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Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Katy Nichole

In the studio

BETTY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty, and this is James, of course. And you're going to be so blessed today as we listen to the journey, a difficult journey at many times for Katy Nichole.

JAMES: Well, when she wrote her song and put it on YouTube, it went to 12 million views. Did you hear what I said? -- 12 million views? Well, you're going to hear her sing it here. And she is now, of course, moved into production where it is not just her by herself, but it just took off. And her journey is one of the reasons it took off because of the miraculous work of God started happening in her very pain-racked damaged body that was genetically presented to her basically starting at birth. I just think you're really, truly going to be blessed. So, Katy, we welcome you to *Life Today*.

KATY: Oh, my goodness! Thank you so much. I'm so grateful to be here. It really is an honor to be here. I'm just praising God because -- there are so many reasons to praise God. But I'm just going to share a little bit of a story that is my life. It's a crazy wonderful thing that God has just allowed me to be here today and to be strong.

I was born with something that's called congenital scoliosis. I wasn't diagnosed until I was five, which is actually kind of a crazy thing.

JAMES: But were you experiencing problems before the diagnosis?

KATY: Yeah, and they didn't know what it was coming from until I was five. And so I was -- the odds were kind of stacked up against me from a young age. I was -- I was told -- I wasn't told, my parents were told, "She might not be able to walk. She may not be able to do the things the other kids do."

JAMES: And they tell them that even before you were born? They could see something or not until after you were born?

KATY: Before I was born, they almost terminated the pregnancy because they thought that something was genetically not right with me. And unfortunately, their solution to the problem is okay, just try again. But that's not -- I'm here today to talk about it so obviously, they didn't terminate the pregnancy because life is such a gift. And if I weren't here today, I would not be able to go out and talk about the goodness of Jesus.

And I know that's my purpose in life. That's the reason I'm here today. Scoliosis isn't rare. It is something that a lot of kids end up having but not a lot of kids end up having the spine surgery that I ended up having. When I moved, I moved from Illinois to Arizona when I was 13. That's when I started to have great challenges with my spine. It was to the point where the doctors were saying this surgery needs to happen like now.

JAMES: How was it affecting you? Were you able to walk? Is it just pain? Was it crippling you? Twisting you? What was it doing?

KATY: It was starting to twist, curve. It was doing all the things it shouldn't do. My type of scoliosis is a birth defect. It was two fused vertebrae at the top of my spine that was causing it to go like this. And so my spine starts curving and then it doesn't just affect my back, it affects my lungs and my heart. And so, because it's starting to -- you're seeing this change, these doctors are like no, that's not good.

It could have ended up being a disability for me. I could have ended up in a wheelchair. I could have ended up not being able to do any of the things that I'm doing today.

JAMES: You couldn't move as freely as you are right now.

KATY: Exactly! So I had this spine surgery when I was 14. I had metal rods and screws placed into my spine, just the top of the spine. And so I have these metal rods and screws placed in my back and it is supposed to fix everything. That's what we think is going to happen. When I came to the other side of the surgery, unfortunately, I was in excruciating pain. A type of pain that I can only describe as just this big dark smoke cloud over my life that I'd never faced before. I'd never seen such darkness. I was dealing with pain where I wanted to be in bed all day.

But I was also dealing with -- like it was a physical pain, but I also was dealing with a mental thing. Where I was dealing with anxiety and depression to the point where I could not function. I thought I was functioning, but I was not functioning because to this day there are parts of my life in the three years that I went through this, that I don't remember. And --

JAMES: How old then, do you think? The years?

KATY: So it was 15 to 18 years old. So I come out of the surgery, and it takes a year to fully recover from spinal fusion surgery. So doctors aren't going to assess pain until it's been a year. So once a year goes by, they take x-rays and they're like everything looks great! We did our job. Let's move on. But I'm in pain. I'm in pain that is really, really bad. And even through my skin you could actually feel these screws and it's like -- I know I'm feeling something that is not part of my body, and no one is listening.

Eventually, I'm just being told that I needed to go see a pain management clinic and get opioids. And I didn't like taking pills in general, and pills were something that, even from an early age I knew were not necessarily -- they could be a bad thing. And for me, they were a dangerous thing because when I was around 16 years old, I had a bottle of opioids in my possession, and I knew how dangerous that could be. And so I picked up that bottle

of pills one day and I'm looking at it and I'm just analyzing this bottle of pills.

