

Week 36

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Announcer: Coming up, a girl grew up with a distant father and the pain of having an abortion.

>> And I remember walking out into my den seeing my dad. He was in a recliner with a beer in one hand and a TV remote in the other. But my dad didn't notice me; he never even looked my way. So I did what any little girl would do with a pretty dress on, I started to twirl around and around and around. As my dress flowed out, my heart cried out, "Daddy, please notice me."

Announcer: A life restored by saying "yes" to God -- next!

Music

James: You all are great. What a great audience! Come join us sometime. We tape on Tuesday nights in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. You can call and get reservations. I'm James Robison welcoming you to LIFE Today. My wife Betty and I are thrilled to have a guest, Lysa Terkeurst has got a book and Lysa is quite popular speaking. But she has a book and what does it say?

Betty: "What Happens When Women Say 'Yes' to God."

James: Do you have any idea?

Betty: I do!

James: Is it important to say "yes" to your husband, too? [Laughter]

Betty: I don't see that in the title! [Laughter]

James: I have got to know if that's one of the chapter titles in this. Ladies, I'm sure you want to know. Men, I'm sure you've buckled your seat belt to hear. "What Happens When Women Say 'Yes' to God." Well, Lysa is going to tell us. Would you welcome Lysa to LIFE Today? Well, it's a really nice cute little pink trimmed cover with pink flowers.

Lysa: You can put that on your night stand; it will bring out your feminine side.

Betty: That's right!

James: Yes, it is just precious! But "What Happens When Women Say 'Yes' to God"?

Lysa: Don't be fooled by the pink cover because I've actually had men write to me that have read this book. It is a universal need. It is a book written by a woman for women but it is a universal need. People want to know does God speak to them today? If he does, how do I know that God is speaking to me? And even more fundamental than that, am I worth God speaking to? I think the desire of God's heart is for us to experience him every day. And whether it is hearing him speak through his word or hearing him speak through his creation or hearing him speak through his servants or hearing him speak straight to our heart, even the rocks cry out, "Holy! Holy! Holy!"

Lord God Almighty!" And so if even the rocks are crying out, then we need to be paying attention. For a long time, I was very resistant to God because I didn't grow up in a family that was really teaching Godly principles or modeling what it means to have a father that loves you. So when people would refer to God the father, there was a disconnect for me there because I remember very much being a little girl -- one of my earliest memories is being about eight years old spinning around in my den and I had gotten this pretty new dress. We were very poor but once a year, right around Easter, my mom would go out and buy us a new dress. I remember walking out into my den seeing my dad, he was in a recliner with a beer in one hand and a TV remote in the other. And I remember thinking, maybe today is the day that he'll notice me. Maybe today is the day that he will finally say, "Lysa, I love you!"

James: And you're pretty!

Lysa: "And you are pretty. You are worth being noticed." But my dad didn't notice me. He never even looked my way. So I did what any little girl would do with a pretty dress on, I started to twirl around and around and around. As my dress flowed out my heart cried out, "Daddy, please notice me." He didn't. Because my dad never was capable of loving me the way that my heart wanted to be loved by a father figure, it created a disconnect between me and God. For a long time, I very much viewed God like a vending machine. If I was good and I put in my good behavior then he was supposed to give me a good life. And things don't always work out that way because God never wants us to love him for his blessings, he wants us to love him for who he is. And even when we can't understand his hand, he wants us to trust his heart. It took me a long time to come to understand how it is possible to have a love relationship with God.

James: Something has happened in your life where this girl that had no chance, you've got a lot of God given insight and wisdom. I want to know how you came to know God out of this life. Did you get in a lot of trouble and then have an encounter? Did you ever have some pretty serious problems?

Lysa: Oh, I got into lots of trouble. [Chuckling]

James: Trying to find love and trying to get attention?

Lysa: Yes! I think probably the breaking point for me is -- I was one of five girls and my fourth sister passed away when she was very young in a very tragic way. When she died, I shook my fist at God and I said, "I will never love you! I will never serve you. I want nothing to do with you." I headed straight into the world determined that I would find love in significance and happiness but I didn't need God for all of that. I thought I would find it in the arms of a man. And I did find men that would tell me that I was beautiful, and I did find men that for very temporary time periods would make me feel loved and lovely. But everything I found in the world was very, very temporary. My breaking point came when I discovered I was pregnant. And I walked into an abortion clinic desperate and alone. My parents had been through so much,

