

Week 51

12/14/11

James: It is a joy! Thank you for the opportunity of sharing this time with you. I'm James Robison.

Betty and I are thrilled to present Beth Moore, "Wednesdays with Beth." This is one of the greatest mission outreaches that we have. We really believe that.

Betty, Beth can communicate in so many ways, far more effectively than I can.

Betty always says, well, everybody can do better than I can. But they can't. You're absolutely awesome. And people watch the program just to see if you're going to cut to the chase and cut loose.

Betty: Say something.

James: That's exactly right. Beth is a tremendous blessing. In the book that we're giving away, the life that overcomes, she talks about what it is like to be wrecked but not ruined, to have the challenges that come and can actually make us stronger even when it seems like that could not possibly be the case. Well, Beth is a blessing and here she is, "Wednesdays with Beth" and here is Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: I have so many buddies here on the *LIFE Today* team. One of my good friends that I've made, we've been to Africa several times together and had so much fun together, Janice Myer is on this particular team and has worked with James and Betty for many, many years.

She told me a story today. She picked me up from the airplane and brought me over. She told me a story today that I don't think I'll ever forget. She said when she first came to know Jesus Christ and his word, she was 18 years old and his word was just like -- I mean like everything out of the book just jumped off of the page and into her life. It was just like Technicolor, like 3D off that page. She said at that time she used to listen to the scriptures on CD in her car. So she would just be listening and she would have to pull over like that and take a note, and she just could not get enough of God's word. I mean just couldn't -- everything that he said through his word she just wanted to tell somebody, "Can you

believe it says that? Can you believe it says that?" And nobody was getting as excited as her.

[Laughter]

She said one day she pulled up to work and she went and got -- she is just new to the Lord, went and got some of her friends at work and went, "I want you to go sit in my car."

[Laughter]

She got them in there and she said, "Do you feel it?"

[Laughter]

It just -- I just loved it. Because of course, no! They didn't.

[Laughter]

No! And she said that that's when she realized that was because the spirit was in her -- in her!

Tell me that's not precious. You get to have that! You get to have that! You get to have an encounter with him that anybody else can just blow off but you know that's Jesus. You know he picked you out and made that word jump off the page and into your sweet life and you know that the God of the universe who spoke the worlds into existence just spoke your name. Take that one to the bank! Take that one to the bank! Look at that!

Listen, you don't have to worry about me not getting excited with you. I'm just going to say that.

[Laughter]

I will get excited with you because that is a thrill to realize that right there all that wording, that was Eucharistic language right there. They were having communion. Let everybody come and go, you dine with Christ. Dine with Christ! Somebody say I'm going to dine with Christ!

Audience: I'm going to dine with Christ!

Beth: Hoo, I am going to too! Acts 27:39-44.

39 And when it was day, they knew not the land: but they discovered a certain creek with a shore, into the which they were minded, if it were possible, to thrust in the ship. **40** And when they had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoised up the mainsail to the wind, and made toward shore. **41** And falling into a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the forepart stuck fast, and remained unmoveable, but the hinder part was broken with the violence of the waves. **42** And the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. **43** But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose; and commanded that they which could swim should cast themselves first into the sea, and get to land: **44** And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.

Everybody say broken to pieces. I don't want you to forget that. Say it one more time.

Audience: Broken to pieces.

Betty: Now you just let that little hold button just flash for a little while, we'll come back to it.

You may know that in the ancient world these guards were held responsible. So if they had a prisoner escape under their watch, then they themselves had to give their own lives. So the soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so they would not escape. But the centurion -- I told you it was going to become very important that the centurion liked Paul and here you go.

I don't mind telling you that it affected everybody else's life on board as well.

Okay, I've got such a cool thing to tell you. I'm going to have you go ahead and write down point number five and it is this:

Okay this is what I can't wait to tell you. In the ancient world and up to now, I mean like hundreds and hundreds of years prior to this happening 2,000 years ago, their history, their ancient history always told of a myriad of shipwreck stories about the peril of people on board a ship over one person in trouble. It was a very common story.

