the other night, and we were just standing there, and they were quiet. A lady walked down the other side of the street with her dog, which started to bark. And she looked over at us, and she yelled at us. She said, "You scared my dog!" We're just standing there. [Laughing] So yeah, it's kind of bizarre.

DAVID: Donna and I have laughed about it because when you go someplace now -- I said, "We need to get a sweatshirt that says on it, 'I am the customer.'" [Laughing] Because people don't treat you like customers. Somebody sent me one in the mail. I said this, and it said, "I'm the customer." The top says, "Jesus loves you," and at the bottom, it says, "I'm trying."

[Laughter]

SHEILA: That's perfect!

DAVID: I didn't market it. [Laughing]

SHEILA: Fantastic place to end your book; you talk about the final prophecy: "The Triumph of the Gospel." I can't think of a better place to end, "The Triumph of the Gospel." What does the gospel message mean for us today?

DAVID: Well, Sheila, let me just tell you how I started that chapter because that will help everybody understand.

I've always been a friend of and a fan of Billy Graham. I was at his funeral. He's been in our city. I helped bring him to the city of San Diego. His son, Franklin, is a good friend of mine and his grandson. Back at Easter time, I noticed something new on the Sirius XM channels; there is now a Billy Graham channel. So I started listening to it. I thought, well, what is the Billy Graham channel? It's all Billy Graham's sermons from as long as they

were able to record them, from his weekly program that used to be a half-hour program, and then all the crusades where he spoke, and some other places where he went to speak. So they got all these sermons, and they just play them 24/7. And I started listening to them. I was so overwhelmed because of what Billy Graham did through 12 presidencies; for 70 years, he preached the gospel -- not anything. He did not get off on all this -- you listen to Billy Graham, he would start out with a story, but he would preach the gospel.

In our culture today, that's the one thing -- the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. And if we get off, for instance, if I got off and all I did was talk about issues and didn't preach the gospel, the power in the ministry that I have would be gone. The power of ministry is in the gospel. So constantly over and over again preach.

We had an event not long ago in an arena. We preached the gospel, and a whole bunch of folks came forward to get saved. That is what it is. So what I'm trying to say is this. In the midst of all these issues that we dealt with, let us not forget that the one thing that triumphs over all of them is the gospel and the preaching of the gospel. And when we do that, God is at work, and these other things don't go away, but they fall into perspective for you.

SHEILA: You're going to want to get your own copy of this book, and I'm going to tell you how you can do that in just a moment. But one of the things I wanted to ask you, Dr. Jeremiah, is that you have been preaching the Word for way over 40 years. How do you personally find fresh inspiration?

DAVID: Well, the Bible is new every morning. The interesting thing about the Bible, and it's really an amazing thing; no matter how many times you've read it, you can go back and read it and see things you've never seen before. So the Bible is fresh, new every time. And, of course, the Bible is in the context of our life. So the Bible means different things to us; there's not a different truth, but a different application because of the world in which we're living today.

I find inspiration first of all, from just the reading and the studying of the Word of God. A long time ago, and probably you've heard this, somebody told me that you can't study the Bible -- . You have to study the Bible over here and do your devotions here. I understand that. Or you can study the Bible devotionally and devotionally study the Bible.

I don't think, when I'm studying for a sermon, I'm being blessed in my own heart. My life is being challenged, and I'm thankful to God for what I'm learning. And if it doesn't come through me, preaching is God's truth through a personality. So if it doesn't come through me, it can't go anywhere. I get it first. I get the blessing first, and I get the challenges first. And if that isn't true, that's --

So I'll be honest with you, Sunday is kind of the big day for me or the weekend, and I work hard all week trying to get ready for that. And by the time I get there, I can hardly keep from -- I can hardly control my -- I want to go and tell everybody what I've learned. I get so excited about it.

SHEILA: Some people say that talking about prophecy is doom and gloom, but that is not the message of this book. You speak about the hope in prophecy that is just as important as the warnings.

DAVID: Sheila, I'm going to tell you a little story that had a big part in this book being written. I was on a TV program once after writing a book called, *Is This the End?* And we were talking about prophecy all the time. When I got done, the host of the program came over, and he knelt down by my chair. He said, "That was all very interesting, but where's the hope?" And it was like a dagger in my heart.

The reason this book is built the way it is, is where are we now? What does that mean? And then where do we go from here? That's where the hope is. The hope is when God gives you an assignment, there is always something you can do. You don't have to just sit and wait for the world to crash in on top of you. There is a task to accomplish.

In one of the chapters, I made a big deal about doing the next right thing -- do the next right thing. And so we have hope. God has given us hope. And one day, he's going to come and set everything right. We are believers. We know that. He's going to set up his kingdom on this earth, and we who have walked with him, we're going to reign and rule with him. We're going to see life as it was ultimately meant to be before sin entered. The hope of all of that is so vibrant when you study the scripture.

