

Week 29

7/11/11

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for allowing us to come into your home or wherever you may be watching. I'm Betty and this is James. We have one of our best friends with us.

James: We don't really have enemies though. I've really thought about it. We always say, "We've got another one of our good friends," like we're going to bring on anybody we don't like. I think it probably would be good. I don't know who I would say, "These are people I don't like." It might be better if I said let's invite some people that don't --

Betty: Well, Lisa is a very good friend.

James: That's right! But let's invite some people that don't like us and find out why they don't like us or why they don't like Christians or why they're angry at God. I remember --

Betty: Introduce Lisa!

James: Governor Huckabee, who used to work here -- for four years he worked here -- I looked at an actual clip of Mike and he's so young and he was introducing me and I'm so young. Anyway, Governor Huckabee went on Bill Maher's show and he asked Bill. He said, "Did you get run over by a church bus or something when you were a kid? Why is it that you're so mad at Christians?" Because he always acts like he is mad at God. Well, maybe we invite people on that are not happy with us. But like you said, we've got a friend. We've got Lisa Bevere with us. Would you welcome Lisa Bevere? We're glad to have a friend. I really don't mind -- I wouldn't mind having people on that were just unhappy with us and find out why they're so upset with Christians. Because frankly, I've been to a lot of churches where I don't think I would want to go back because people don't act like they're very happy. Do you ever go to a church like that where you think, man, they need a resurrection. You've been there?

Lisa: Absolutely! And I've probably acted like that occasionally too.

James: I know I have. I know I have! I'd like for you to bring it home. You have written a book that is in the bookstores now, *Lioness Arising*. You actually came and talked about this with us right before it went out into bookstores and I was quite intrigued. You have been listening to Betty and me talking about let's say the fresh awareness or fuller awareness of the presence of God's kingdom now. People tend to think about the kingdom as somewhere we're going to go, the kingdom of heaven. And Jesus announced that it is at hand, it is here. It appears to me you can look forward to going to heaven but what if we could have heavenly presence, heavenly power or this kingdom presence that Jesus was talking about? I really believe what you teach everywhere you go is kingdom life and it's what we've been a part of. But a lot of people in churches, I don't think live in this kingdom life, and I think a lot of women, a lot of girls don't even understand what you may be implying by talking about the *Lioness Arising*. But I think it is all in total harmony with kingdom life. Is that the way you see it?

Lisa: Absolutely! I have to just confess on the front here, I'm not really that smart. After I wrote the book I prayed. I prayed, I said, "God, if I was to supposed to write this book, I just want you to give me a confirmation." Now that would have been better before we went to press but I did it afterwards. That night I got a phone call. I still have three boys at home and I was in the throes of a school project. That means that your children tell you at 8:00 at night that they have a school project due the next day and you find out you have no poster board. So I had gone up to Target, I had the poster board and we're cutting a Mosaic and my husband calls me. And John has this annoying habit and calling me and saying, "Lisa! Hi, I want you to talk to a random stranger you've never spoken to before." And he did that to me. He was like, "Lisa! Hey, you need to talk to this guy. He wants to tell you something." He puts me on the phone with some man I've never met, still haven't met. I'm like, "No, no, no don't do it!" But it was too late. All of the sudden I heard, "Is this Lisa?" I'm like, "Yes!" He said, "This is Major..." and he gave me his name. He said, "I'm calling you to tell you that you heard from God to write your book." And all of the sudden I'm like, "Okay Arden, stay here." I go into the other room. I'm like, "Yes, sir." He said, "You know we are not winning the war in Afghanistan." I said, "I've heard that." He said, "The reason we're not winning is because we can't speak to the women." He said, "I'm in charge of putting together a special ops team." He said, "It is going to now compose of women as well as men." He said the job of these women for special ops is they're going to help deliver their babies. They're going to tell the women they have voice and value. They're going to tell them how democracy will help their children. And they're going to take care of their medical needs. He said, "The name of this organization or this special ops is called Team Lioness." And so I just believe that God is trying to create a kingdom where you have the men in their strength, the women in their strength and

you know what I found out that night when I hung up the phone is, James and Betty, without women you can wage a war but you can't win it. We need to be people who begin to win this war because what we're fighting for is the lives of people.

