

5/26/22

Week 22: Spring Mission Feeding

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

Kay and Lisa Robertson

SHEILA: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Sheila Walsh here with my cohort, Randy Robison. I'm excited that you're going to watch today's program because we have one of my favorite people on the planet.

Do you remember the first time you saw *Duck Dynasty*? Well, if you're like my husband, my son, and I, we were absolutely hooked! And today, we have Miss Kay and Lisa Robertson. Welcome to the program!

KAY: Thank you.

LISA: Thanks, we're glad to be here.

RANDY: It's great to have you. Of course, Lisa, you've been here before. Miss Kay, great to have you.

KAY: I love it here!

RANDY: I'm going to do a lot of listening today because we're talking a lot about your book called *Sister Roar*. As the one brother on the set, I'm curious to find out what you guys are trying to communicate in this. What is it? What are the big ideas in this book?

KAY: Take it, Lisa.

LISA: You know, throughout our life, we go through different things. And a lot of times those things are our fault, maybe somebody else's fault, but Satan uses those things against us and he takes away our voice. So whenever we were thinking through the pandemic even, everybody is so afraid, and with good reason; I mean there were people just dying all around us. And so people just got afraid and they quit meeting and they quit doing their small groups. They quit confessing sins one to another, they quit encouraging one another because everybody was so afraid.

And so, we thought we need to do something so that women can get back together. Kay, let's write something about community. We both do it; we both do it in different ways but that's what we do. We get with women, and we study God's Word, we encourage one another, and we help them to find that voice, but also to roar. You know? Because whenever you are passionate about something, it is not just a voice, it is a roar.

SHEILA: It's interesting because the show *Duck Dynasty*, isn't that the number one reality TV show of all time?

KAY: And you know the number one show on the *Duck Dynasty* was when Phil and I got married again. It was fun.

SHEILA: But I wonder what it was like to go from living your family life and then suddenly you're known all over the world. How did you cope with that at first?

KAY: Well, I'm an outward person. I love my fans and I call them my new friends. So I did well with that because I do talk so much and I do hug people and I do love people so much, and I'm real outward about it. Now my husband, not so much -- not at all; I just have to be honest with you.

RANDY: Being on television and writing in the books like you do so openly and honestly, you expose yourself, your whole family really, to a lot of -- I don't know if dirt is the right word?

SHEILA: Very vulnerable.

RANDY: Yes! Very vulnerable!

KAY: We've heard things like "hillbillies," just all kinds of different names that are of our enemy. We just laugh about it because it is what it is. But for it -- for America --

You saw because the time they fired Phil, that was a big controversy. And for nine days he stayed off. And do you know what happened with the network that was carrying that? Their phones were shut down for three days because so many American -- Christian Americans called and they couldn't use their phones. Nobody knows this, nobody knows this, but we had, when they hired him back, we had the board of directors for that whole network, not the president but the board of directors came. We had a meeting at Willie's, and they all apologized to Phil for letting him go. Because he stood on something that they didn't stand on, but it was our show.

So we were being ourselves. And so you know what? It was just amazing. So Phil said, "I'm so glad y'all did this, not because I needed the apology, I could go on without that if you'd just change your ways. But now, I'm so glad we're together because let me get up and tell y'all a story." He gets up with his Bible and preaches to every person there.

SHEILA: Wow! Lisa, one of the things I was thinking when I was reading your parts of the story is how much your story is going to help other women. Because you're pretty open about the fact that a couple of times you took a bit of a left turn. And so often, the enemy uses that, as you say, to silence our voices. But God is a redeemer. Was that hard for you to include parts of your story like that?