SHEILA: Yep! This is a book full of hope, and I'm going to talk to you about a bowl full of hope. Would you watch this?

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: Every six seconds another child under the age of five dies.

[Clock ticking]

Why are young children like these fighting for their lives? It is because their mothers simply have no food for them. Malnutrition, known as the silent killer, then compromises their immune system, in turn making them more susceptible to dying from common childhood illnesses.

[Clock ticking]

Statistics tell us this year alone, the mortality rate for children under the age of five will exceed 5 million, with malnutrition being a contributing factor in nearly half those children's deaths.

[Clock ticking]

The question becomes, can we stop this cycle of death for the remaining children in

Southern Africa? Those who find themselves in a food crisis, urgently needing help before malnutrition claims its next victim?

ISAK: If we can get to these villages where this child comes from, and we can get Mission Feeding into those villages, we're able to ensure that we wind that clock back. We retell that story. That's why we say Mission Feeding saves lives because it does. Saving this child's life doesn't happen because of us. It happens because of you.

[Clock ticking]

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: Can you imagine? Six seconds -- every six seconds in Southern Africa, a child dies, and malnutrition is the major contributor. One of the things I love about how James and Betty have set up this program is they never go into a country as if well, here we are, we're the answer. They look for the people that God is using in that nation and then underwrite the work. So we were able to set up factories to produce the kind of food that these children need that has all the protein, the vitamins.

But what they discovered was, when children were showing up to get the food, some of them were able to bring something like this, a little can, to put the food in. But the heartbreaking thing with a couple of the children was they came with plastic bags. And the minute that we put this hot food into the plastic, it melted, and it was gone. And so then they came up with this great idea of these orange bowls that literally turned from death into life.

I will never ever forget my first trip to Angola; walking into that malnutrition clinic and literally watching the last six seconds of a child's life ebb away. Or the look in the mother's eyes. They're just like you and me; the moms, the dads, they're just regular people like you and me, who are in a country where there is devastating poverty and

malnutrition. I remember sitting by the bedside of a little one, and it was such an effort for that little one to turn his head slightly to look into my eyes. I thought the child was maybe two months old. I discovered he was two years old.

But here's the amazing news! We can change this. I've seen it! I went from the malnutrition clinic one day where I literally, in my tent that night, I remember laying on the floor just saying, Lord, this is horrible! Then, I felt the Lord say, "Sheila, get up and dry your face because we're going to do something about it."

And then I got to go to a village the next day where we've already set up Mission Feeding. Hope in a bowl -- that's what I call it -- hope in a bowl and be able to give food to these children. So we've made a commitment this year to feed 350,000 children. That sounds like a lot, but it breaks down really easily. Do you know that \$30 will feed three children for three months? I mean, what can you do with \$30 these days? You go through the drive-through with your family and it's gone. But this will feed three children for three whole months. Perhaps you could do \$50, and that would feed five children; \$100 would feed ten.

Remember, please, with whatever gift you give us, request this book by Dr. David Jeremiah, *Where Do We Go From Here?* Thank you so much!

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition and even death. With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach your gift of love can be an answer to prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your lifesaving gift of

\$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you *The Chosen*: 40 days with Jesus. From the creators of the widely popular television drama, *The Chosen*, this devotional invites you to discover Jesus through the eyes of those who knew him best. With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "Amazing Grace" sheet music framed wall art. This timeless and well-beloved hymn can be displayed as a reminder of God's grace to you. Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Let the Children Come." This beautiful bronze is a reminder to care for children around the world in both word and deed.

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

End of video

On the mission field:

Sheila: Here you go, darling!

When my son was five, he saw the appeal on *LIFE* for these soup bowls and he began collecting money from his allowance. There you go darling! And brought this huge bag of coins to James and Betty. Remember? When he brought them in to the studio? Because he said, "Mom, no kid should go hungry because they simply don't even have a bowl to put their food in."

So we've got to keep this going on. I mean look at the hope! That's a line of hope right there. I've seen a line of despair, I've seen a ward of despair, and what I see here today is a line of joy and hope. And one bowl of food made all the difference. On behalf of the moms and dads of these kids, I just want to say thank you.

Hey, baby! There you go. But let's keep it going. Let's make sure there is never a day that

these kids line up and we don't have food to give them.

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: Thank you so much. If the lines are busy, keep calling. Let's do this together. It is a privilege. And for any gift at all, you can request Dr. Jeremiah's book, *Where Do We Go From Here?*

I just want to ask you a final question. You have written so many books, and I've read them all. Did you feel, when you were writing this, that there was something special about this?

DAVID: Sheila, I think I told you when you were with us the last time that Donna and I were having breakfast and we had watched the news that morning. I said to her, "I feel like they're dismantling our country piece by piece." So I set out to see if there was something I could do in the framework of being who I am and what I do every day. That's where this book came from.

SHEILA: Wow! And you're going to want your own copy. Thank you so much for being with us. We'll see you next time on *LIFE Today*!