

Week 19

5/2/11

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: And I just love this title of a book, *The Shelter of God's Promises*. Now that's you living in the shelter and the shadow of the almighty. That's what this book is about and Sheila Walsh wrote it. I don't know anyone -- and she'll tell you this -- who was more desperate for a shelter, who needed it any more and this is a religious little church girl, like a television host when she -- a Christian television host and a great singer in Billy Graham crusades and yet she had to find a shelter. You know something? She just keeps walking in that presence and learning. She hasn't arrived. And on her journey, in his presence in the shelter, she has been able to address the very things that challenge so many of you. Welcome Sheila Walsh back to *LIFE Today*. She is one of our most popular guests.

Sheila: Thanks!

James: Sheila, glad to see you!

[Applause]

Well, I have literally been caught up in my prayer time and study into the presence of God with a greater understanding of his presence, not like go to heaven, but heaven, the power of his presence. You know he prayed, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is on heaven"? Kingdom come -- that didn't mean get out of here and go to heaven so it will be like it is in heaven. He said "on earth," in the here and now. When I saw this, I think you really understand what it is that I'm coming to understand and we're just kind of walking in this light with a lot of excitement.

Sheila: Yeah, I read an article that is on your web site, is it JamesRobison.net?

James: Yes, that's it.

Sheila: It was fascinating. The more I read it, the more I connected with it because I remember at the actual title --

James: Is this the one about the blind dog?

Sheila: It is the one about the blind dog. So the dog got me initially but the fact that you would get down on your knees because a man recognized you as the man who prays and asked you to pray for this little dog and the Kingdom of God showed up in this Office Depot.

James: It is amazing. Here's the thing, he said to his dog, when he just saw me. I said, "What a cute dog!" He said to the dog, "That's the man that needs to pray for you." I thought -- he said, "I know you."

Sheila: Did he know you from TV?

James: He understood someone who understood kingdom and this man said, "My dog is blind." Well, we got down on the floor and had us a prayer meeting. I'm telling you, the glory of God showed up. This is the way everybody can live. This is what I see here. I want you to tell us about the book. I want you to kind of tell us about your journey in kingdom presence and reality.

Sheila: If you were born in Scotland as I was, if you are a student in Scotland or England between 15-18 years of age, you can do this thing called the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which is something the queen's husband gives out every year. You do the bronze level and the silver, and if you complete the gold level you go to Buckingham Palace and you're presented this gold award by the queen's husband. So I was almost finished with my gold level. All I had to do was spend three nights on a Scottish mountain side in a single tent, cook my own food, heat my own water, no matches. I did well the first night. The second night a storm was blowing so wildly I couldn't light it. So I got into my tent and I was reading that wonderful Psalm of Assent, Psalm 121, I look to the hills, where does my help come from? And reminding the Lord he had promised not to sleep while I was sleeping in this rough mountain. But in the middle of the night I woke up at two in the morning and somebody was lying on my tent. I'm in a very small tent so I put the flashlight out and I thought I don't know who it is. So I pull myself out, shone the flashlight in their face and saw that it was a huge Scottish highland sheep that decided to park there for the night. I thought, well, I can't get back in with the sheep and the sheep was not going anywhere. So I pull my sleeping bag out and I remembered I'd seen this little kind of cleft in the rock earlier on when I had been looking for a place to pitch my tent. So I got my sleeping bag and I got in there and even though the wind was howling and the rain was whipping, just the angle of the shelter, I was completely safe and I fell asleep. When I woke up in the morning with the sun rising over the Cairngorm Mountains and I kind of crept to the edge and I felt the Lord say, "Sheila, from this moment on, this is how I want you to live. Whether the storm is blowing outside or whether you

wake up and the sun's rays are bright in your face, I am your shelter. It doesn't matter what life looks like, whether the storm's outside or the storm's inside I am your shelter and I want you to live like this for the rest of your life."

James: Wow! You know what I saw when you see that -- I'm seeing all these visions because it's really actually kind of fun. It is kind of like just running conversation with the Lord. But I'm seeing you finding the cleft of the rock because the sheep are just lying there by you. And really, there is a lot of sheep laying around, instead of standing up in the light of the shepherd. But you were driven to the cleft of the rock. You found out that sleeping sheep who are not necessarily being a comfort could drive you to your source of comfort. When you came out you heard from the source of comfort. Here's the point I get. When I listen to her story I'm trying to listen to other lessons I might get along with what she is saying, and that is don't let anyone else distract you from where you need to go to get your shelter. Go find it! It may be some big old sheep in your way, laying on you and being a nuisance or not being a help but go to the rock. And Sheila, this whole book -- I'm going to read, if you don't mind, I want to read some of these words, and then the subheading and the chapters because this is basically what you're talking about. You take the word "Promises, promises, I need something to hold on to." "Provision: I don't have enough." "Peace: I'm afraid. I feel alone." "Confidence: I can't see God's plan in this pain." That's powerful! Even when I read these titles, I felt like I was identifying with people who were saying, "I can't see God in all this pain." I can feel that because I'm able to identify with people's suffering. Then you talked about, "Love: I don't believe that anyone could really love me." "Grace: I have failed." Haven't we all? Don't get stuck there. His grace will lift you beyond all the pits that you've dug by your own mistakes. "Hope: I'm broken." "Strength: I feel things are crashing around me." "More: I know there is something better." "Home: I have a future." How about taking off on peace?

