

12/28/22

Week one: Fall Mission Feeding: Last week

Sheila Walsh

Dr. David Jeremiah

Modified from 1/1/20

In the studio

SHEILA: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Sheila Walsh. You know knowing that my time here is coming to an end, I've been sitting and reflecting on the goodness of God to allow me to be a part of a ministry like this.

If you've never had the privilege of meeting James and Betty in person can I just tell you they're every bit as wonderful as you hoped they would be? I've watched the way that they pray for the staff here, I've watched the way they pray for you. I've watched the way they pray for all of our missions and the way they genuinely care. And to be able to have walked side by side with them for so long has been such a gift.

But also, being able to interview so many incredible people. And inevitably, we always end up with like one or two people that are just like oh gosh, our favorites. And for me, that's always going to be Dr. David Jeremiah. I've learned so much from him. His study Bible is one of my absolute favorites.

But I had him on the show not so long ago and his book was *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*. What I love about it is that there are some questions that you think, I wonder if this happens in heaven? Or I wonder if that happens in heaven? But you never know quite who to ask. Well, I found the person and I found the book.

It was wonderful having him here in the studio and I thought you might enjoy watching it again. And if you have a dog, you'll want to stay tuned. Watch this.

Begin video clip

Sheila: So I just want to say welcome to the show. I'm so glad. This is an incredible, incredible book.

David: Thank you.

Sheila: What made you write down everything about heaven?

David: I've been doing this pastor thing for a long time and you get some questions about heaven. You begin to realize that people don't really know very much about heaven. I've said people spend more time planning a two-week vacation than they do getting ready to where they're going to spend eternity.

[Laughter]

So all these questions started accumulating and they were questions I had never seen in a book where people had... So I thought I'd write a book that had all the questions nobody else is asking about heaven and that's what we did.

Sheila: But it is fantastic. I even put a little thing out on Facebook asking people, "If you could ask Dr. Jeremiah anything about heaven what would it be?" And one of them is actually in your first chapter: Is heaven a real physical place?

David: Yes. On the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. He said, "In my Father's house are many mansions and I go to prepare a *place* for you." Not a dream or a figment of your imagination or whatever. Heaven is a place.

Sheila: How many heavens are there? I always thought there was two, but I stand corrected.

David: No. No, there is three heavens according to the Bible. In fact, when Paul was caught up to heaven, he said he was caught up into the third heaven. So we have to figure out what the other two are. The first heaven is the atmosphere; where we fly our planes in the atmosphere. Then there is a celestial heaven and that's where the stars and the moon and the sun are. And then the third heaven is above that and that's where God is.

Sheila: Any time people talk about heaven they point upward. Do we know that heaven is north?

David: Well, that's a big deal. I remember when I was working on that somebody said, "Well, yeah, but north is different depending on what part of the world you're in."

But what I know from the Bible, Ephesians says, "He ascended to us." And over and over in the gospels we read that Jesus came down. So heaven is up. We know that.

Sheila: For someone who dies before the rapture where are they at the moment?

David: You know that's a really important question. That's one that's most often asked, Sheila. Especially when people lose somebody they love, it's very confusing to them because they hear that they've gone to heaven but then they go to a funeral, and they see the body and they go put the body in the grave and they don't understand. But the scriptures are very clear. Here's the best way to say that. The Bible says, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord." In other words, when we die our body goes in the grave and our soul and our spirit go to be with God. In the resurrection those two commodities are going to be joined together again. But when we die our body goes in the grave.

So it is true. When you lose a loved one, if you're a Christian and you go to the funeral and your brother, sister, mom or dad, they're not there; just the house they lived in while they were here.

Sheila: In regard to the rapture, what happens to those of us who are here on earth at that

point and what happens to those who have already died in Christ?

