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Week 42: Rescue LIFE

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

Steven Scott #1

SHEILA: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Sheila Walsh here with Randy Robison. I'm so excited you've tuned in today. If you know friends who need to be listening in, then just give them a quick text or a call.

I get the privilege of reading lots of books and enjoying the stories and enjoy what they're saying. But sometimes you read a book that you think is paradigm-shifting, is life-changing, and that's how I feel about our guest today's new book, *The Joseph Principles* by Steven Scott. Welcome to *LIFE Today*!

STEVEN: Thank you. I'm so glad to be here. Thanks.

RANDY: Great to have you. Our audience always appreciates what you share and I know that today will be no exception. Because you're talking about Joseph, aren't you, in *The Joseph Principles*?

STEVEN: No

RANDY: No?

STEVEN: No. That funny title. What we're talking about, he had 12 attributes that every believer would love to have, an intimacy with God that was unbelievable, a faith in the sovereignty of God, and the love of God that very few of us have even though we call ourselves "Christians," the ability to forgive the unforgivable, the ability to catch a vision for what God wanted and I'm not speaking about the three visions we know about, the

dreams, I'm talking about when he had to save Israel and Egypt from famine. God gave him a vision and then he mapped it out, so he accomplished everything. The most successful businessman in history because he battled a thousand. He never struck out.

RANDY: So if that's not the story, what is?

STEVEN: The story is Jesus did tell us how to bring these. Jesus actually gave us a way that we can have greater intimacy with him and the Father than Joseph ever had. In fact, Jesus tells us his love language, believe it or not. We have all read Gary's great book, *The Five Love Languages*. I know what my love language is, and if you really want to encourage my heart, you love me in that way instead of the other four. Same thing with God. Jesus revealed at the last supper that God has a love language, and when we love God using his love language, he promises intimacy.

Intimacy—what is intimacy? Intimacy is going from knowing about God to moving into a union with him. And that union, God promises, Jesus promises that those who will hear his teachings and put them into practice, he said, "The Father will love you and I too will love you, and I'll reveal myself, my heart and my mind, the Father's heart and mind to you." And he goes on to say, "And we," the Father and him, "will come to you and make our continual abiding with you"—our abiding place, our dwelling place.

But the condition for that is that we love him using his love language. And it is not worship and it is not praise and it is not even prayer. It is a whole different language.

SHEILA: The thing that I loved about your book was that for some reason Joseph in Genesis, his story, I've studied for years, I love the story, but I've often thought, well, hang on a minute! How did you do that? How did you get to that place? How were you not this? How did you keep rising to the surface? And you keep reading, "And God was with him." But then, Jesus lays it out, well, this is how it happened.

STEVEN: And that's what *The Joseph Principles* is all about. It is practical steps of

action. You know a principle or a strategy without specific steps to bring that into my life is worthless; all that does is frustrate.

For example, forgiveness, we know that Christ commands us to forgive. He says real simply multiple times: If you don't forgive, you won't be forgiven. A friend of mine just died in a car wreck where somebody else was driving. And his parents have to find out how to forgive that driver. And so, the chapter on forgiveness gets it out of the emotional. Because forgiveness has nothing to do with how you feel. It is a choice of behavior.

The other thing people think, forgiveness means reconciliation. Okay, Kumbaya time. No! No, reconciliation is a whole different subject. Forgiveness literally means to untie and release. And it came to mean, by the time Christ was walking the earth, to grant a pardon. So we grant a pardon to that person for what they owe us. Now, if they've broken the law we can't pardon them from their obligation to the law, but we can pardon them for their obligation to us.

So in the chapter on forgiveness, how to forgive even when you don't feel like it, this in itself is revolutionary to people because if you can't forgive, you can't move into intimacy. If you're holding something, and usually people are. I can ask three questions of people and usually, it reveals there is somebody in their life they haven't forgiven. But when you realize how to forgive and Christ told us specifically, that's the neat thing, he didn't leave it a mystery. He told us exactly what we can do and how we can find the capacity to forgive, untie, release, pardon.

RANDY: Yeah, which we saw with Joseph when his brothers threw him in a pit and sold him into slavery. I mean that's a lifetime of hurt.

So for someone who has suffered that really, it's a bad thing. Let's not call a bad thing a good thing. Someone who suffered that from another person, how do they go about forgiving? They know they should but how do they do it?