how could I then take this home? My mom couldn't even get out of bed most days, she was so devastated over the loss of my sister. How could I take this home to her? That her single daughter was pregnant? And so I went to an abortion clinic and asked them to help me. They said they could take care of the problem quick and easy and I would never think about it again. So I had an abortion and I can tell you, that when they took my baby, it was as if they took part of my heart as well. For weeks, months after that, I lay on the couch in my little apartment and I cried out to God and I said, "If you are there -- I'm not sure that I really believe that you are, but if you are there, have mercy on me and let me die because the pain is too deep. I see no purpose in going on in my life." At that time of my life, I had a Bible friend. I'll be honest with you, my Bible friend got on my nerves because she was always quoting scripture. She had a scripture for everything! I mean if I said I had a headache, honey, she had a scripture for that, too! [Laughter] But I'm thankful that my Bible friend was a woman that listened to God. And though I looked very perfect on the outside, I would never let people see the hurt that I unleashed when I laid on the couch in my apartment by myself. I looked very good but my Bible friend, she was a woman that listened to God and God spoke straight to her heart and told her to write me a note. I'm sure she could have thought of a thousand excuses not to send me a note but she listened. And of course, when I received the note, it had been a horrible day. I went out to my mail and tossed the bills and the sales fliers and all of that on my coffee table, and I saw that handwritten note. I pulled it out. I opened the envelope flap back and right on the front of that card was, of course, a Bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord; plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." You see because God made me, even though I resisted him -- when the maker makes every single person, he leaves his mark within them. His fingerprints dance all inside of my soul. Something inside of me, even though I was resistant to God, something inside of me recognized that that verse was true. Because God's word says that it will go out and not return void. I believe it is because there is a piece of us that cannot deny God's truth because we are part of God. God made us. So I recognized that as truth. Something in my soul, it just resonated with me. But the belief I've had my whole life was that I was a throw-away person, unwanted by my earthly dad. So I came to a crisis of belief in that moment. Was I going to continue to listen to the voices of untruths? To the voice that told me I was worth nothing? Or was I going to release that and finally believe that I didn't have to be the child of a broken parent the rest of my life; I could be a child of God. In that moment, I didn't know what else to do. I didn't know how to pray the salvation prayer. I didn't know the right religious things to do. I didn't even know the right way to pray really. But I knew in my heart I needed to get down on the floor and lift up my hands and I said, "Yes." And I've been saying "yes" ever since. But here's the thing, we have to get to a place in our life where we expect to hear from God. I'll give you a good example. The other day I

had such a great disappointment. I'd been asked to speak at this huge event and I was so excited about it. Then things fell apart. I went from being invited to uninvited. It really didn't have very much to do with me but it still hurt. It was just -- you know it was just a disappointment in my life. So I was asking God, I said, "God, I'm expecting you to speak to me some way today. I have no idea how, I'm just expecting you to reveal something to me." Well, my little girl, my youngest is ten. She had -- several weeks ago, maybe even months ago she'd found some caterpillars. So she brought the caterpillars in. She held them hostage or lovingly put them in a little bowl with cellophane over the top. [Laughter] She admired these caterpillars, loved these caterpillars! And they formed a cocoon in this most unlikely environment. Well, I was very excited that these two little caterpillars had formed two little cocoons. So on this very day that I got this great disappointment I was walking by my dining room table because the caterpillars held an area of prominence in my home. [Laughter] I glanced in the bowl and the cocoons were empty. I thought, this is amazing! How could butterflies form in a plastic bowl? This is just amazing! So I went and I looked inside the bowl but it wasn't caterpillars; there were two little moths. And I thought, well, isn't this just how my whole day is going? [Laughter] Seriously! You know? I never even knew that moths were formed from caterpillars. I didn't! I didn't know they went through the whole process of going into cocoons and all this stuff. So I thought Brooke is going to be terribly disappointed. So now we're going to have two disappointed women in my household today. So I said, "Brooke, you have to come here."

James: You were expecting butterflies but you didn't get your expectations met.

Lysa: That's right. And so I called her over and I said, "Brooke," I said, "your butterflies hatched but they're not actually butterflies." I said, "They're moths." She said, "This is amazing! Moths with wings?" I said, "Well, yes." I'm thinking, they eat clothes... not very exciting!

James: You're just the most positive person!