LISA: It was, to begin with. But the more that people kept telling me, "Thank you so much for telling your story!" Or somebody saying, "This is me! I did the same -- your story mirrors my story. I can't believe we're so much alike." So once you hear that, then you're thinking, well, I have to encourage these people. I have to tell them what God has done in my life. I had somebody tell me one time they were like, I don't know how you tell all of these things, Lisa,

because people are not going to respect me if I tell that stuff. I'm like, I don't care what people think. I'm only concerned with one job. God redeemed me and he wants me to tell my story so that other people can be redeemed. The rest of it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter that people may go, oh, I don't know if I want to hang out with her. That doesn't matter. Hey, I'm going to heaven, I'm hanging out with the Lord. So I just continue to tell. And tell it -- Alan will always say, look, we don't enjoy telling people all the bad things that have happened, but we enjoy telling people about the redemption that happened, and about life-change, and the people we are now compared to the people we were then.

SHEILA: I discovered when I began sharing about my mental health struggles that our brokenness is a far greater bridge to other people than pretend wholeness ever is. But I found myself wondering, Miss Kay, how did you cope during the pandemic? Because you are such a social person, you're such a people person and suddenly, everything is shut down.

KAY: This is the funniest thing I'm going to tell you right now. I couldn't stay home, of course. I wasn't trying to break all the rules. So the girl that was working for me at the time, I said, "We are going to discover a part of America." So we would load up in the car and we went, and we looked and we looked. We could wave at people and stuff. We didn't try to stop or talk and all that. We found a covered-up mansion in a little town called Farmerville. We went and we found other things and we saw. And we just -- we spent that whole time discovering America.

People would see and recognize me like at the Sonic or somewhere where we went by, and I would wave. But I then roll my window up like no talk, just wave. And they were taking pictures of me through the window. But it was okay. It was kind of like Lisa talked about, just going back and looking at all the things God has made and done for us, and things we've never seen. And we did that.

So it wasn't like I was just banned to the house. And getting out was a joy. And the girl I was with was one that isn't in my groups, you know. So when I would feel like it and she would talk and say things that were wrong, you know feeling bad because a lot of her life was sad. I would say, "Well, I'm so glad you mentioned that." And so then I would go into talking to everything

that would make her realize that negativity is not the way to go. We all have problems because of the devil and the first sin and all that. But if you can just look at God and not dwell on the problems, he's going to bring you through it. He's going to be the God of all for us.

And so we had sharing time with my -- me, as I shared through things I did wrong. I was pregnant at 16. And of course, there was the minefield, that thing, which we hid at first, and said we got married later. I guess I thought of that because that might have sounded like something off of a TV show that might be good. So, and you see, and of course, what he showed us was whatever you lie about, it's going to come out. So you know it came out and then I knew once that did, all that shame thing that I felt, it was just gone like Lisa said. You just feel so clean because you just got it out.

You know back in my years, I'm over 70, so there was a different background, and back then everybody would hide -- hide the secrets! Hide them! And so all of the sudden when I went on there and just let her flow, it was a big audience. And I thought at first, I'm not going to be able to talk because I hadn't done that. And you know what the lady told me? Because I said that first, I wanted water and I was thinking I've got to get to talking here. And the lady come up and whispered in my ear from the church. And she said, "Miss Kay, only talk about what God's done in your life. That's all we want you to do. Can you do it?"

I said, "Of course, I can do that!"

So then I was off and running, and shared; went overtime. The funniest thing about me is I wasn't used to speaking so when they started playing the organ in the background, I was like why is he doing that? Which I didn't know that meant time to go, Miss Kay. End it up! And I was like, and look, somebody is adding beautiful music to my talk.

[Laughter]

See that's how naive I was about that kind of thing. But it was -- and then after then, there was no stopping us as far as going and sharing whatever.

SHEILA: Amazing!

RANDY: The whole *Duck Dynasty* thing is an illustration of a community, a family, and a community. As you're writing and talking about the power that's in a community, encouraging people to get into it, what are some of the things that people may be missing if they don't make the effort to be a part of a godly community?

LISA: Well, I think first and foremost is relationships with other women; a closer relationship with God is another. We have a group that we do at home in our church; we're older women teaching younger women. Well, so, we get to learn from older people how to raise our children, how to be a godly wife, how to be an encourager. Sometimes how to cook; Kay taught me to cook whenever I married Alan. I didn't know how.

SHEILA: I remember cookbooks in my kitchen.