JAMES: And you're living in pain at that time, too, and you knew that's supposed to be a possible way to alleviate it. And so you had a stick of potential dynamite that you have been convinced could be a help. Okay, you made a decision.

KATY: And help but I also, I was crying out to God, and honestly, at an age where I didn't know God. I didn't really know who God was. I didn't know God's character. I didn't know how great he really was. I just knew that I needed something to hold on to. At that point, I was like you know what? If you are the way out, then I want a way out. And that battle of pills for me was the way out. So I took that bottle of pills with me to the bathroom. And there wasn't anything on the floor, but I tripped over something and the bottle of pills spilled everywhere onto the floor.

I look down and I'm defeated. I'm in a place where hope is gone -- gone for me. I just look down and I pick them all up and there is a trash can and so I just go ahead and toss them all in because that was the day that God spoke over my life, "Hold on, I'm not done yet." And I'm thinking, who is this? Who is this guy? Why is he wanting me to stay when I'm in so much pain? And I don't want to do it anymore. But I held on to that moment. I held on to those words. And I truly believed in my heart that I had a reason to be alive.

And God also laid upon my heart that 2018 was an important year and I didn't know why. I just had that year in my mind for some odd reason, from the year 2015 to the year 2018. And eventually, after seeing every single doctor you could go to, my surgeon says to me, "Well, we could remove the metal rods and screws that we've placed into your spine but that's riskier than leaving them in."

And I was like, "You know what? I don't care. Do whatever you have to do."

And I knew in my heart that I didn't want to keep going. I didn't want to hold on. I didn't want to be alive anymore. So I said yes to that surgery and at 18 years old you have the

power to say, your parents can't make the decision for you. And so I said, "All right. Go in and remove everything." And so that's exactly what they did. They go in --

JAMES: Did you do it because you basically are saying this is not working?

KATY: This is not working, this is causing something --

JAMES: Did you even think about maybe God now, this God that you're investigating might be able to help you?

KATY: You know, I'd been a Christian my whole life and I knew God was important. I knew that I was not, and God was. And so, I knew there was help, I knew there was a promise. I knew things that I hadn't even identified in the Bible because I wasn't -- I knew God. I knew of God but there is a difference between having a relationship and having just a knowledge of his existence.

JAMES: What happened? What did God do? What changed after the rods were out?

KATY: You know I come out of this surgery and that dark smoke cloud, that depression, that anxiety, that something heavy on my life was lifted and I saw the light again for the first time in a magnificent way -- in a magnificent way of I knew that day that my life had a purpose, that I had a plan. And God's plan for my life was going to change everything. I just held on to Jeremiah 29:11 that entire time. Again, I wasn't fully invested in my Bible and scripture and who God was, but I knew there was a promise. I knew that there was a plan and God was not trying to hurt me. I knew that. I don't know how I knew that but I'm pretty sure that's what faith is. I'm pretty sure that's why we have faith. It's this little thing, this little voice that is saying, "Keep going because I'm stronger than you, I'm greater than you, I'm more powerful than you, and I will keep you sustained until the very end."

JAMES: And you did have a change.

KATY: I absolutely did have a change. You know what? I was not singing Christian music before that surgery, but I surely was after that surgery. I think of the Psalms and how we should be singing them. And here I am to sing songs.

JAMES: How did you all of the sudden just sit down and write, and then all of a sudden when you posted it, it took off?

KATY: You know it was a song that I had written with two other writers. It was a song called "God of the Possible." I knew that there was power in prayer. And I said, "We need prayer in this song." And so we write a prayer in the song, but it is the bridge of the song, not the chorus. Not the song you hear today. But this little portion of the song was something that I felt had power. And I felt it in my own heart and in my own life as I was dealing with even in 2021, dealing with challenges because life gives you battles that you have to go and face because God is greater, and God is stronger, and he will fight for you. And I felt in that moment, this world doesn't believe that there is power in prayer. This world doesn't believe what I believe, but I'm surely going to speak no matter if they believe it or not.

So I'm speaking the name of Jesus and I'm speaking prayer over people. And then all of the sudden, that's what they need to hear. Do you know what? It is nothing that I could have done with my own voice. It is everything that God can speak through me. And I believe that.