Lysa: I know! Thank goodness I have a ten year old to teach me. So she opened the front door and she took my hand and she grabbed this little bowl. We went outside and she said, "Mom, watch this." And she ushered the little moths out and they beat their wings and they beat their wings and finally they flew. And in that instant, it wasn't like I heard God's voice in my soul, but I saw such rich evidence of him that it spoke to me -- God spoke to me. As those moths rose and flew away, I realized, God's miraculous timing, God's miraculous provision. It did not matter to my daughter that these weren't butterflies for she was so mesmerized that something she picked up off the ground that was crawling in the dirt had now taken flight right before her eyes. When I thought about my own disappointment, I thought, you know the miracle of God is around me every day. How could I be disappointed in any circumstance that the hand of the miraculous has touched me and healed me and allowed me to take flight. So who cares if I'm a butterfly or a moth? I'm still going to leave the ground

and fly. And so what happens when a woman says "yes" to God? What happens when a man says "yes" to God? It places their heart in this amazing place of being determined that I'm going to get up from my prayer life, I'm going to get up from praying in the morning and I'm going to realize, I just invited the divine to participate in my very ordinary life. So you better believe I'm going to look for him and I'm going to listen for him and I'm going to expect to see him because in doing that, I will come to know him. Not just know about him but really know him.

James: Well, I want to spend my life saying "yes" to God. It is every day. When the challenges come, the things you don't understand, the most significant thing about saying "yes" to God is what?

Lysa: Is that you get the blessing... the richest blessing that you could ever imagine! And it is not a cheap financial worldly blessing, it is the blessing of experiencing God and seeing him at work in you, around you, and letting you participate in his divine activity throughout this world. I'm a very ordinary woman but I can tell you, I've had some of the most extraordinary experiences -- not because of who I am or what I do or even what I have to offer but it is simply because I chose to say "yes" to God.

James: And you teach a Bible study. Here's the book, "What Happens When Women Say 'Yes' to God." You've got a Bible study that -- how would women find it? Because you help them every day to get in the word, the word in them; you really help them develop a walk with God. It is kind of like you've come into family connection with them. How do they find that?

Lysa: Have you ever heard of a blog, which I know it sounds like the strangest thing. And I was emotionally allergic to blogs for a long time. But it's -- I have a passion to walk alongside women in their daily life and so I write Monday through Friday on a blog where sometimes it is silly and we talk about cellulite but more times than that, it is really teaching women how to recognize God in their everyday life. And how to -- I don't want women to run off to Bible study, get

all spiritually on a high and come home and their daughter spills bleach on their favorite shirt and they freak out and melt down and think Jesus doesn't work for me. So I want to interrupt a woman in the middle of her busy day and help her to see every day we can experience God, the good and the bad all in between.

James: Web site? What is it?

Lysa: www.LysaTerkeurst.com. When you go to my blog, you can also link over to my ministry, Proverbs 31 Ministries where we have a daily devotion we also write to encourage women.

James: So she's there and is working. There is the web site. Here's the book. Would you say thanks to Lysa along with me and Betty? Lysa, thank you very, very much. Saying "yes" to God, it is the way we have to live. I talk about learning from birds and animals. And you notice birds, every time they walk, they're always doing this? They're saying, "Yes, God. Yes God. Yes, yes Lord!"

Lysa: They might have read my book! [Chuckling]

James: They may have! But if you want God to bless, just keep saying "yes" Lord. You'll be surprised what that does. I want to show you something that will move you and touch your heart. And when your heart is moved, I believe God wants a river to begin to flow. I want you to just watch right now. We have an opportunity to do something very special for Christmas but we've got to get started right now. I want you to watch this.

Kathy: It's been a privilege to come on these trips with LIFE Outreach International. I always think I've seen it all or you think, the poor are the poor. When they have nothing, they have nothing. Then I'm coming into these places in Central America, village after village and I'm seeing the wounds on these kid's feet and it is just boggling my mind; it is breaking my heart. Look at him; he can't put his heel down. It is awful! It is wrapped up in a dirty rag and he's got infection in his foot. I'm sitting here with little Brian and trying to -- I'm trying to unwrap this to show you he was just -- he stepped on a bark of a tree. Okay, honey, it is okay. I don't want to pull this because it will really hurt him but it's stuck to the wound. What is he supposed to do now? You know? He stepped on a tree bark. That's crazy! It makes me really frustrated and really sad because it is just a simple -- there is a simple solution and it is shoes. We could change his life and the lives of children all over the world, like right here in Central America, with your giving. Will you reach into your heart at this season to give a gift so children like little Brian and children all over the world can get a gift of a pair of shoes? Just a simple thing... to put a smile on his face and also to protect his little feet. What a blessing that would be. Remember the poor this Christmas and partner with LIFE Outreach International. Thank you so very much. Well, what could we do?

