

Week 5

1/25/12

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. It is that very special day, "Wednesdays with Beth." I'm Betty and this is James.

James: Well, we are thrilled to have an opportunity to share with you. Thank you so much for communicating your appreciation for the outreaches of *LIFE*.

Beth does a tremendous job of letting all of you who watch *LIFE Today* know how much she enjoys sharing life with us, not only on television but also on the mission field. We're actually in our Mission: Water for Life and we're trusting God to enable us to provide fresh clean drinking water for people all over the world. As a matter of fact, we've got the Water for Life coffee mug.

Now you may not know this but if you listen to Beth very often you'll know it, she really likes coffee.

Beth, we have got you a coffee mug! You can go right into Starbucks, Beth or wherever you want to go and you can just have a special cup. You know when you use this cup you'll be thinking about people who need fresh clean water and I believe you'll join us on a very frequent occasion praying for God to continually give us the opportunity of blessing people by giving them something that is so critically important and something that there is such a great need for and that is fresh clean water.

Beth Moore, Betty, is talking now about spiritual discernment. It is something that is lacking among many Christians. It's just a lack of wisdom and judgment and I think Beth is going to tie some loose ends together and help you understand the discernment that God not only wants us to have but he makes possible for us to have it.

Would you welcome Beth Moore? Here's Beth.

Begin video clip

Beth: So look with me at Philippians 1:9 and 10. Stop right there.

I cannot even estimate with you the importance that if we locked into this and we began to pray this for ourselves what a difference it would make. We're told in scripture that one of the signs of the end of times would be cold-heartedness. People will just become

coldhearted. What scripture is saying is this: God's will will always be about people. It will always be about love: Love of God, love of others. He said, "Listen, I don't want you to become colder and colder like people around you will get. I want you to love more and more but not blindly."

The Word of God says -- listen, if you've got -- if you happen to be a mom and you've got a teenager that is making life-altering decisions in their date life or in their relational life, listen, start praying this. That they would be able to love with a depth of knowledge and insight so that they would be able to discern what is best! We're not supposed to love blindly. We're supposed to have insight and knowledge. We need a smart heart. Everybody say, "I need a smart heart."

Audience: I need a smart heart.

Beth: I've got to have me a smart heart. I want to love people but I want to be smart in my love. I want to know even if I am loving someone and called to minister to someone that is really unhealthy, I want to know it going in. I want to be able to have a little bit of a guard up. I want to know, there is kind of like something not ringing true to me here but I'm going to hang in here. Because I know God has called me to this but I'm going to love smartly, intelligently, I'm to love more and more but I'm to love with knowledge and a depth of insight so that I may be able to discern. We're to discern in our love. Have a love that is discerning.

So it all calls back to this portion, this fourth question: Are my emotions clouding my discernment? Because this is the very reason why as we try to answer that question that we are never more prone to be foolish than in a romantic relationship.

Stay with me here, I'm hoping so much that we have the privilege to be talking to somebody that is stepping right in the middle of what we're talking about today. When we are in a romantic kind of relationship where our heart is already wound up in the thing and so entangled in it. There is a part of falling in love and it is a beautiful part -- a magnificent part but it is just plain stupid. Would you agree with me? It is just stupid.

It is like -- one of my daughters was telling me here recently about a very good friend of hers that's falling in love. She said, "Oh, mom."

I said, "So she just adores him?"

She goes, "Mom, she is just stupid."

What she means by that is she cannot even think straight. Yes! Yes! She's in love.

But it's the reason why we're so at risk in that kind of an entanglement because we can hardly see with discerning eyes for feeling with such a huge heart. In fact, we can get into a situation where we know good and well we're being lied to but we are so desperate for somebody to love us we just let them keep doing it.

Now I want to say to somebody today that's listening, and I pray that somebody will just put down their mascara wand just then, walked out the bathroom where they've been listening and walked straight in front of the television. Listen carefully because if you realize that you are forthrightly being lied to, you've caught the person in it more than once and you perhaps have not even confronted it or maybe you did but you just went ahead and bought the excuse even though you knew it didn't fit. Something is wrong -- something is wrong! And you're in a relationship where you are going to get deeply hurt if you do not get some judgment from God where it is concerned and now how to move from this point forward.