Sheila: The thing I love about peace is Jesus said, "My peace I give you, not as the world gives." We hear a lot of talk about that, don't we? Peace talks and we're trying to find peace between this nation and that nation. Jesus made it very clear... because think about when he said that to them. This was the last time Jesus is sitting around a table with his friends. Now they're expecting the Messiah is going to look one way. They think -- they're remembering back to "Unto us a child is given... Unto us a child is born, a son is given. The government will be upon his shoulders." They think Messiah will come riding into Jerusalem and destroy the Romans. But Jesus knows something is about to happen that will make you think it's all gone wrong because I'm about to be betrayed, I'm about to be arrested, I'm about to be brutally murdered and you're going to think it's all gone wrong. That's what I want you to understand about peace. "In this world you will have trouble" and the word he uses for trouble is a Greek word,

ektarasso, and it means like a perfect storm. In this world there is going to be some perfect storms that you think, I cannot make it through this one. But take heart -- which is an instruction -- come on, Betty! Come on, James! Take heart, I have overcome the world." We think if God shows up and life goes smoothly, then God is with us. And Jesus said, "No, my kingdom is not of this world." It is a different thing. "When my kingdom invades your life it doesn't matter if you're in the storm or in the cave or in the sunshine, when I speak peace to you, you can know peace no matter what is going on around you."

James: Wow!

Sheila: Think about when they were in the boat going across Galilee. Jesus is exhausted, he's been teaching all day. He falls asleep in the bow of the boat. A storm gets up and they eventually wake Jesus and say, "Don't you care we're about to drown?" Jesus stands up; kind of shakes his head. Says, "Peace be still" and they said, "Who is this man? Even the seas obey him?" So when Jesus speaks to storms outside your life they have to obey. But what about inside your heart? People listening in right now, the minute that boat touches the shore there is a man, we call him the Gadarene demoniac, who is absolutely out of his mind, lives in the caves, lives among the dead. That's a part of the sea of Galilee that no Jew goes to, pagan land. They have all this animal worship; they slaughter pigs. It is an abhorrent place to the Jews. But the minute Jesus sets foot on the shore this demon-possessed man runs to Jesus. He's never heard of Jesus. But for the first time in his life the demons step back because they know who he is. This man doesn't know who he is but they know who he is. And for the first time in his life he feels the possibility of peace. If you've been tormented by demons and in a moment, because of the presence of a stranger on the shore, they all go "Ah!" inside you and recoil, and suddenly, it is like there is a glimmer of light, this man runs to Jesus and falls at his feet. So whether Jesus speaks to the storm outside your life or the storm inside your heart, when he speaks, they have to obey.

James: Wow! And I'm telling you, I know that that peace is here in me. Sheila, I have a longing for it for them. So if I have that longing, imagine how much more so God, which is the reason you would write about the shelter, and it is the reason this love and life flow out of you because you've had the need just like I have, for that peace that the world can't give and you found it and you want it for others.

Sheila: And what I love is that it is not dependent on our circumstances. So often we think, if I could just get out of this or if I could get out of this place or out of this marriage or out of this job then I would be at peace. No, because you take you with you. And if the trouble is inside you then you've taken it with you. Jesus said, "Where