Now you and I know it best of all. They would have known it in Greek mythology as one having incurred the wrath of the Gods; so everybody became subject to peril because of that one person. Now of course in God's word and in his ordained timing it is Jonah and the whale -- we know the story -- we know the story. So peril came to the entire boatload of people because the one man had incurred the wrath of God; this would have been how they would have told the story.

So it was a very, very common premise, something they well understood. The story of Jonah was something that was well-known even far past people who would have believed in the one true God. So have that in mind and I want you to understand with me that this story shows the reversal under the new covenant. I don't want you to miss it because it is so beautiful. Because now we're under the new covenant; we're in the falling of the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter two. We're in the work of the Holy Spirit unhindered.

Everybody say unhindered.

Audience: Unhindered.

Beth: Unhindered! So now we have the reversal of these effects and it is not Jonah, it is not the one disobedient one bringing on all sorts of peril to everybody else on the ship, it is one obedient to God that brings favor and blessing to everybody on that ship. Now if that doesn't do anything to you, I just do not know what to say!

[Laughter]

I do not know what to say! Is that beautiful? Because it is reversing the covenant that was the old, when one could cause the peril of many. This is the new, when one brought salvation to many, when one man of Christ could also be used in that particular environment to bring blessing to them all. It was the reversal. This was the new covenant; all were delivered because one person on board had the favor of God.

Now here's where I've got to ask you this question. So what if we're throwing a fit in our storm when we're supposed to be the agent of favor to the whole group? What if we're the fit thrower in the group? What if we decided in our storm we're just ticked -- just ticked! And I'm mad and I'm depressed and irritable? When we could have been the one to bring favor to the entire group? It just takes one -- it just takes one. God will bless a whole household.

So many -- so many -- listen, if you walk faithfully with him, there are so many people getting blessing because you're in their life. I'm not talking about salvation; each person

has to come to salvation on their own but there are people all over your life if you walk in any semblance of obedience to Christ, there are people all over your life getting your blessing with you. Is that true or not?

Audience: It's true!

Beth: So in a storm we're so tempted to wig and we could be the very one through whom God is bringing deliverance to the group. That girlfriend and guyfriend is the power of just one life.

Acts 28:1-6 and we'll close it down.

Anybody having fun in the Word of God today? I love it! I love it! I love it!

Acts 28, verses 1-6.

So the last we saw them in verse 44 -- the last we saw them they were just like riding planks and pieces to the shore. So pick back up there as it says in verse one:

1 And when they were escaped , then they knew that the island was called Melita. **2** And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. **3** And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. **4** And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live . **5** And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. **6** Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen , or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while , and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds , and said that he was a god.

I mean can you just picture them they're just going --

[Laughter]

So they're just like a long time waiting, seeing nothing unusual happening to him they changed their minds -- y'all, this is us! This is so us. Then they decided he was a God. That's what it says. Isn't that just like us? You're cursed! You're cursed! Well then maybe if you live through it you may be a God. Can we get some balance somewhere?

I want you to notice something with me because this is just the coolest part to me when we see him come there. The first thing that happens, like he has made it out of this storm and here he meets the snake and it fastens a hold of him but it it's got no venom. And number six is this:

Girlfriend, guyfriend, on the other side of a perfect storm the serpent is all bite and no venom. I tell you the Holy Spirit is with us today. I can just feel him all over my skin. Can you please? Can you?