Now let me tell you why I want to think in terms of when we get all emotionally entangled up in it because now I'm not talking in terms of a romantic relationship necessarily but across the board when we've gotten somehow emotional involved in a situation and we need it to be right.

Both times that I can tell you in the course of my adult life when I should have known better, that I've been punked, that I knew -- I fought the feeling; I had a warning in my spirit. Something was telling me something was not right but I reasoned it away over and over again. And the reason why I did it was because something in me needed it to be true. I had an emotional stake in it somehow.

I need to know if that is making sense to anybody. I got so wrapped up in it that I could not afford in my thinking for that not to pan out as true. That's when you know you better step back and get a load of what God is trying to tell you because we can get so clouded over emotionally we have no idea any longer what is right and what is wrong.

Now here are four questions so far: Am I critical or suspicious by nature? The second question was this: Am I jealous or do I feel threatened somehow? The third one is: Do I have anything selfish to gain from being right about this situation? I need a "no" to all of those questions. The fourth one was: Am I emotionally entangled in it? Are my emotions clouding my discernment? I need a "no" to that!

And say that the answer is like, "Yes! Yes, I am." That's when we can come back to God and go, "LORD, I'm just calling upon you for a Philippians 1:9 and 10 work in me. I want to love. I think you've called me to love. But I need to know -- I need to love with knowledge and I need to love with insight. I need some discernment here, Father so that I can see this clearly."

Can you imagine as a parent how important that would be? Can you imagine as an employer how important that would be? Can you imagine as we're making lifetime kinds of decisions in relationships how critical that ability would be and God would give it to us.

I want you to see Hebrews 5. I'm going to read verses 11-14.

¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Don't you love how he talks?

[Laughter]

We don't know who wrote the book of Hebrews but I can tell you this, if it wasn't Paul, someone learned under him; that's all I'm saying. It sounds just like something he would say.

I pray that somebody is going to get a word. That this is going to be some discernment for somebody.

There is somebody listening today that God has called to teach and he's been telling you that and telling you that and you've just reasoned it away. Whatever your background may be, you may think, you know what? I don't have all of the education. Has he spiritually gifted you to teach?

Distinguish good from evil. Wait a second; wouldn't it be like good... or evil? Black or white? The answer to that is no -- no! Seduction comes in all sorts of grays, in-between those two extremes.

What the Word of God is saying is that the more we mature, the more we're going to find that we have to distinguish between good and evil. The devil is not going to come out and appear before us in all his vileness -- in all his putridness. Who in the world is going to follow him like that? That's why he had to become the beautiful, beautiful creature in the garden that could tempt them so easily into leaving behind the beautiful life of fellowship that God had for them. It has to be somebody beautiful, something wily, something subtle, something very seductive.

We have to come to a place, especially in this age of the poser that we live in, this age of seduction, you and I need to be able to distinguish between good and evil. No! It is not that clear. It certainly is not that clear in the days in which we live. We might come to a point where we feel like we are completely, emotionally involved where we cannot see the difference between good and evil.

We need to know the truth and God will tell us. We'll know it in our gut when something just does not seem right. We've got to walk in the spirit. But what you and I are going to find out is that we're never going to live a single day in the spirit accidentally. If you end up living a life in the spirit it will not be because you just oh, I don't know, one day it began to happen.

[Laughter]

I'll say over and over again, you show me a godly woman. I'm going to show you a woman who pursued godliness. You show me a spiritual man, I'm going to show you a man who pursued the things of the spirit. This will not come to us accidentally.

If you want to be full on under the leadership of the spirit, it will be because you bowed your knee to his authority and that will be the same way it will happen for me. It will not just happen in the blink of an eye, we can't figure out what the change point was; this is going to be it -- this is going to be it.

So how does a discerning person differ from a judgmental person? We've been talking about that. Am I critical or suspicious by nature? Have I let the gift of discernment counterfeit into a critical spirit?