KAY: And all my other daughters-in-law, they loved me teaching them. They were not upset. They were just like well, you know, our husbands, my sons wanted more of their mama's cooking. And yet, they were so good to not be mad and say no.

LISA: But encouragement, you know you get encouragement whenever you're together. And people to carry your burdens with you also. That's one of the things that you miss whenever you're not in a group of women together; is the idea of sharing your burdens and sharing your joys, sharing your struggles, and your victories, which is so fun to do.

SHEILA: So often when people see someone on television like they see you sitting here and looking so beautiful, they think life has always been easy. Take us back a little bit to what your beginnings were like.

LISA: Well, my earliest memory, I can't remember anything before the age of seven. My earliest memory is being molested by a member of our family. And so that started at seven, it lasted until

I was 14. So at 15, is whenever I met Alan. I had seen him whenever I was in the 6th grade but he never noticed who I was because I had big glasses and buck teeth. So he didn't know who I was. So at 14, I was big enough to put a stop to it. But I never told anybody because he told me that I would be in trouble if I ever told.

So the intimidation started early, the dishonesty started early. I never could tell anybody about my life or who I was or what was happening to me. And so then at 15, I start dating Alan. On the third or fourth date, it's an "If you love me, you will," kind of thing. I thought I loved him and so I gave myself to him.

And so he left me for two years. And during that two years, I just took a tailspin. I just went completely out of control. And so I dated many guys. I did drugs. I drank. Had sex with as many as I could. I was trying to find something that was missing. There was a hole, and I couldn't figure out what it was. At the time I thought it was Alan, but now I know that hole was actually where God should have been.

So at 16, I found out that I was pregnant. And so I went and talked with my parents. And my parents said, "Well, you just need to have an abortion."

I was like, "What is that?" I'd never heard the word before.

And so they said, "Well, they just go and take the tissue out."

My mom said, "It's just tissue. There is not a baby yet; it is just tissue in there."

So I said, "Okay." And so I went and had it done. But I knew something wasn't right in my soul, in my heart, in my whole body because the whole day I shook -- just shook.

And so I had that done but I was never the same. Once you do that, then it just takes something out of you. I was told three lies that day. The first one was: After you leave here, you'll be as good as new. All we're doing is taking out tissue. There is no baby in there. And then the third

one was: Lisa, you can leave here today and not ever think about this again. That's been 40 years and I have thought about it probably every day of my life since.

The lucky thing for me is I found Christ. And so he took the shame, he took the guilt, and he redeemed me. I no longer feel that. But I do have regret, I'll always have regret because that was a life.

SHEILA: But you'll get to meet that little one again someday.

LISA: That's right! So that's part of it but that's the hard part of living your life and then looking backward. I was just talking to my granddaughter the other day. I said, "You don't want to do things that whenever you're my age you look back and go, oh man! I wish I hadn't done that."

RANDY: Let me ask you one final question. Whether you're talking about the abuse you suffered at the hands of another or the things that you've done that you regret. In the church, you're going to hear the word *forgiveness*. It is important; it is in the Bible. It's a big deal. What does that look like for you?

LISA: Well, I read the verse that says, in order for the Lord to forgive us we must forgive others. So I had a great counselor and she took me through that verse.

KAY: Godly counselor.

LISA: That's right. And she said, "Lisa, this is not about you forgiving your uncle, and then him having control over you." She said, "Once you forgive, the control is gone." And she said, "And it is not really about you and him anyway, it's about you and God." And so she was absolutely correct. And so I think forgiveness is one of those things that every day you wake up and decide I'm going to continue to forgive -- because it is that important. And during the night, the evil one will speak lies to you and you wake up the next day and you have to choose to forgive each and every day.

SHEILA: As you can tell there is a lifetime of wisdom in this book. One of the things I love is the enemy is not omniscient, he doesn't know what we're going to believe. He'll throw a lie at us but we can counter it with the truth of the Word of God. We want you to get a hold of a copy of *Sister Roar!*

But first of all, Randy and I would like to ask you to watch something. We're very committed to some sisters on the other side of the world at the moment and their roar is actually a roar of pain, and you and I can listen and be an answer to their prayers. Would you watch this?