[Laughter]

What a beautiful, beautiful thought. We can come to a place where the enemy would come through all of this storm and if we're thinking we're going to get out of that storm and that the enemy is going to leave us alone, we're out of our ever-loving minds! He'll be so mad that we made it through he won't know what to do. But this time when he latches on, there is no poison! There is no poison because when you've made it through –

Here's the thing -- before I'm looking at some young women with us and I know there must be so many just new to the faith or just young out there and it is a very scary thing to know that trials will be in our path. It's the way life goes. It is life. Saved or lost, in Christ or not in Christ, life is hard -- it is just hard. But it has so much more fear attached to it before you go through something. When you're going through it, you're getting the grace and when you get to the other side of something really fierce, something really dreadful, something dramatic, something violent, when you get through to the other side and you realize that God has brought you through, I'm going to tell you that serpent can bite all he wants to and you're not poisoned by him -- you can't be poisoned by him. You might be bitten, you might even be bruised but you know what? You're not poisoned -- you're not poisoned by him. That's a whole different thing from a bite or a bruise, when we get poisoned. We find him to be toxic and our faith is poisoned and destroyed. He has no venom left, not into that place.

I told you I made you stop on the phrase back in verse 41 of 27: Broken to pieces. Remember when it says the bow stuck fast and would not move and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. Broken -- everybody say it again. Broken to pieces --. All right, that's the same Greek that is in the scripture first John 3:8 when it says this:

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth , and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth : so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

That word destroyed translated there is the same word as here "broken to pieces." So if you'll allow me to take this liberty I'm going to stick it back in. The reason the son of God appeared was to break to pieces the devil's work.

Listen, sometimes God allows -- this has been so true of my life experience -- sometimes God allows us to be in a terrible storm where the ship breaks to pieces so that he can break the devil's work to pieces in our lives. Sometimes the only reason we went in it and we thought all along this has to be the devil's work. This has to be the devil's work. Only the devil could have brought me here!

And then we realize on the other side of it when we come through in one piece with the Lord our God, with our faith built up and with strength and power in his spirit, we realize that what got broken to pieces was the devil and not us! And not us! Maybe that's why he brought you there. Maybe that's why we're in this storm, for the waves to come and the wind to blow apart the ramparts the enemy has raised in our lives. It can be an addiction that finally loses its hold. Anybody?

I've been there. Where a storm was literally used of God to bring me out of an addiction, I simply could not bear it any more. It could be a destructive relationship that finally loses its hold. It could be an old area of unforgiveness that finally loses its hold; an area of unhealthy dependency that loses its hold. But something of the enemy will get broken to pieces right there when that ship runs aground in a storm in your life and there was not you that was broken to pieces, it was the devil's work in you. Everything he tried to do to trip you up, to make you fall, and it comes right back on his head.

So let the wind and the waves do their worst and we will still make it to Malta. Let me say that again. Let the winds and the waves do their worst, we will still make it to Malta.

Would you pray with me?

Father, you are it! I bless you and I praise you this day. You are so faithful. You have a reason for us being in this collision of storms and your work is going to be good and it is going to be right and where we're going to land, Lord, there is going to be signs and wonders! And the devil's work toward us is going to be broken to pieces. And we believe you for that this day and take courage in the mighty, believing, powerful presence of Christ Jesus our savior and Lord. Amen!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: And that is -- that is profound truth when you break the enemy, when you destroy his purposes.

Now think about this, Jesus actually said that if we could walk over the power of the enemy like scorpions -- now scorpion can sting, there is nothing fun about it. And they're pretty eerie creatures, you can step on them. They're real easy to eliminate once they're identified. And we can walk over the enemy like dust, Jesus said. That's in the power of his might and his strength.

So God wants to deliver and set you free, Betty, me, any of us free from the oppressive, destructive, captivating, even addictive or compulsive works of the enemy -- God wants to help us. He is anxious to help. And no matter what you've been through, God is able to deliver you to the utter most, to establish your feet and your life on a solid unshakable foundation.

Father, I pray that for everyone who has heard this incredible truth. In Jesus' name.

Let me just mention that the teaching is part of the teaching in the life that overcomes. And this book is available. We'll gladly send it to you. Here's what we're asking you to do. We're asking you to reach out and literally help someone who appears in so many instances to be far worse than shipwrecked, they appear to be hopeless but they're not.