you are right now..." Because think back to the scene. The demons know that Jesus will not let them go into another person so they say, "How about the pigs? Could we go into the pigs?" So the pigs go squealing up the top of the cliff and dive into the ocean. So there is chaos there. There is chaos with all the people that have been working with the pigs. They run back into town and like we just lost our day job. The only place there is peace is at the feet of Jesus. Everywhere else is chaos. But at the feet of Jesus we're told the man is found clothed and in his right mind. Sometimes I think we look at our lives and we think, how did I get here? When I was a student in London I took a day off and went to one of the parks and I had a sandwich and I was just people watching. And I noticed this man sitting across from me and I could tell he was probably homeless. He had two or three plastic sacks and he had a coat tied together with a piece of rope and he wouldn't make eye contact with me. I started praying for him because I thought, I don't know his story, Father, but you know every line. Then he suddenly looked up and he smiled. So I went over to him and I said, "Do you mind if I join you?" He said, "No, sure." I said, "Have you eaten?" He said, "No." I said, "Well, I have half my sandwich." So we sat in kind of pleasant silence for a few minutes. Then he said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I'm a student at seminary. I want to be a missionary." He said, "Well, that's a very noble quest." I said, "Do you mind if I ask about your life?" And this man told me that he had been -- Harley Street in London is the street for our private doctors. It is the most highly paid physicians in England. They're the best of the best of the best. He used to be a Harley Street physician but through alcohol and prescription abuse he had lost his job, he had lost his family, he had lost his home. He was now living on streets that used to be paved with gold for him. The line that really arrested me was he said that one day he was walking down Oxford Street and he saw in a mirror a reflection of this filthy, unkempt man. And he said, "I suddenly realized as my disgust rose it was me." I thought this is what I have become. I think of that with the man that Jesus delivered but I also think of people right now who think how did I get here? This isn't what I thought my life would be like. How did I get to this place? Some people think, you know what? I've just got to hold on until I get to heaven. Jesus said, "No, I've come to give you life now." You can know it now in the midst of the best days and the worst days. You can know the peace of Christ, the risen Christ now.

James: You know when I listen to Sheila and she is talking in the beautiful accent that we all in Texas desperately need, just any nearly appropriate English would be nice. But we listen to her talking about her homeland and I think about the people who are watching in the United Kingdom and how blessed I was recently to see "The King's Speech." For many reasons, Betty, "The Butterfly Effect," that we told people how important you are, the speech therapist for the king was the butterfly, he was the unseen, perhaps most important as you are. But also I saw something else in watching

the people in Great Britain, I saw a sincere desire to honor royalty, even though they realize they reorganized the power structure and they would agree, I'm sure more appropriately than it had ever been with the monarchy but yet they wanted to keep that honor of royalty. And their desire to honor it, it said something to me that we're really lacking, a lot of times, is a desire to honor others. Well, let me just say to you in the U.K. and here in the United States and in Canada and Australia and all over the world, it's honoring royalty that is so desperately needed because the king establishing his kingdom rule in your heart wherever you are, he wants to bring the king's presence into the place where you live with all of its peace, with the love and the grace that your heart longs for. And with the divine direction that in presenting your body to him, that you could be not conformed anymore to the world but transformed by the renewing of your mind by the truth and the Word of God that you may know -- you may know the good acceptable and perfect will of God. I found that as a teenager, and now I'm 67, and it is still so true. As I've looked back over my journey and all the times that I've stumbled and the king was there and the shepherd was there to lift me up. Listen, Sheila, it's so wonderful that when Jesus the shepherd had 99 that was safe in the fold he was out looking for you. He was looking for the one that wasn't secure and safe. Let me tell you what he does when he really gets to you, he'll show you how you too can join him to go out where everyone that's not secure, that's not in his arms. Father, I pray for everyone listening today that they'll find the shelter in the storm, that they'll find the peace that passes understanding, that even today they would say, "Lord, I give you my life, be my king, be my Lord. I want to experience your peace and your presence." In Jesus' name. I pray that for you right where you are. I do want to remind you, this wonderful book and incredible study guide. This is just awesome! It's in the bookstores. You can go online. I'll just simply tell you, we would be glad -- we're trying to feed another half million children that are hungry and they may not even live. They don't even know if they're going to be around next week but we can give them a tomorrow. We can give them a future. If you'll help us do that, I'll be glad to send you Sheila's book. Betty and I want to do that along with God's Kingdom in You, a teaching series that we did with Beth Moore. We would just love to be a blessing to you. And Sheila, I just appreciate you. You've been such a blessing. And you've always been really a partner with us in all God's called us to do, and like so many of the viewers that are watching us right now. I want to show you -- and you're going to be blessed by this, Sheila -- I want to show you right now some images of need, some place where the shepherd needs to go and put his arms around someone who hurts. You can be those hands and those arms -- you really can be! I'm going to ask that not a single one of you would say, "What can I do to show somebody God's love and give them a chance?" I want you to watch.

Begin video clip:

>> Africa, what an incredible place! What beautiful people! Their fight for survival -- oh, how they fight for life. But every six seconds a child here is losing that fight. It is not right. Such injustice... every six seconds malnutrition takes another child here. It seems hopeless. Is it hopeless? Every six seconds. God, what are you saying here? What is your heart for this situation? Every six seconds -- you're bigger than this. I know your arms are long enough. Every six seconds, rescue them. We have to rescue them. What is my part? Another child. We have to stop it. It is not hopeless. It can't be hopeless! But another one. This isn't an incurable disease, it is food! It is so simple. It is food! God, if there is anywhere in the world that your heart runs to, I know this is it. These innocent children. Oh, how you love them! We can do this. I know it is your will. We can do this. Please help us turn back the clock.