JAMES: And millions heard it almost immediately! And continue and more, and you now have written songs I'm sure going to fit together to be some kind of album. Could we hear you sing that song, "In the name of Jesus"? Would you do that for us?

KATY: Absolutely! I'd love to.

JAMES: All right. We're going to hear that. Betty, are you a little bit excited?

BETTY: I am!

JAMES: All right. Here is Katy Nichole.

[Katy singing “In the Name of Jesus”]

I speak the name of Jesus over you
In your hurting, in your sorrow
I will ask my God to move
I speak the name 'cause it's all that I can do
In desperation, I'll seek heaven
And pray this for you
I'll pray for your healing
That circumstances will change
I pray that the fear inside will flee
In Jesus' name
I pray that a breakthrough
Would happen today
I pray miracles over your life
In Jesus' name
In Jesus' name
I speak the name of all authority
Declaring blessings
Every promise he is faithful to keep
I speak the name
No grave could ever hold
He is greater
He is stronger
He's the God of possible

I pray for your healing
That circumstances would change
I pray that the fear inside would flee
In Jesus' name
I pray that a breakthrough
Would happen today
I pray miracles over your life
In Jesus' name
In Jesus' name
Come believe it
Come receive it
Oh the power of his spirit
Is now forever yours
Come believe it
Come receive it
In the mighty name of Jesus
All things are possible
I pray for your healing
That circumstances would change
I pray that the fear inside will flee
In Jesus' name
I pray that a breakthrough
Would happen today
I pray miracles over your life
In Jesus' name
I pray for revival
For restoration of faith
I pray that the dead would come to life
In Jesus' name
In Jesus' name

JAMES: We are praying in your name, Jesus! I thank God for the years that we've lived and the family. But both of us have some challenges right now as we've gotten older. Many of you have serious challenges like Katy had when she was born, through her life, and even now. So you pray that God will continue healing.

But that was a prayer for you. And Father, Betty and I join right now not only for you to touch our bodies, but in Jesus' name begin a healing process in the physical bodies, the minds and the relationships of the viewers. And yes, God, a revival, an awakening, a restoration of all things in your church, in this nation, in all nations. God, this is our prayer, and we pray it for everybody watching, and with them, we pray it; in Jesus' name.

Wow! Katy, I want to tell you that's a song!

BETTY: Powerful!

JAMES: But that was a prayer. And it touched every single life of the people watching. I mean even the heart cry for revival, I hear it, is not only something we desperately need but something very possible if we the people of God would stand up in this kind of spirit of love and prayer like you heard in this prayer.

You know, all our viewers are going to pray for the healing to continue for your music ministry. If people wanted to access how they can get all your music or get you to come and sing or testify in their church, what website would they go to?

KATY: They're going to go to KatyNichole.com.

JAMES: It's there. Our prayer partners have it. Many of you may call to say pray with me about this. Katy, we're going to ask all of our viewers to do what our viewers love to do, and that is to give food to those who are starving. We give water to the thirsty. Our

viewers love it. You do.

And I want you to listen to our mission overseer. He is the son of the original founder of our mission outreaches together, Peter Pretorius' son, Isak.

Now I want you to listen. I want you to listen to the heart cry of the people you can be the miracle for -- and the answered prayer for. Yes, you can. Watch.

On the mission field

ISAK: People often ask me, "What does crisis look like? When you say, 'There's a crisis in the field,' what is that?" This is the picture of crisis. Mother after mother here, they're in the screening clinic for malnutrition. You can see how overcrowded it is. Mothers that have come here in absolute desperation.

Crisis is when there are more mothers than we can handle. Crisis is when there is not enough food for each and every child. Crisis is when the silent killer of malnutrition comes in and starts to literally rob the lives of each and every one of these children. But I need you to understand where their crisis starts. It doesn't start here. This is where it ends and many times it ends with a tragic ending. But this crisis starts from the village. It starts because of failed crops due to the worst drought in 40 years in this area. It starts because the mother is not able to produce enough food to feed her family. It starts because a child goes to bed without a meal that day, and the next and the next. That is how this crisis starts.