STEVEN: It is not hard. I'll tell you what the key is. The key is coming into an understanding of how sinfulness has separated us from God. We realize the impossible debt that God forgave in us, and then we forgive, not because that person is worthy of our forgiveness, not because that person has even repented, we forgive because God forgave us. That was the parable. We get into it in the chapter on forgiveness; the parable Christ gave where the guy forgave a servant of a multibillion-dollar debt and then the servant couldn't forgive a few thousand dollars. Okay? The reason he had to forgive and even though he didn't, was because of what had been forgiven him. When forgiveness becomes an issue of has God forgiven me? Then it is easy. When you realize if I don't forgive, I'm saying to God, hey God, your sacrifice wasn't really all that great. Because I'm pretty good and you didn't need—but this person, oh man, Lord, if you knew what he did to me you couldn't forgive him either. Really? So we get into that.

SHEILA: One of the keys to me, when somebody wronged me a long time ago and it cost me everything, including my house, everything, and I thought I had forgiven them until I realized I couldn't pray for them and that was a key for me. It wasn't just the being able to forgive, it was then to be able to pray for that person and releasing them.

STEVEN: Amen! When Jesus says to pray for somebody, who is he talking about?

SHEILA: Pray for your enemies.

STEVEN: There! Your enemies! So if you can pray for your enemies, you can pray for anybody! See praying is a behavior. So I've had people steal my life savings multiple times. I don't listen to my wife, there it goes, bye-bye! And yet, I haven't found it hard to forgive them. Even the ones that did it with evil intent, I've been able to forgive. Have I emotionally gotten over it? No! It is not emotions. But I can pray for their redemption because if they don't come for Christ where would I be without Christ? See?

So what *Joseph Principles* does is it shows you these 12 attributes. And then Jesus, it's really a Trojan horse for the teachings of Christ. There are over 100 statements of Christ

in the book where Christ says, okay, I'm telling you what to pray for. Okay, I'm telling you how to forgive.

Grief is another area. Grief! I have had a ministry since 2009, totally unintentional, totally unsought out with couples who have lost children.

SHEILA: Which is unthinkable.

STEVEN: Oh! It is the worst kind of grief, very few marriages survive it. And grief hijacks you! It hijacks your mind, your heart, your spirit, your soul. You go to bed grieving. You wake up grieving. You grieve all day. You can't get out of it. Well, Jesus gives us an answer that just like big scissors cuts that bondage to grief. Grief is a godly emotion. God gave us grief as a form of release, and there's nothing wrong with grief. It is just that Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters; he'll love the one and hate the other." So when we let grief become the master of my heart and mind, I can't serve Christ.

So the key is you don't have to cut those shackles for the rest of your life, you cut them one moment at a time. So you make Christ the master of your moments. So right now I'm in the moment with you two and with the Lord Jesus; 100 percent, and we have a chapter on how to come into the moment because that's another thing that hijacks us from the presence of God, when we're in the future or the past, which most people spend 50% of their waking time. So Jesus said, knock it off, live in the moment. And then he gave us three reset buttons that we can push any time we realize our mind is drifting to the future or the past.

RANDY: Okay, well, I want to get to those because those are important, we've talked about that before. But on the grief thing, so what is the process, the proper healthy process, do you think? Because you lose somebody—well, you know, you lost Gary Smalley, that was huge to you.

STEVEN: But see, like I say, when you minister to people who have lost children, you're talking the absolute—well, your dad knows that; your sweet mom knows that. You lose a child and there is nothing—nothing. My friend's son was killed in a car wreck, that's his fourth child that he's lost out of seven. He's got three left. Okay?

And so what we do is we show you and we actually, it combines two chapters, the chapter on cutting off the power of your worries, fears, anxiety, and stress, cutting off the power of your regrets, sorrows, and discouragements, all that is how we come into the moment which Christ—

SHEILA: Because that is the past and the future.

STEVEN: Yes! So I only have to come into the moment for the moment I'm in. So when I'm grieving, I don't have to solve my grief problem for the rest of my life or next week or two weeks from now, I just have to deal with it right now. So it is not that we want to get rid of grief, we just don't want it to be our slave master and our hijacker. Anybody who is in deep grief, their heart has been hijacked. So we show you how to come into the moment with Christ. That's the only way to get around it.

You see, God dwells in the present moment. He doesn't dwell in the future or the past. All miracles happen in the present moment. So right now you guys are my present moment. Okay, that's where God wants me to be. And he is right here with us. The Lord Jesus is right in our midst, he promised that. Most people don't know that Jesus made 80 promises to his followers. That's what we do, we show people how to come into the moment and make Christ the master of their moment. That's how you—all you're doing is you're dislodging grief, putting it in a back cupboard and you're letting Christ be the master of the moment you're in.

SHEILA: You talk about finding treasure in trauma. You know my father died by suicide when I was very young. But when I read that passage in your book, I thought of the things I can see that could never have happened that God has brought out of that.