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: These mothers are working hard. Struggling each day. They try to grow food for their families with little success. Not from lack of work. Not because they don't love their children. But because they just don't have adequate resources.

Ongoing drought in Angola and record-breaking floods in South Sudan have made it almost impossible to grow the food their families need. In South Sudan, mothers are forced to rely on feeding their children leaves from trees. Angolan mothers will forage for pods from the baobab trees. At best, the children can relieve their aching stomachs when they eat from the pods. But they receive little or no nutritional value.

Unfortunately, as hard as these mothers struggle to keep their children alive, a small grave is where the story ends too many times.

SHEILA: In January, this mother had to attend a third funeral for her children. I asked her, "On any given day, what is your number one concern?" And it is one thing: Getting food for these children. That's all she thinks about--every single day morning, noon, and night. All she thinks about is where can I get something to feed these children today? And she said many times she has to put these two to bed hungry and she tries to encourage them. You know what she says to them? "Who knows what tomorrow will bring?" She is trying to keep hope alive.

Mission feeding saves lives! We've done it before, but the need has never been greater. We need your help today. We need your help now.

End of video

In the studio:

SHEILA: Right at the moment, Angola is suffering the worst drought they have had in 40 years. I want you to imagine you're coming with me. You and I show up at DFW, Dallas airport, and buy a bottle of water and a sandwich and I throw it in my backpack. I get on the plane, and in a few hours, I step into her world. And I walk with her for a long, long distance just trying to see if there any food available? Their village is miles away from anything. You actually get to see what Abraham saw, the stars are so brilliant, but the need is desperate. I get down on my hands and knees with her and scrape in the mud to see if there is anything that she could give these precious children.

Let me tell you, they love their children every bit as much as I love my son. Can you imagine as a mom putting your children to rest with an aching stomach? But these moms are doing it every single day -- and they're hard-working women! But some of them get up at 4 or 5:00 in the morning because they want to be the first out in these arid fields where it hasn't rained in a long, long time to see if they can find anything. Here's the thing, she tells her children, "Who knows what tomorrow might bring?" What I've discovered in these places, a lot of these women are godly women. They believe that there is a God who answers prayer, and they ask every night, "God will you send help?" And Randy, we want to be the answer to that prayer.

RANDY: We are the answer to that. It's fascinating you mentioned that because you drive for hours and hours through the middle of nowhere in some of these places to get to a village and oftentimes, you see a church -- a beautiful little church. It may be the nicest building in the little village. And you go, what's that about? Well, they look to God like we do.

There is this crisis situation, and we need to establish this food train if you will. We've got it.

We've been doing this for decades now in Southern Africa and different places. We've got it in place. We just need some people to step up and say I want to be a part of that because when you do, you don't just share the love of Christ in Word, as we often do with the missionaries, but you share it in action. You say, hey, I don't know you but you're my neighbor and I'm here to bring you something that you need.

How do we do it? It is simple. Your gift today of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed three, five, or ten children for the next three months. It is that simple because we have everything in place to bring the food in, mix it in the bowl, to deliver it where it is most needed. We just need some people to step up. When you've done it in the past, we've seen amazing, amazing things. We're asking you to do it again.

If you can make that gift of \$1,000 to feed 100 children, what a blessing! What an honor that is! Whatever you can do, let's step up. Let's be a part of the solution. Go to the phone, go online now, make the best gift you can and know that you are helping to save a life.

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

In the studio

SHEILA: Thank you for helping. It makes a world of difference. And for any gift at all, please request a copy of *Sister Roar*: "Claim your authentic voice, embrace real freedom, and discover true sisterhood." Miss Kay, Lisa, thank you so much for being with us. It was just a joy.

KAY: I could talk to you all day!

[Laughter]

LISA: She really can talk all day.

KAY: I have! I consider it an honor that you asked us. Thank you so much.

RANDY: Absolutely. We consider it an honor that you joined us today! And we'd love to have you again every day here on *Life Today*. We'll see you again next time!

SHEILA: Bye!