James: Boy, that's powerful! I bear total witness with everything you said. I know with Betty -- and I've said to the girls and the women that are sitting out here that I believe the greatest source of influence -- and if you've watched us any extended period of time on *LIFE Today* over the years you've heard me say the greatest source of influence, powerful influence on the planet apart from the Holy Spirit and many of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit if you study the Bible, you would say are basically feminine characteristics in their primary emphasis or let's say in their most visible trait. I'm telling you that women are the greatest source. I know that no one has influenced my life throughout... a lady led me to Christ, Mrs. Hale, and you became the greatest impact and influence when I met you as a teenager, and for the 48 years we've been married she continues to be inspiration. I'm watching, I believe women not let's say moving into an inappropriate role but being recognized for the appropriate role they're supposed to be in. Betty, literally, you say, "You kind of take me kicking and screaming up to the studio to tape with you because I'd rather just be at home." But do you see the importance of women's role but also how much what God's enabled you to do even here in co-hosting, the importance of it?

Betty: Absolutely! And it is not that women are trying to take over where men maybe haven't stepped up but it is to work alongside, really. I don't feel like I'm in competition with you on this show or anything. But as a team, we work together and compliment the gifts that God has given me and the gifts God has given you and it makes God's plan work so much better when we can work in unity but still see the difference and appreciate the difference in one another.

James: You saw me the first time. You actually came and put some makeup on me for television down in Orlando when you were there years ago. We were talking about it, like 25-30 years ago. You heard me --

Lisa: It was not that long!

James: It was definitely close to that long.

Lisa: It was 20.

James: Oh, you mean you hardly were born is what you're trying to tell us. It was a long time ago. But I was the speaker with these big crowds and you came. I've got to

ask you though, so you knew me there and now you've known us through the years. Quite honestly, has Betty not had an even more profound impact perhaps on you than the quote speaker had on you just being around her?

Lisa: I love what you guys are in private. It's not that different than what we see here but the profoundness of her nurturing -- you nurtured her and her blossoming into everything has meant the world to me, and it's made me feel safe. I feel like you guys have really positioned me to redeem a lot of areas in my life, and watching Betty face things that she feared, watching her dance, watching her worship, watching your daughters. I got to see Robin before she was married, Rhonda and Terry when they were newlyweds. I've got to see your family grow up and flourish and that is what we're talking about, that's really what kingdom is. It is family, it is the private dynamic, it is the public dynamic, it is that creating a dynamic for everybody to flourish, not just some, but everybody. I've loved watching that in private and I've loved being a part of it.

James: I want you to tell our viewers some of the concepts that you get across in this incredible book because you do literally talk about a lioness and you talk about the family. There is something about the lion family that quite frankly the church family, the Christian family, we don't even behave that way. We're really quite at one another instead of with one another. Point out some of the uniqueness and the characteristics that you literally reveal in the book.

Lisa: One of the things I absolutely loved and the more I studied about the lioness the more I was just blown away by how much of the God factor was on their life for us to really learn from. But they are the only cat that does social grooming. So when they meet each other they actually make face-to-face contact. And when they make face-to-face contact it releases a fragrance around their face. They have scent glands above their eyes and that fragrance says you're a part of the pride. It says, "I belong to you, you belong to me, and together we're part of this group." Then they groom each other. I love that the lions know something that I think we've lost in the body that what looks bad on you looks bad on me, and what looks bad on me looks bad on you. So we need to take care of each other. So we can't be letting each other go out looking bad and saying, "Did you see so-and-so, what she's got hanging off the backside of her?" No, we need to be the ones that help each other. And when people need to be groomed, they act weird. I have a little dog, and when she needs to be groomed she starts misbehaving. She can't groom herself. So we need to be people who begin to groom one another, and to groom means not just to make clean but it also means to raise up in strength. It means to bring out the best in one another. We were talking in the back