How I can help other people who have walked through that? How do people begin to dig for the treasure?

STEVEN: Well, that's what we show them. It is called: Finding treasure where you least expect it. And Gary Smalley taught me this process over 40 years ago. He said, "Wherever there is rubble, wherever there is trauma, there are massive diamonds, but they're buried in the rubble." So we show you, and we've seen people transformed literally in minutes.

I have a distributor in Costa Rica, and she was molested by her father every day from the time she was four years old until she left home at 14. Well, we treasure hunted that, not the actual actions, but what came after that, and we found these incredible diamonds buried in the rubble that was made because of that adversity. And then she could honestly, she could thank God, not just for deliverance from that issue but she could thank God that he didn't make a mistake; that he was with her when that was happening. And now she's got these diamonds that people around her don't have. So we show you how to find those diamonds. And that really, that transforms a person, honestly, in about 30 minutes.

RANDY: I'm curious, diamonds like what? Because that's rough.

STEVEN: I'll give you an example. Number one, she became very protective of her children. Vigilant, making sure, just like the girl in the book that Gary talked to who was married to a professional football player. Both of them became aware of how protective they are of their kids so their kids don't go through the same things because of that.

They have a level of compassion and empathy. Empathy is hard to get. My wife has said to me before, "You're not very empathetic sometimes." But when you have that kind of trauma and somebody comes up to you and you can tell something is wrong, this lady would say, "Are you going through something right now?" And then they would burst into tears. She can provide ministry and empathy where the best counselor in the world

can't do it.

So those are a few. So we show you just how to—I lost nine jobs in six years and thought God, why are you doing this to me? I can't even pay my mortgage!

SHEILA: But then you talk about every lesson you learned from the nine lost jobs that led to number ten.

STEVEN: I found nine diamonds. I actually found nine puzzle pieces; each job provided one puzzle piece. By job #10, I had the nine to make ten successful. And ten became like an oil well, just all this incredible success because of those nine failures.

RANDY: All right. We've got just a couple of minutes, but I've got to get to this. Because you said, a lot of the stuff you're talking about, it gets to what you call "the big flip." And I love this because if people can see it—a lot of people watching go, yeah, I know what he's talking about. I've seen that in my life. Some people are on the verge, they don't know how to do this. Explain what you mean by that.

STEVEN: Okay, the big flip is how God takes the worst circumstances that have happened to us, sometimes like I say with evil intent. I've had people do things to me because they hated me. And he literally flips that for his glory. Your dad, we tell his story in here, and I'm glad we're getting it out because it is a perfect illustration of a man who went through abuse, a man who had no hope of anything. Your dad, honestly, should have died from what had been done to him. And instead, he was an evangelist at 18.

RANDY: Right. I think 17, actually.

STEVEN: My college group opened for him in 1967 when he was speaking at the—

RANDY: Your singing group.

STEVEN: Yeah! We opened for him in 1967. I was in college. I thought, who is this guy? He's as good as Billy Graham! I was blown away. And somebody had booked the gig for us and we were a Christian singing group. It was 1967 or '68.

RANDY: So how do people do that? Because I've seen people like my dad and they go okay, God does it.

STEVEN: You just have to recognize it and have faith in him until he does. The big flip may not come until eternity. We think God has to make things right in this little space of time. God's got all eternity to make it right.

I've had Larry King ask me, "Hey, if God is a god of love and we Jews are the chosen people, how come he let five million of us die in the concentration camp?" How do you answer that? I have the answer. The answer is God doesn't have to fix everything in this life. He's got all eternity. All eternity to mete out his love, his justice, his righteousness. There are things that God hasn't revealed to us.

But here's what we can do. We can trust that he loves us more than we love ourselves. You know in that verse in Jeremiah 9:24, Let him glory in this that he understands and intimately knows me. The Lord God exercised lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness on the earth. For I delight in these things. That first word is the Hebrew word hesed. Hesed is an incredible word because it encompasses mercy, grace, love, kindness, all in one word. And God said, "I delight in being that kind of a god." Only god in history to delight in exercising mercy. All others delight in retribution.

RANDY: All right, we've got a lot more to go. Right? Can you come back for another program?

STEVEN: Yeah! Absolutely.

RANDY: We need to show you something.

SHEILA: Yeah, one of the things, I would like you to get a hold of your copy of *The Joseph Principles*. This is going to make a huge difference in your life. One of the ways we're going to do that is that God does love justice and mercy, and there are some people on this earth at the moment who are in desperate places, and we have seen their faces and we have not forgotten them. We're going to ask you to watch this. And then I'll tell you how to get a hold of Steven's book for yourself. Watch this.