David: One of the things that's really misunderstood about that is that only the people who died first get a makeover. Everybody gets a makeover. The Bible says that we'll be changed to be like the Lord and those who die first before Christ comes back that are in the grave, they actually take precedence over everybody else.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "I don't want you to be ignorant, brethren concerning those who are asleep, for we shall not precede them." In other words, they're going to go up first. And the Bible tells us on the way up they're going to be changed like unto the Lord Jesus Christ in his resurrection body. Over in Philippians we are told that those of us who are alive and remain, we're going to get that change too on the way.

So I think the chapter in my book was "The Extreme Makeover." Everybody is always spending so much money and one day it is all going to be done and done right. We won't even need the make-up artist that helped us get ready for this show.

Sheila: Well, we sure need her now. Yes!

So with my mom and dad who both passed, will they go ahead of me to heaven?

David: Here's the beauty of that. I don't think they will see the ultimate heaven in any precedence over us. In other words, the Bible says that those of us who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them. Who are them? The ones who have already died. And then we will be ushered into ultimate heaven together. My mom and dad are in heaven, but they won't see heaven as we will until we all see it together.

Sheila: That's marvelous. It's just marvelous. One of the questions I got on Facebook, and I totally understood it because I used to think this myself. This girl said, "I'm glad I'm going to heaven because it is better than the alternative. But what are we going to do for all of those millions of years? Will we be bored?"

David: That's the ancient reason why people, you hear guys, I've witnessed this in so many guys, "I'm going to go and... I'd rather be with my drinking buddies and all that." You know? "I'm going where my friends are." And that's such an ignorant thing to say.

But heaven is not going to be boring and I'm going to tell you why. First of all, God isn't boring. God would never create a place for those he loves that would be boring for eternity. And believe it or not you and I are not going to be boring because before we get there we're going to be changed.

And when we get there, heaven will be a place where we serve. The Bible tells us his servants will serve him. It's a place where incredible worship is going to take place. We're going to have assignments to rule and reign just like in the millennium. And heaven will be a time where we can serve as long as we want, and we'll never be tired.

Sheila: Gosh. Isn't that amazing?

David: Isn't that something?

Sheila: That's beautiful. Will we recognize one another?

David: Absolutely! We know that, for instance, on the Mount of Transfiguration when those three guys showed up from a different world they were known. Everybody knew who they were. When Jesus came out of the grave, he was in his resurrection body and Mary knew him after a few moments. She knew him by his voice more than anything else. So there's... If we can't remember we aren't a person. When we get to heaven, we'll remember the people, we'll know them, we'll be known by them, and we'll know them as we've never known them before.

Sheila: Somebody asked me a question that was very heart stirring. She said, "I have miscarried two children. Will they be in heaven? Will I know they are my children?"

David: Well, let's just stop and think about that for a moment, Sheila. If you believe, as we do, that a child becomes a person at the moment of conception, then that person is as viable a person as anybody else. And if that child dies before it is actually born into the world it is still a living person. And that child because it obviously didn't have a chance to understand the gospel will be covered under the blood of Christ and it will be in heaven.

Most people don't know this about us. We have four children, but we have five because we had a miscarriage right at the beginning. It was very, very... People don't think that is a big deal. I can tell you, that's a big deal. Especially if you haven't got any other children. And we wanted children for quite a few years before we had them. And then all of the sudden we got them all at once.

[Laughter]

But this baby was miscarried, I'll never forget it, because we miscarried that baby on the day that my grandfather died, and I had to make the decision as to whether to go to the funeral of my grandfather or take Donna to the hospital. And that baby is there. We've never met that baby. We don't know that baby but some day we will.

Sheila: When Christian was two years old, I miscarried, and I can't wait to think that one day that I'll get to meet that little one. What's the difference between "The Great White Throne" and "The Judgment Seat of Christ"?

David: Well, the difference is a lot of years for one thing. "The Great White Throne" judgment doesn't happen till the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ, the millennium. "The Judgment Seat of Christ" happens immediately after the rapture, and it is for Christians only.