I want you to listen to Tammy Trent, a beautiful Christian witness. Now remember, she lost the love of her life when they were on vacation, he drowned and he was a swimmer but she didn't lose love in her life and that love in her life for others.

You listen closely. You'll be moved I believe to the most positive possible action. Watch!

Begin video clip:

Tammy: 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: Every one of those children you saw just disappear represent -- I'm sorry to say -- thousands! Because people like you reached out and touched someone with love by dialing a number and taking a bankcard or writing a check, using the card like it's a check, went online LifeToday.org and gave a gift.

We've saved millions of lives. We asked the missionaries to stop reporting when they reached about 8 million that had been reported already saved by your love. I wondered sometimes if that would cause us to just sit back and just rest on what has happened. So I said we just won't talk about it.

The point I'm making is it works -- love never fails! The greatest gift we can give is life and we're not only giving them a chance at life but we tell them about the source of life and love that gives them the food so they're not unnoticed. But they realize God sees them and he sees them not only through the eyes of the missionaries and touches them with the hands of the missionaries, he touches them with your hands because of what you see and what you do.

This is the last week now of our mission feeding emphasis. We need a miracle support, I can tell you right now. We need to hear from every one of you. Even some of you may have said, "James, earlier when you asked, you know the first weeks when you asked, well, I helped." But I can tell you right now, we're going to have to have a tremendous overflow of support. Not only is the need great there, there is some people who feel very realistically, very genuinely an economic pressure.

Whatever you can do, it may be -- You say, "usually I could give \$100 but I can only give \$30." Well do it. That's three more that will be snatched literally from destruction and death -- from despair and hopelessness. Would you dial the number please? If you could help us with five, that's \$50; that's what it takes. A \$100 gift will keep giving food, life, and opportunity to ten children for the next months. If there is any way you can do that, and I know many people say, "James, you always ask for the largest gift." That's right, I do because I see them and I say, "Let's embrace as many as we can."

But don't fail to call or go online or write a check. If you say, "James, I can't take care of ten, we'll, take care of three." But if you can touch and care for ten, do it. Remember this, this is the last week that you can get the incredible art piece, "The Heart of the Father." We're asking for a gift of \$1,000 or more to help us care for 100 children. Some of you can do that. You've been blessed and enabled to do it. I believe you want to do it.

Would you please make that call? Make that special gift. We have gifts for you to bless you as you bless others. Remember, this is the last week.

Father, I pray everyone who can help will help. Move to the phone now or online and make the gift you put on their heart. In Jesus' name. I know God's going to bless you as you bless others and give them a chance at life. Thank you for doing it!

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 hundreds of thousands of suffering children in remote areas of Africa.

With previous food reserves gone and parts of Africa facing its worst famine 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 Beth Moore's book, *The Life that Overcomes*. This Life Outreach exclusive featuring a collection of messages from Beth's heart will inspire you to live an overcoming life each day!

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children you may also request our new 90-day Bible designed to help you read through the scriptures in just 90 days.

Finally, as a special challenge please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children. And you may also request the beautiful "Heart of the Father" bronze sculpture.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today at LifeToday.org.
End of clip

In the studio:

James: I want to remind you, this is the last week. I'm holding up the bronze, "The Heart of the Father", God the father. We're sending this to those of you who will help us care for 100 children or more for the next months. Some of you could do even more than that.

Betty, I rejoice when I see people who have been blessed and enabled to do what we would call a very substantial gift or make that kind of gift and they do it. But remember this, to the three children whose lives will be saved, a \$30 gift or the five with the \$50, just how important is it to them? Do not think that my gift is not important, it is critically important.

And this last week, would you help us? Maybe it is that you helped earlier in the emphasis. You say, but you know what? This week I'm going to help more because believe me, we do need it in order to meet the needs that are so very real. Thank you for your help! Thanks for your support.

>> James, the question is very, very important because everybody has an opinion about what Washington believed.

Announcer: Tomorrow, the truth about George Washington.