room about how important it is to have relationship. Lions do life together, they're not isolated and because they're not isolated each of their strengths make up for the other one's weaknesses. I need the Betty's in my life. I don't need everybody to be like me. I need people that are different than me to be in my life to draw out those things in my life. And what each of us needs to understand is that our truest beauty isn't going to be reflected in our own mirror but it is going to be reflected on how we've affected other people. And I think in that light Betty's one of the most beautiful women on the face of the earth, not just because of her beautiful face but because of the function she has had in the body of Christ.

Betty: And that's why it is important as Christians that we encourage one another. It is just like our children, when they were small, even now our grandchildren, it's fun to be able to step back and say, look at all of them, they're in the same family but they're different, their gifts are different. And to appreciate that and to say, God, how can I encourage them in their gift? How can I allow them to be the way you created them different from me maybe or from one of the others but yet to appreciate that. I think that's real important in the family.

James: One of the things that I have observed as being I'd say one of the heartrending, greatest concerns is watching how poorly we communicate in a national level. It is dog-eat-dog. It is devouring one another. We don't come together for common good. And really, when you look at our national leaders in the political arena, it is as though they have set out to destroy the other person. They talk about them, talk down. It is called "mud slinging" and it really gets worse than that. It is worse than gun slinging, it is character assassination. And we're not better for it. But here's the sad thing, that's the way we've behaved in churches. Even when we tend to speak corrective words oftentimes, let's say someone goes on television or I would just take off and start telling you what is wrong with this Christian or that preacher and we just put them down. Not talking about this is the way we shouldn't walk and showing people, this is the way we should walk. We tend to talk down about people, talk about people, rather than to one another. I've been guilty of that. You said right up front when we were joking around and said, "Well, I probably have not been one of the better ones in church too." I've certainly been the one who was accusing. This is the righteousness of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. It is the righteousness of religious people who look down at others and they don't really lift them up or build them up or strengthen them by speaking words of correction. They browbeat or they talk about them and they discredit one another. Now this happens. It can happen to any one of us. Here's what I've learned to do. When someone talks ugly about me, I'm going to love them. I'm not going to get angry at them but I don't think they're being redemptive. If you're walking in kingdom life and you were just talking about the lions wanting to help each

other look good, you're going to walk with a redemptive spirit, not a spirit of condemnation because there is no condemnation in him. The enemy is the accuser so if we start accusing and putting each other down, trying to expose each other's nakedness or wrong, then we're not grooming, we're not building one another up; we're not benefiting and blessing the family. As a result of the church failing to do this, to really have an honest open discussion where we can speak words of correction but redemptively, not destructively because we've been a poor example, it is as though our national leaders can't have a wholesome, meaningful, positive, productive conversation or discussion because they've been trained, oftentimes in the religious settings of the day. I really do believe, you made a great point there, I really do believe we need to learn something about helping one another walk in the light as he is in the light and we're not doing that especially and as positively as we should.