Remember that judgment of people comes in the form of -- a word from God where he tells us that we are not to judge one another. But we can definitely judge things -- we can definitely judge situations. We're not to judge another man's heart but we can definitely judge a situation. We can judge something coming out of that relationship. We can definitely judge what appears to be fruit of something that we cannot see. Oh, yes, we can!

Oh, yes, we can. He's told us be careful about judging one another but judging a situation, you bet we can. In fact, we absolutely must! That's part of living in an age of deception.

So what do we do if we discern that something is not what it seems? Here's how we're going to spend the rest of this series. We've talked about the fact that we've asked ourselves four different questions. If we can come to a place, we've worked it through with God, even if we got a "yes" on a couple of them but we came back and said, "Work this through with me." We come to a place where we've got four "no's" to make a yes. Okay, I think I'm onto something here -- I think I'm onto something, then we need to know what to do. Because if you figured out, okay, I think it is God, I don't think it is me. I don't think this is me just being a mere woman or me being a mere man, I think this is God. Okay, what in the world do you do? Because sometimes you might be living with it.

[Laughter]

Right? Sometimes you may be working with it and it is not like you're going someplace new tomorrow. Sometimes we're stuck in the situation and so what in the world are we going to do about it? So we're going to look at four different things, four different responses. When we have been getting "no's" to those questions and come up with a, "Yes, I think God is telling me something here." I think this is a "yes" or I think this is a "no."

What if we have discerned that something isn't what it seems? Then we've got to do one of four things or a coupling of these four things. The first one is this: Number one, this might be what he is telling us to do. R-U-N: run... R-U-N? Maybe what he is saying to us is run for your ever-loving life.

I want to say this to you today and I hope so much that somebody new is listening right now. Do not think for a moment there are not some people we do not need to run from. Never assume because we've been called to love and we've been called to accept and to reach out, never think for an instant there are not times when God is going, "You know what? Take legs and fly. Fly!"

I want to show you a blatant place right here in scripture. There will be other times we might discern it as well but I want to show you a flat out statement as clear as a bell. Look in Second Timothy three.

Remember, we talked about the sociological impact of perilous days -- that people will be the problem; not just circumstances, not just ecological disasters -- people will be the problem. He says, he describes people in the latter days:

That one is clear: have nothing to do with them. There are some people we can love, we can be thankful for and we can pray for but maybe, we're not supposed to have anything to do with them.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: It's so very important, you make no friendship with an angry man, the proverb says, and the great wise counselor offers us that wisdom. You have to be careful because a root of bitterness defiles many and there are some people that are just not necessarily good company.

One of the things that puzzled me for a while, Betty, was when Jesus said, "When you come into a house and they don't receive you, shake the dust off of your feet and keep going." And that didn't mean to walk away, and say, Well, just go to Hell." That's not what he is talking about. He is saying don't take that dust and that danger of unbelief and that spirit with you; shake off every aspect of that. It doesn't mean becoming indifferent toward that person. It doesn't mean don't care or pray or share, it doesn't mean that at all, but it does very clearly mean that you don't take that spirit with you, you don't take that attitude.

There are some people... sometimes, Betty, the pruning in our lives is the pruning out of our lives certain relationships with certain people that are not necessarily beneficial to the relationship or to the life of either party. There again it doesn't stop prayer, it doesn't stop witness, but we have to be careful who we associate with. We need God-given discernment.

I don't think it is going to take much of this say, all of the sudden this holy, supernatural, sudden enlightenment for you to see that one thing we all need is clean drinking water. Jesus said he is the water of life, the essence of life, he is the way of life. All of us need water and we need clean water, not contaminated water.

I want you to look at the images of precious children who are just looking for what Jesus said, "If you will give just a cup of water in my name, you won't lose your reward."

By the way, he knows what that reward really means. I don't know that there is one much greater than the blessing of blessing someone who never imagined anyone would even notice. I want you to watch and see if you might not be the very answer to the need you seek.

[Music playing]

James: Whoa! I didn't see a single image of a child that I didn't want to help. Then they take that water and it's dirty but it is precious. I don't know if you've ever really been thirsty.