Here's the best way to remember that. "The Judgment Seat of Christ" is a place where no

unsaved people will ever be. When you stand before the judge at the judgment seat of Christ it's not to be judged for your sin but to be judged for the works you have done in your flesh as a believer. And it is not even a judgment for good and bad as much as it is the rewards are given and it's how have we served the Lord? Have we served him with all of our hearts?

But "The Great White Throne" judgment takes place clear at the end of the millennium, at the end of the thousand-year reign and that's a place where no Christians will ever be. Only unbelievers will be there and that will not be a -- that will be a very sober time in the history of the world.

Sheila: What are some of the rewards that... Because I often think there are so many people out there who get very little recognition on this earth but have faithfully served Christ all their lives.

David: You know what's interesting, Sheila? A lot of Christians I meet think that rewards shouldn't happen; that you should just serve Jesus and not really care about a reward. But the problem with that is rewards are everywhere in the scripture. And so God knows a lot more about us than we think he does. That we are motivated by rewards.

There is a soul winner's reward. There is a reward for those who love the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is five rewards that I know of and I've written about them in the book that we're candidates for, most of us, if we serve the Lord with a pure heart and a desire to honor him, one day we're going to get these rewards. And the beauty of it is, we won't keep them long. The Bible says we'll take them and throw them, cast them at the feet of Jesus as our way of worshipping him.

Sheila: You call them "Heaven's Oscars."

[Laughter]

I love that idea. But you say the ultimate goal is that we give them... Because that really helps me. Because I always thought, what do you do with rewards in heaven? But if they're simply to be thrown back at the feet of Christ that's a beautiful thing.

David: Suppose you are a Christian and you've wasted your life and you haven't... I know people like this. They're Christians, I know that, but they're not living for Christ, they're living for this world. They don't have any time to do anything to serve the Lord and they're going to stand there that day and watch people bring the rewards and cast them at the feet of Jesus and they won't have anything to give. I sure don't want to be in that spot. I want to be able to worship the Lord that day with joy.

Sheila: Somebody asked, "Well, if everybody believer from the beginning of time, I mean how do they all fit into heaven? And how are you ever going to see Jesus because there's going to be so many millions and millions and millions of people?"

David: Well, we're going to have better bodies and better awareness. And as far as where are all these people going to fit, you know the Bible describes the new city as its 1500 miles wide, 1500 miles long, and its 1500 miles high. Heaven, the city, the holy city is going to be a place of many levels. If it is 1500 miles high, you could have 1500 stories a mile high. And somebody has... I mean I've read all the statistics on how this is going to happen. It says, how are you going to get around?

Well, when Jesus came out of the grave in his glorified body, he no longer was veiling his attributes. He was able to move through doors, he was able to be in one place and then another place. He suddenly appeared. I don't know how that's going to work but with this huge city you'll be able to move about in different places. And the Lord Jesus will be available to us.

Here's something I taught a couple of weeks ago that shocked everybody. I've been doing a little series called, "What You May Not Know about Jesus." Here's what you may not know. In heaven Jesus is in his body. He went up in his resurrection body and the angel

said, "This same Jesus who was taken up from you will come in like manner." So that means he is in heaven right now in his humanity.

I remember reading, God loves humanity so much that he allows his own son to live in humanity at the right hand of the Father. So when I pray today and I ask God to help me through Jesus Christ, I'm actually talking to Jesus who is still in his humanity even though he is in heaven. Isn't that amazing? Now that's something that most people don't know about Jesus.

Sheila: No! And will he still be marked with the marks of crucifixion?

David: Absolutely! That's what's so beautiful about that. When you see him you will be able to see the scars in his hands and in his feet. The marks of your redemption will always be available for you to know what he did so that you could be there.

Sheila: Why do you think he chose to rise with those marks? He could have left those behind in the tomb. Why do you think he kept...? The only scars in heaven will be the scars of Christ.

David: That's right. He understands how desperate we need to be reminded of this. In fact, isn't that what communion is about? "This do in remembrance of me." And so those scars will always be there as a motivation for worship, I think. When we see his scars, we will worship him as never before.