It's not because these mothers are not doing everything they can to provide for their children, it's because everything they can is not enough. How do we change that, you ask? We change it by reaching the mothers out in the villages. We change it by bringing Mission Feeding to those mothers, providing that bowl of food each and every day. The nutrients that that child needs, that's how we avert this crisis. Not here in the clinic! By the time we get here, many times it is too late.

So please, help us today to take Mission Feeding to the mothers out in the villages. I can give you a guarantee that we will literally bring hope to those mothers and life to those children.

In the studio

JAMES: Eighteen million children's lives saved. That's not what our missionaries say, or we at *LIFE Outreach* say, that's what the various countries in Africa, and the nations' leadership say. You think about that. Every precious child love gave life to, 18 million of them that we know of. And we win more people to Christ in those areas, where we have fed. Far greater numbers even than that have come to trust Christ because they saw the love of God through the missionaries who were enabled to feed and love and help because you put the oil in their lanterns.

Betty, I'm just praying for a miracle. We've got 350,000 children that line up to be fed. It is the only food they'll get -- almost 90 percent of the time if not 100 percent of the time, the only food they get that day. So would you be a part of the miracle? Betty, I'm believing, we asked God to just touch the life of every one of our viewers and touch them in their area of need. And we're here to inspire you and bless you with all of our guests and encourage all the members of the body of Christ to come together and be healthy and put God's arms around the world he loves so much. I'm believing for a miracle response today.

BETTY: I am too. As we all watch together, there toward the end of those scenes of the malnourishment, the places where they've intervened, and destroying the lives of those precious little ones. I saw that one there to where their skin was actually falling off of their bodies. I don't think I've ever seen it that bad. Can you imagine? The heart of that mother of that child as she is watching her child slowly die, the life being taken out of them. That's preventable! I hope you realize that by joining us, we can keep that from happening.

So please, be a part of the true miracle of God of offering love, but first of all, offering the food and nourishment they need. Thank you so much.

JAMES: I'm glad you called attention to that. We've shown you now for more than 30 years where the skin would begin to die. But I think that's the worst I've ever seen it. And that literally is malnutrition that causes that slow, horrible, painful death. Heartbreaking to the mother and the family, and you.

But there is a perfect cure. Not wishful thinking. Would you right now go and get your bank card or go get a check and write it to *LIFE*? Get your bank card and dial the number or go online and use that card like a check. If you could help us feed ten children, it is \$100 to feed ten for the next month. Would you do that? \$50 will feed five. \$30 will feed three. There is a level at which all of you can give. I'm already subconsciously praying, if you could help feed 100 by giving \$1,000 or maybe several hundred by giving several thousand, I just believe you'll do it. And I'm thanking you, God, because you move people. Would you right now? We have some beautiful gifts to send you that are going to bless you. But you really are making the greatest gift, a gift moved by the unconditional redemptive love of God. Would you right now do it? Please! Make the gift God put on your heart. And know that that gift is saving lives, giving life, and sharing the source of life that's found in Christ. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Right now across the continent of Africa, children are suffering facing severe malnutrition and even death. Severe drought and famine, including in crisis areas like Ethiopia, means we must replenish food supplies immediately to keep feeding 350,000 children and help reach more people in desperate need.

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 *The Blessing of Taking Communion*. In this book, discover how the sacred ordinance of communion helps to feed your soul and reminds you of the transformative power of receiving the Lord's Supper.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the LIFE Legacy Journal. This beautiful journal and pen will help you write your personal story and share the experiences that made you who you are. One day, the generations that follow will be able to look back and learn from the legacy you've left behind.

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, "A Cup of Water." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: I'm so, so glad that Katy is here! And boy, what a prayer. By the way, you keep praying for her because the pain hasn't all gone but you've experienced an indescribable what you'd call one of those biblical miracles, haven't you? Let's just keep it going. But could you not tell in that prayer, that song, she was praying for you, which is why we're here. Now they can go online, they can go and see the original YouTube posting that just went up. And then of course, the more production because you've done more production and you've got other songs. So there's the website if you want to go and see what she's gotten and where she is going, or if you can get her to come to your area and share Jesus. We just thank you so much for being a blessing.

KATY: Thank you, guys!

JAMES: And we want to thank all of you for blessing so many people all over the world with the love of God. And with food. Thank you.