End of clip**In the studio:**

James: Ooh! Tammy! This Tammy who lost her husband years ago, just drowned -- a young couple. Tammy, I see Jesus in you all the time. Thank you! Thank you for putting God's arms around those children. I'd hold every kid I could in the world. God, I'm such a mere person and imagine how God wants to do that and he can! But he does it through us, Betty. I looked at those little groupings of children and she finally went to one but I think there were maybe ten -- we can feed ten kids with \$100. We can feed five for \$50 and three for \$30. I don't know what somebody can do but it is like Tammy was talking about the need, she said you go get them and we can do something. She looked straight at us. And Betty, we're going to hold as many of them as we can and what God's put on our heart to do. That's why we've gone all over the world to see a need that love can meet. That's what we're asking you to do is just dial the phone number and make the greatest gift you can to give them the greatest gift there is and that is a chance at life. We're going to tell them about the love of God but we're going to show them before we talk it. We're going to demonstrate it. But the missionaries are helpless without us enabling them. I'm praying there wouldn't be a viewer anywhere in the world that wouldn't help us.

Betty: Me too, James! Tammy said it so well, God is big enough. His arms are long enough and he wants us to be an extension of his love and his heart and his arms to reach around these children and say, "Here's help. Here's what you need." Would you

join with us and let's be a part of that together so that we can make the difference in life and death to these children.

James: Betty, we've just started our mission feeding emphasis and we'll go for several days, actually even a few weeks to raise funds to feed a half million children that the missionaries have already found in desperate need. And all they need is something in their hands to put in those children to get in their little systems to save their lives and stabilize their families. A lot of times when we start talking about it, Betty, it is like people watch for a few days or a week, I wish everybody would start today. I don't want to wait 'til the end of something I want to start something new. I wish we could all respond so much that we call the missionaries and say, "Go find some more!" Kind of like Jesus saying, "Go find another sheep outside the fold, go get them!" That's my heart. Would you help us do that today? Would you dial the number and take your bankcard and use it like a check? If you could help us take care of ten children, give \$100 gift or more -- take care of 100, give \$1,000 -- or help us take care of five or three with a gift of \$50 or \$30. We want to send you the incredible teaching series about God's Kingdom in You, living in his presence in the present. Not waiting for them now, we're going to have them forever -- no enemy, no death, no disease, no sickness - - we can have presence now and demonstrate his love now. We want to help you. We want to send you that series. But I'm asking you, go online to LifeToday.org and make your gift but write a check and make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Dial the number right now please, and say, "Here's my gift." You can help us take ten of those kids, do it. But whatever you can do, hey, it is important to that child or those children. Please don't turn away. Reach out. We really are his hands. Thank you for making that call.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment a child is drawing her last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help, many like her throughout Africa face death as well. Today you can make a difference. You can save a life! *LIFE's* mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of half a million children throughout remote areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. With previous food reserves gone and Southern Africa facing its worst conditions and food shortage in more than two decades, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for the feeding programs immediately! Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months. With your gift we'll send you the God's Kingdom in You audio series and companion scripture guide. James and Betty Robison, along with Beth Moore, inspire you to live every day in the power and presence of God. With

your gift of \$125 or more to help feed ten children you may request both the video DVD and audio series with scripture guide. As a bonus we will also send you Jim Hylton's new book, the supernatural skyline. Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help save the lives of 100 children and be sure to request the beautiful new "Heart of the Father" bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online.

End of clip

On the mission field:

Tammy: I don't know if you can see just how long this line is, there are hundreds of kids and they are lined up to get a bowl of food, which they get every day. But I know, Betty, a prayer of yours too is that our line would be greater than their line, that we would run to get in line to say, "Pick me, I want to help, I want to do something." That's our prayer today that just like these children are running to get in line to get a bowl of food, that you would also consider running in line right now and partnering with us, *LIFE Outreach* Mission Feeding program. This is where life begins and we get the chance to make that happen for them. Won't you join with me today?

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I would really love you to get the DVD series and the study guide. And also we'll be sending Jim Hylton's book, it is tremendous, *The Supernatural Skyline* where heaven touches earth. Help us take care of at least ten children if you can. Glad to send you the CD series for your gift to help us but today, if you're impressed to help, and you'd like to have Sheila's book, it is right in line with what we're talking about, *The Shelter of God's Promises*. It is fabulous. You just help us help these children find shelter and we'll be so glad to send all of this to you to bless you. I know you're not ever giving to get a gift. We want to give to you because we love you. We want you to have spiritual nourishment just like you want to give physical nourishment. Sheila is going to be back with us tomorrow in the program. You want to join Betty and me in just saying thanks to Sheila? We love you Sheila! Thank you!

Announcer: Tomorrow, gifted Bible teacher and inspiring Women of Faith speaker, Sheila Walsh unpacks God's word to help us know *The Shelter of God's Promises*.