On the mission field

Open Captions: You can call me Sophia. And I am a SWAT Team Investigator. My job is to gather information about a brothel for a possible SWAT team raid. I find the exact location of the brothel and their working hours. How many clients are going in and out? On average, how many girls are working each night? I also try to get all the girls' names and their ages. If the brothel has many young girls, we will have a lot of work to do.

ANNOUNCER: Sofia's SWAT team will work with the local authorities to breach the brothel, arrest, and eventually prosecute the guilty individuals, and above all, make sure all the exploited girls and boys are rescued. Sophia is such a valued member of the SWAT team because she knows all too well how these victims feel. Sophia herself was once trafficked into a brothel.

Open Captions: At first, it was hard to talk about my past after I was rescued. But then I realized my past experiences can help those who were trafficked. I tell them, "I once was just like you. But I was healed, and you can be too." I think my past was the best lesson I could have to help others now.

ANNOUNCER: After all the women, girls, and boys are rescued and cared for, their healing can begin. *LIFE Outreach* has partnered with local missionaries in several different countries to provide a safe place for them to live, receive an education, and job training. And most importantly, each one is shown the hope that comes from being a

cherished son or daughter of God.

Open Captions: We always pray with all the ones we rescue. We know that we are not working for ourselves. We work for God. He asked us to do this work so we do the best we can.

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: One of the things that's so clear to me is God is a redeemer. God is someone who wants to take the worst that has ever happened in your life, and when it is offered up to him, he does things only he can do. He redeems our suffering. That's one of the things we care passionately about through Rescue LIFE.

When I first became involved in the ministry, I was so amazed by how clearly outlined everything was: Reach, rescue, restore. Reach, where we went to the villages, and we talked to these children. We tell them things that you think no child should know this! But it might be the most important lesson they ever learn. Then rescue, we literally go in at midnight and kick down doors. It is like being James Bond for Jesus. It is amazing! And have the traffickers arrested and these precious children brought to a place like House of Destiny where they can be restored and find out that they're loved by God.

This is happening right now. I mean the traffickers are very well-organized, very well-funded. It is a billion-dollar industry. But we are Jesus' boots on the ground at this moment. It is no accident that you and I are on the earth at this moment, and it is for a purpose. Randy, I want us to be a part of that redemption.

RANDY: We are. And you know, Steven Scott would call it, "the big flip," where we take a really bad situation and God comes in and great things come out of it. You know God can do that on his own, he has, but so often when you look at scripture, he needs a Joseph. He needs someone who will say yes, God, I'm willing to be your agent of change,

your agent of redemption on this earth.

That's what he has done through so many of the partners of *LIFE Outreach*, many of you watching. But that's what he wants to do again. Here's how it works. The average cost to reach, rescue, or restore one child is \$128. That's based on our operations across the country, here in the United States, as well as across the world in these other areas where they don't have the support that we have here. Through a matching gift of many of our friends, longstanding friends, their matching gift of \$320,000 means that your gift today of \$64 will reach, rescue, or restore one child. Many of you can do more than that. I hope you will. A gift of \$128 will reach, rescue or restore two children. Many of you can do far more than that. Your gift of \$1280 today will reach, rescue, or restore 20 children on average.

I'm asking that you do as Joseph did which is to say, Lord, I want to be a vessel of your grace, of your redemption, of your salvation. Would you go online or go to the phone today and make the very best gift that you can? And know that we are God's agents of rescue, his agents of restoring. We can only do it with your help. Go online or go to the phone today. Make the best gift you can.

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: *Innocent children and young people longing to be loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, forced into the evil industry of human trafficking.*

Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to warn children who are at risk for sex trafficking, rescue those already enslaved, and restore young lives and give 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 "I Hear His Whisper." Each entry in this beautiful 365-day devotional will encourage you with words of comfort, joy, and love as you encounter God's heart and hear his gentle voice.

With a gift of \$128 or more, you'll receive "What Does Your Jesus Look Like?" This captivating book by sculptor, Scott Stearman shares compelling stories and beautiful images revealing how we can be the image of Christ to a watching world.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 which will now help save 20 children. And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Let the Children Come." Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: Thank you so much. If the lines are busy, please keep calling. And for any gift at all, you can request your copy of *The Joseph Principles*: "Turning adversity and heartache into miraculous living."

RANDY: Yes! Steven, I appreciate you being here. You know there is a butterfly on the cover of this book. We didn't get to explain that. Can you come back on another program, and we can explain all of that?

STEVEN: All of it!

RANDY: All right, well, you guys have got to come back and join us next time. If you miss it on the broadcast, you can always go to LifeToday.org and we'll see you again.

SHEILA: Bye!