>> Look for the mom and see whether we can take him to a clinic.

James: See, there is Kathy expressing her heartfelt concern. There is the missionary saying, "I see your concern. The shoes are critically important; it would prevent this but I want to try to get this little child some medical attention." Betty, when we were there, you saw a child, when we were visiting in Central America last year, that had actually broken... was it his arm? I think he'd broken -- it was totally a compound fracture. It just tore Betty's heart out. We got the doctor to go to that child. They didn't have any way of traveling. We had to go and find him. But that's the way missionaries feel. And Avarro is saying, "I'm going to help here." But it is like Kathy said, if we could just get some shoes for these children, we would prevent -- we didn't even know hook worms got into the cuts in their feet, get into their system and cause intestinal

problems and can even get in their brain and kill them. We didn't realize how serious it was. We thought, they're just poor. But the missionaries began to inform us that this is a chronic problem and there is a real simple solution and it is really not that expensive. \$36, you've got ten pairs of shoes. Ten children, \$72. We've got 20 children that we can give pairs of shoes to and make their life better. And what a wonderful Christmas gift. It is a total surprise and it is so meaningful. I pray there will not be a single person watching that won't say, "Well, I can at least help some of the children." Betty: I do, too! As I was watching Kathy hold that little boy and showing us his infection on his foot, she asked a fitting question. She said, "What is he supposed to do?" My question is, what are we supposed to do? I know what we can do. We can offer shoes and give shoes to these children so they don't have to continually have those cuts and bruises and infections on their feet that can eventually lead to infection all over their body and possibly kill them. That's something we can do. I hope you will join with us and let's make the difference in these children. Give them a pair of shoes. James: Yeah, please don't look away and say, "I'm sure someone will do it." I find myself longing for the ability to reach out and take you by the hand and lead you over to someone whose need you can meet. I want to connect you. When you talk about \$36 for ten children, that's not a very large gift. It might be for you; it might seem like a stretch right now. For ten children, what a gift for Christmas. And you're going to always hear me say if you've got the ability to make a \$1,000 gift, you're going to be helping us give shoes to nearly 300 children. So I'm always going to come to you... Betty and I are going to say, let's reach as many children as we can with a gift of love and a demonstration of love. I want to send you the book that really expresses what's in my heart. I want to race Jesus to the hurting. I want to race him. He'll always get there first but I want to be hot on his heels to pick people up. I feel like you join us in that. We're sending the book, "Racing Jesus" that I just wrote, just released to encourage and inspire you. But we're asking you to join us in that race. And then this is the most beautiful table book. This would make a great gift for you to give someone for Christmas -- Max Lucado's book, "His Name is Jesus." I couldn't put the book down. Not only the beauty of it, but the words and the impact of the life of Christ; beautifully illustrated and the words are so powerful. We're going to send this to those of you who will make a gift of \$100 or more to give shoes to the children. Thank you so much for doing that. Please dial that number. Please take your bankcard, use it like a check or write a check to LIFE. And don't just sit there and say, "Well, I hope someone does it!" You be the hope. You be the one that's an answer to the need and the prayer. Please, or you can go online to lifetoday.org. If you'll make a check make it to LIFE but call us and tell us what you're sending. Please make that call. And from the depth of my heart in behalf of the children and the missionaries, I want to say thank you.

Thanks for making that call!

Cause 35

James: I really do want to encourage you to get "His Name is Jesus." This is an incredible book! The book that I've written, "Racing Jesus," we're sending for any gift. This is quite an incredibly -- well, if you want to the stores and bought it, it is very, very expensive because of the beauty of it. It's a great table book, great Christmas gift. Why don't you help us give shoes for Christmas but why don't you perhaps give more shoes than you even thought and say, "I want a book for my home but a want one for a family member and somebody that I will give this for Christmas" and you will be helping us give shoes. So do all you can. You give \$1,000, help us give shoes to nearly 300 children. I want to remind you of Lysa Terkeurst book that is in the bookstores, "What Happens When Women Say 'Yes' to God." This is great. Again, there is her web site if you want to communicate with her or be blessed by what she shares every day. Would you join us in saying yes to Lysa? Thank you, Lysa. God bless you in everything you do. Thanks so much! Thank all of you for watching. We really do thank you for helping us give shoes for Christmas; give as many as you can. Thanks for making a gift. Thanks for watching!

Music

Beth: What are the warning signs that okay, you don't just need a few minutes in the morning, girlfriend, you need to leave town!

Announcer: A refuge in the storm -- tomorrow!