Lisa: No, we've been experts in everybody else's flaws and blind to our own. I know I've said years ago, you know when it says about "take the plank out of your own eyes." I'm like, "I had enough planks to build an entertainment center." I had so much in my own eyes. It is so much easier to judge other people but that's not going to solve anybody else's problems. We really need to understand beating up my own arm doesn't make me strong. We're all part of one body and the Bible is so clear. In Romans it says that strength is for service, not for status. I think people will attack other people's flaws to make themselves look bigger, to gain their status but we're not supposed to do that. We're supposed to use our strength to go, "Come on, you're faltering. You're failing here. Let me help you." And we're going to do it with meekness. And yet in the church we haven't modeled that. I think it is really a chance right now. I think we're in perilous times and perilous times give birth to courageous people. So we have a chance to be courageous, we have a chance to be kind. I was flying from Auckland, New Zealand to Sydney, Australia and I opened up my newspaper and on one side it said, "We don't have enough body bags." And on the other side it talked about how there is 34 million Chinese men that would never have brides because there were that many women missing. I began to cry looking at our state, looking at the unraveling of our social fabric. And I'm crying on the plane and the flight attendant, that was a man stopped by and said, "Are you okay?" I said, "I'm okay. I just saw this." He said, "What's happening in our world right now? What is happening?" And all of the sudden the spirit of God came on me and I heard speak faith. Speak kingdom. Speak life. Speak light. He said, "Is it the end?" I said, "It is the beginning. It is the beginning -- it is the beginning of all things being made new." When God -- when everything says chaos God says, "I'm in control." When everybody is afraid God said, "Don't be afraid." We need to start speaking hope and life and strength. And we need to be people that are so lit from within that we bring the kingdom to the chaos right now, that we bring the peace of God, that we bring the

answer of God. Do you know those two guys waited until I was done with my meal. They both sat down with me and I get to preach to them for about an hour because they want to hear the truth, they want to hear people that they see light in their life, they see life around them. John and I were traveling -- by dad died earlier this year and right after that John and I took a trip. You know when you go through something like that it is just the two of you. John and I were very close to each other on the plane. We were face-to-face talking. John had packed a sandwich for me and I noticed everybody was watching us. A little bit later our plane had some mechanical errors, we were we were stuck in San Francisco. Everybody was around us because they saw two people in love; just like everybody loves to watch you guys, they saw two people in love. I tell you it doesn't matter what we preach, it is what we show, it is what we live. If we don't have a vibrant relationship with each other and a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ and a vibrant relationship with our children, people do not want to hear what we have.

James: Wow! Do you agree with what she is saying? Do you appreciate what Lisa is saying? I bear witness and I totally agree. Lisa, you've been coming on our program now -- I'm afraid to say how many years. I'll miss it. You were really right in the time frame because it was a little over 20 years ago because Robin wasn't married and she will soon be married pretty close to 20 --

Betty: She was just married 19 years.

James: So it was a little --

Lisa: I was pregnant with Alec and he is 20.

James: I'm not totally right but you've been coming on this program for quite a few years. What you've watched and you have too, you have watched us bring people in from the entire family of God, from all different backgrounds. Let me tell you what I know you've appreciated. You've appreciated the same thing I know God is excited about. You've watched two people love people from all different areas of life. And you've watched those people be received comfortably and lovingly. Even if we might have some disagreements or points at which we differ, you have seen love cover and you've seen harmony. I believe it is something -- I believe every viewer who is sensitive to life and to God is wanting this harmony of heart. This is kingdom. This is what at least lions have enough sense to practice and really legitimately care about the well-being of the family and they live as families. The church must begin to live as a family. I really would encourage you to get Lisa's book. It is in the bookstores, *Lioness Arising*, because believe me, this is the greatest day for the church to have the positive

imprint of God's kingdom presence and power on planet earth. And women are a shining inspirational light on this planet, as great as any on earth, period -- bar none! I really pray that you will understand this is the hour for the church to arise and shine. Let God's glory be on us. We are to be adorned in his glory, his grace, his presence before he comes in glory. Let's be asking God to let us live in the glory of his presence rather than just looking for him coming in glory. Let's be witnesses unto him right now, right here at home. Lisa, you have traveled with us to the ends of the earth. You have marched into the pit of hell. You know what it is to give people food or water or shelter. You, our viewers, are the greatest encouragers that anyone could ever hope to have as a friend. We refer to many of you who help us share life as Friends for Life. I want you to look at one of the greatest ways we can give someone life. Not just tell them about the life and love of God but literally show them the love of God and give them a chance at life. Look closely. Let God speak to your heart and believe this, you are the answer to every heartache and every need you're about to witness. You really are. Watch closely!