Sheila: I've got a question. Actually, it was just last weekend where I was out when a young guy probably 14-15 said, "When I gave my life to Christ my mom told me that my name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Can anything ever erase that?"

David: Christians cannot be erased for the Lamb's Book of Life. It's impossible for that to happen. Somebody probably may want to argue with me about that, but I believe that when you commit your life to Jesus Christ he says, "And I give unto them eternal life and

they shall never perish."

The Lamb's Book of Life is an interesting little story because it is different than most people think. In the Roman and Greek cities, Bible days, they had a register of the people who lived in the city; they were in the city's registry. If they were convicted of a horrible crime or if they committed murder their names would be taken out of the list. So the Book of Life in the New Testament, the book of Revelation basically, it is a book in which every name is written of everybody who was ever born and if they get to the end of their life and they haven't received Jesus Christ their name is removed from the Book of Life. That's different than most people think but that's what the scripture teaches.

Sheila: In Revelation 21, there has always been something that I've never quite understood. It says that the sea will also be gone. Will there be no sea?

David: You know what? You and my wife!

[Laughter]

Sheila: Good company with Donna!

David: Donna loves the ocean and one day when I preached on that she said, "You know what? I was all excited about heaven until you told me there wasn't going to be any ocean!"

Well, I don't pretend to know all of what was in God's mind for that, but we need to remember there will be water in heaven. The Bible says there's a river that flows from the throne of God all the way -- and it's bordered by the 12 trees of... fruit trees. It's a beautiful scene when you read about it. But 75% of our world is ocean water; salt water, and salt is a preservative. When you get to heaven, you don't need that anymore. When you get to heaven you don't need a preservative in the ecological system. God's ecological system will be perfect and there will be water. And I'm sure you and Donna

will be able to find a place on the shore.

Sheila: To paddle!

[Laughter]

Here's the question I really want the answer to. Are my dogs going to heaven?

David: Are your dogs going to heaven?

Sheila: Yes!

David: Well, you know I've got to tell you something. We put that on the internet at Turning Point. It got more hits than anything we have ever done -- "Do animals go to heaven?" Here's what I heard. I had a little girl write me a letter. She says, "I don't know why you keep asking are animals in heaven?" She said, "When Jesus comes back at the end he is riding on a white horse. And if horses are in heaven, dogs must be in heaven." I'm not sure about cats but I'm pretty sure about dogs.

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: Well, apologies to all you cat lovers! Now I know he didn't mean that. If my dogs are going to be there I'm pretty sure your cats will be there too. God created everything. In the beginning, when you think about it when God, in the Garden of Eden everything was there and it was all perfect. And if God is what God intended then, I know that is part of our new life.

But it is such a wonderful privilege to work with someone like Dr. Jeremiah who spent

his life teaching the Word of God. Sometimes when I've been working with him I've asked to look at his sermon notes and he literally writes out word by word every message. I've just personally learned so much. So I'm going to tell you how you can get a hold of his book *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*.

But first of all, I want to ask you if you will help us with something. We all look forward to that day when we're finally home and when we finally see Jesus face to face. But there are a lot of people right now on this earth who are struggling, who are hurting, who are in pain. And for those of us who know the Lord, who have been blessed by his gift of life and a future, we have the privilege of making a difference in their lives right now. This is so important to us here at *LIFE* that we hear the cries of the hungry and we respond in Jesus' name.

So I'm going to ask you to watch something and then I'm going to tell you how you and I can be an answer to their prayers. Watch this.

On the mission field

JOHN: So I'm sitting here in Vesa, Angola. It is a very rural countryside area. And I just listened to Rosa here share her story of the loss of her children. It's so tragic. She's lost three of her children to hunger. And she was sharing the story of her oldest child that died from malnutrition, he was four years old.

Open Captions: Because of the drought our seeds will not grow, and it is a struggle to get any food. Three of my children have died because of hunger. The night my son died he said, "Mama, I'm going, I'm going."