I think a few times, Betty, we got pretty far out. I guess I think I've been thirsty but I haven't been thirsty like a lot of people. And then when you go and you try to get something and it's dirty, and the mother knows that that little baby, that little child is going to be sick and they go a long way to get water, and do whatever they can. And we have the answer. We don't have wishful thinking, we don't have false hope, we can drill water wells and we've got the teams and you've paid for the drilling equipment.

You did -- people like you -- all the drilling rigs are very expensive. And we're able to drill a well for an average cost of \$4800. To be honest with you, sometimes it's over \$10,000; we've got a few places where it's \$3,000 because it's so shallow, and it's easy to get to. Think about it, easy to get to. We just have to get to it. Then we give people a water well that just keeps giving for years, for a lifetime basically. \$4800 -- you know what I believe, Betty? I was really impressed before the program to say this and I really believe this, we drill hundreds of wells, twice a year we come and we ask you to help us drill hundreds of wells in 15 or 20 countries where the missionaries have showed us the need, and where the love of God is there in place. Now they demonstrate it.

But I believe there are 100 people watching today, there may be some of you in Australia, you may all be in Australia, or in the United States -- I believe there are 100 people today who can drill a well and I believe you would step up as one person. You know what? You've got it, I can. It's \$4800.

I made a statement one night, Betty, I remember where it was, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I'd never made that statement publicly before and I said, "You can drill a well. Maybe there is somebody here who can drill ten wells." And a man in the back turned to his wife and said, "Honey, we can drill ten wells." And they did -- they gave \$48,000. We were shocked. I'd never said that before. My staff said, "We ought to say that everywhere we go."

[Laughter]

I said, "Well, it would be nice but I'm not going to do that." But he did do it, he and his wife. And you may be able to do that. Maybe you can give ten wells. But I believe there

are 100 people who can give a well today, \$4800. Would you do it? Would you be one of them?

I believe there are some of you who would say, "I can't do that but I can give part of a well. I could give \$1200 and I'll pray three join me and we'll have a well. Or \$2400 and pray one joins and I've got a well." But most of you, and Betty, this is where most of our support comes and I don't want you to ever think, because people say, "You always ask us to give big." Because I love people to think big! We've got a big God with a big heart. I want you to think big.

Jesus said the greatest gift was one that people thought was the smallest, the widow's mite; said that's the biggest. \$48, ten people water the rest of their life. \$144 -- 30 people. I don't know what level you can help at but I believe you can help. Would you go to the phone right now? Take your bankcard. Please look, you take that bankcard and use it like a plastic check. That's how you use it; it's a check. But take it and use it. Or you write a check, make it to *LIFE*, you're giving life. You want to go online, *LifeToday.org* and make gift, whatever, but would you do whatever God is leading you to do today? Please do it.

Father, I pray you'll direct. And people will joyfully give.

Will you joyfully share life? We want to share some gifts with you. I want to share a book, *Believe This Not That*, truth. You'll like this!

We want to share with you a very helpful testimony, coffee mug, Water for Life. You're going to pray every time you drink that coffee.

And the beautiful "Lion and the Lamb" bronze to say thank you. Thank you for going to the phone. Please dial. If you get a busy, be persistent, be determined, "I'm going to give water to those precious children and their families!" Thank you for doing it!

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!

With your gift today we will begin drilling 350 new water wells for remote villages in 12 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!

With your gift be sure to request, *Believe This Not That* a brand-new topical Bible promise book that will encourage you in every area of life.

With your gift of \$100 or more you may request our newly released *Water for Life* mug set, a daily reminder of the clean water you make possible to those who thirst.

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 be sure to request the 2012 commemorative bronze sculpture, "The Lamb and the Lion."

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I really do believe that there are 100 people who could give a well. Are you one of them? Would you do it? I'm asking you to do what you can do.

Ask for the beautiful "Lamb and the Lion" bronze. It is such a beautiful art piece, a collectible and a conversation piece. When people say, "Where did you get that?"

"Let me tell you where I got it."

You'll be surprised how many people will be inspired to also say, "I want to join you doing that."

Tell your friends about "Wednesdays with Beth" and about *LIFE Today*.

And to all of you, thank you so much for being with us.

>> So in other words, God only uses under-qualified people.

Announcer: Tomorrow, making the change that will take you to a new level of success in your life.