James: More than one missionary has said, "Please help us stop burying our children in our country." Betty, that little child was holding what looked like milk but it was actually water. I sometimes feel like there is nothing I could say that would be adequate to inspire the kind of action necessary to drill another 400 wells -- more than 400 in 15 different countries to give a child like that a drink of water. I hope you don't ever think well, they're just little nameless people. Not to God! They're precious in his sight. Betty, when you think about what could we say or do to help people realize the importance, what comes up inside your heart?

Betty: Well, as I was watching that and I saw that little child holding that cup of water in it, but like James said it is so contaminated, I'm thinking, every time that cup gets closer to that child's lips, it is death -- it is bringing death. I think that child is going to drink that water because that's all they have but we have an opportunity, you and I and many others if we will join together and say, "Let's drill the wells." Let's give them the choice of clean water so that their little lives may have an opportunity to grow up strong and healthy.

James: I've told you every time we drill wells that we, years ago, decided we would drill a well every time the mission projects come from our missionary overseers and

they say, "Will you drill here?" and we make that emphasis. Betty and I asked the Lord to enable us. I've got to tell you, it's been one of the greatest joys and blessings. You say, "Well, did God give you a bunch of stuff?" We gave those kids life. We got the joy of knowing that we've put an oasis of life in the center of their community, and we were able to do that. If you can drill a well, you will find what all of our viewers who ever responded to that said, "It is one of our lifetime joys." And many of you say, "We like to do that every year. We would like to make it a goal." But there are many of you who say, "James, I couldn't do that." Well, could you give a portion of a well, \$1200 or \$2400? And then ask God to raise up three others to join with you with \$1200? Or another person to join \$2400? Whatever you can do do it. Please don't miss this. Think about what I'm saying. Your gift of \$144, it will give 30 people water for the rest of their life. A gift of \$48 will give ten people water for the rest of their life. There is some level at which you could participate. Would you help ten people? 20 or 30 people? We want to send you the incredible devotional, Kingdom Life Journal that you can journal the thoughts that God gives you with Psalms and Proverbs to bless you. And I think it is very important to journal and write what God puts on your heart. We're sending the "Heart of the Father" bronze to those of you who will give \$1200, \$2400, or give a well to say thank you for sharing the love of the father and his heart. Whatever you can do, we ask you to dial that number. Take your bankcard, use it like a check. Or you can go online LifeToday.org and many of you are doing that and make that special gift today. Whatever you can do, if you want to make a check make it to *LIFE* but call us, please, today and tell us what you're putting in the mail and make the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you! Thank you so much for responding.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision. The good news is that there is a solution -- Mission: Water For Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything in life. With your support we will drill 415 new water wells in remote villages in 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime! In appreciation for your gift to help drill these new wells be sure to request the Kingdom Life Journal. This beautiful leather bound prayer devotional includes both Psalms and Proverbs, as well as a place to write your own reflections as God speaks to you through his word. Also please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or

a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request the journal as well as our beautiful commemorative bronze sculpture, "Heart of the Father." Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I just thank you so much for your help. I always wonder if you call and got a busy, would you be persistent enough to get through? We're always here to pray with you for your concerns. But do press on to say, "I want to share water." If you would like to have Lisa Bevere's book, *Lioness Arising* we would be glad to send it to you. Make the gift God puts on your heart and we'll send it to you along with the Kingdom Life Journal. We just really appreciate the opportunity of sharing with you and thank you for your help. Lisa is going to be back with us on other programs this week talking about life and kingdom reality. Would you say thanks to Lisa Bevere for being with us? Lisa, thank you! We look forward to talking to you some more. Thank you to all of you for your prayers, your support! Thank you for your friendship!

>> When girls package themselves cheaply then they don't understand their value in God.

Announcer: Tomorrow Lisa Bevere shares Purity's Power to the next generation.