JOHN: "Mama, I'm going!" She said it caused her to literally faint. And when she woke up, he was gone. Can you imagine, "Mama, I'm going?"

I know that you love Rosa and Clementin. Without Mission Feeding we cannot guarantee

that Clementin is not going to follow her brothers and sisters in that same path of "Mama, I'm going."

Do all that you can to make sure that villages like this don't have to lose any more children. That no mother ever has to listen to her child say, "Mama, I'm going." Please help!

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: John's right. There's nothing worse than hearing the stories of some of these moms and the last things that their children have said to them.

I remember one of the first women that I met, and she knew that her son was sick. She tried to take him to a clinic but by the time they got there her son had already passed. Another woman was carrying her son back home and he asked her to put him down. And she put her son down and he was gone.

The thing that is fascinating to me is there are situations in the world right now, we hear about it on the news every day. There are things that we think there's nothing I can do about that. There are wars and rumors of wars and things going on, on so many levels and we think, I can't impact that in any way. This is a war that you and I can win -- this war on poverty. Poverty is not God's will. It is not God's will that any child should have to say to their mom, "Mama, I'm going." When a child recognizes in themselves that they don't have the strength to breathe one last breath.

But you and I can do something about that. I think it is the most incredible opportunity God has given us when you think of everything that God has gifted us with. I pray that you're in a great place with your family. I pray that your children are doing well. But can you imagine what it's like to be in a situation like that where you're literally having to bury one child after another from something that is preventable? That's the thing that kind

of gets me. Sometimes you hear of a child that gets some devastating illness and doctors will do everything they can and there is nothing else they can do.

But this is something you and I can do something about. We can change this right now if we all determine together to do something. If you're able to give \$30, if you would call right now that number on your screen and say you know what? I can give \$30. Do you know that will feed three children for three months?

Now, this is our last week. These are year-end gifts. This is the last opportunity in Mission Feeding for you to make an impact. Perhaps you've watched a couple of programs and thought, well, yeah, I would like to do something, but you haven't done it yet. Now's the time. If you could give \$50 that would give five children food for three whole months.

We have wonderful gifts that we'd love to send to you. But I know you don't do it for that, you do it for moms like that who are praying that this darling boy beside her will have enough strength to go on. She doesn't want to lose one more child. So please, go online, and give the best gift you can. Call that number on your screen and determine that this year we're going to make a difference in Jesus' name. Please, would you do it now?

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Across the continent of Africa, children are suffering and facing severe malnutrition. Lack of rainfall and severe drought has led to one of the deadliest food crises in 40 years.

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 *LIFE Planner* bound in soft-touch leather. This planner will help you in your daily walk with space for you to record your appointments, goals, inspirational notes, and prayers.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the scripture pen set. Perfect companions to the *LIFE* planner, these beautiful wooden pens are inscribed with scripture references to keep your heart focused on God's plans for 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.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the mission field

ISAK: I've always said that to me the greatest tragedy that could ever happen to any human being is to bury your own children. And yet, for this mother and many others in her village that is a reality year after year after year. Please, do what you can do. Be a part of helping a mother like this to ensure that she doesn't bury the last of her two children that are left.

You say well, what can I do? How can I change that? My heart's broken too. What do I do about changing this mother's --how can I change this? You can bring Mission Feeding to this village. You can bring life to this village if you will just get up right now, dial the number that's on your screen, just give the best gift that you can give. Give the gift of love and the gift of life. Give Mission Feeding to this mother, her children, and her entire

village.

End of video

In the studio

SHEILA: Thank you so much. Remember, this is our last week of Mission Feeding. For any gift at all, request your own copy of *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*. Fantastic book!

But I just to want to thank you so much for your faithful, not only your faithful viewing of the program, for your faithful partnership, and for the way that you have responded over and over again. So thank you so much from all of us here at *LIFE*. We pray God's richest blessing on you, and we'll see you next time.