

Week 11

3/5/12

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: We're laughing. We're laughing because I had a staph infection a couple years ago, about took me out and the regimen to get well, to fight off the infection left me with dry mouth so I use this spray. So I said a minute ago, "Let's spray." Well, my guests they just bow over.

[Laughter]

I said, "spray." That doesn't mean we're cutting short on prayer.

Betty: That's not a bad idea!

James: No, we pray a lot. Did you tell them who we were? You did, right? I was thinking about prayer and sprayer.

Betty: Do you remember who we are?

James: Let me just say this to you -- I appreciate you helping me. I'm getting a little older.

The book, *Indivisible*, is in the bookstores. You can order it online at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, any of the major booksellers. I really -- I really plead with you and pray and ask God to direct us to correct our course as a nation. I believe we're wandering in a wilderness of unbelief where we're really -- there's really the war of a spirit of ungodliness, and an anti-God worldview, and then the godly worldview and the biblical worldview where we're under God and under his covering and his shelter.

But, you know, Israel had a tendency to turn back and become prisoners in the Promised Land. I really see us right now at the place where Jeremiah warned in the second chapter, "What are you doing headed back to Egypt?" They were in the Promised Land, they were having real battles but now they say we want to go back to that -- to bondage thinking it would be secure. I think what *Indivisible* does is it gives us a way out of the wilderness. I really pray that you'll get it.

We've got wonderful guests, as we always do. But this week we have Troy and Kim Meeder. And Kim wrote a book, *Fierce Beauty*.

Now, when she starts telling you her story, and Troy is here with her because he got to see this incredible beauty, and I wanted her to tell us how they came up with this title because she didn't pick it. Even though she is a very beautiful person and she is strong; she saw something awful when she was only nine.

I want you to welcome Kim and Troy Meeder to *LIFE Today*? Would you?

Kim: Thank you so much.

James: I'm glad to see you.

I already referenced the fact that you had an event that was startling, hard to even imagine. Tell us about it because I know that's what led you on the journey that really inspired the story that you share not only as you witness but also in the book, *Fierce Beauty*.

Kim: Hard things happen to everyone and when we're in that place of devastation and crushing no one can tell us that some day God is going to use this for good. That just can't go into our mind and yet it is true -- it is true. And the truth of Second Corinthians 1:3, 4 where God says, "I'm going to comfort you in your time of need so that when others around you go through the same thing you can give them that comfort that I've given you." I love that verse because then all of the sudden the hardships and the suffering that we face has a purpose. It has a purpose. It's like God's Midas gold -- times a zillion. That God's comfort not only heals us, it heals everyone we share it with, and that is something to hold fast and precious before the Lord.

When I was nine years old, my parents were going through a divorce, as is so prevalent today. And at nine years of age your dad, he wears a cape and he flies and he is your super hero, and your mom is the most beautiful woman in the world and you want to grow up and look just like her.

I remember a little bit earlier than that I used to look at my dad and say, "Some day I'm going to marry you." I just loved my dad so much. So during this season of divorce I don't know that I even really understood what that meant.

I remember my dad's friend coming to my little school and picking me up and picking up -- I have two older sisters and we drove this distance out to my grandparents house, and

no one spoke -- no one. I remember feeling this crushing sense that something horrific has happened. I feel it. And driving down and all these cars parked everywhere. You could just feel the grief coming out of the house. Even as a child I remember thinking I don't want to go in there. Don't make me go in! Don't make me go. And just being grabbed by my shoulders and pushed in the door.

There was this woman who I recognized and she was trying to hug me and comfort me. And she was just crying out of control. Just -- [gasp, gasp, gasp] -- "I'm sorry!" Just could hardly speak. And she just kept saying, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. Your dad has just murdered your mother and he's killed himself. I'm sorry."

And I remember looking at her and thinking, I think you're a liar because that can't be true. My dad would never do that. I think you're a liar. I just broke out of her arms and ran out the door and just ran and ran and ran in this child's effort to just outrun the unthinkable. I was running through an orchard that had just been plowed and I remember just falling down in the dirt and just screaming and screaming, and just grabbing handfuls of dirt in this little girl's effort to hold on to her parents. Just screaming, "Jesus, help me! Will you help me now? I need you."

I think at that time in my life I had been to church twice and Jesus was some guy hanging on a cross on a wall somewhere, and yet intuitively when our life is being crushed, God has made it within every man to turn to him. And what I now know as an adult is that the Lord of all creation came down and knelt in the dirt beside a breaking child, and he took the little hand that was reaching out to him and my Jesus has never let go -- He has never let go.

I'll be the first in line to tell anyone who is in a painful place of suffering where you don't think you're going to survive, you call on the name of Jesus. Call on the name of Jesus and you will never be alone again. And you will never know the wholeness that only he can bring until we reach out to him. And that was the beginning of everything that God had in mind to come.

James: When you tell the story and you build from there with *Fierce Beauty*, the title, how did that come?

[Laughter]

Kim: Working on the ranch and traveling and speaking for many, many years I've been seeing this trend building across our nation that is not so lovely. This trend is leading women toward the idea that how you look is way more important than how you live, and

who you are in Jesus Christ and that we are exchanging the beauty that Jesus gives to each one of his children in exchange for just looking pretty. By giving that genuine gift up, we're also giving up our genuine worth and our genuine value as women. What I'm seeing is that across our nation, women are more flawless than ever on the outside, and yet on the inside I deal with women who are more crushed and devastated, hopeless, worthless, feeling useless and alone. We're being lied to and we're believing it.

The whole book of *Fierce Beauty* was an effort for me to take back ground in my own life that Jesus Christ gave his life to defend. Right now I need to fiercely fight for that. I'm learning that it doesn't just happen because I want it to, it happens because I fight for it with my very life because really, that's exactly what's at stake.

In this nation, women are so focused on them self, it's time for all of us to take off this little crown of entitlement that we've crowned ourselves with and pick up our king sword of encouragement and fight for those around us who are losing their battle for hope. It is time to fight.

Betty: Don't you think that a lot of women do that? They care more about the outside because they are trying to disguise and hide the hurt and the pain and low self-esteem and the fear and all of that that is within them that they think they're ugly inside and out?

Kim: Our enemy is nothing if he isn't cunning, a thief, and a liar. And he is very patient and he doesn't care if it is glamorous, he just cares that it works. And if a woman's focus is moved off of Jesus Christ onto herself, he's won.

James: Well, you have invested your lives in your ranch. Tell everybody what the name of the ranch is in case they want to go online and kind of see what it is you're doing because you've actually become a model for how you can use horses and spend time with children and minister to them, and it has a transforming effect. What's the name of the ranch?

Troy: Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch; it is out of Bend, Oregon.

James: If anybody wanted to see what you're doing and kind of see the program, could they find it online?

Troy: Absolutely. www.CrystalPeaksYouthRanch.org.

James: You're seeing some wonderful experiences. You tell a story that has kind of gotten legs; of course it is in the book but people are talking about how it affected them

and it's really a powerful story about the power of a smile, as I've kind of been tuned in and been informed that it is quite moving. I really would like for you to tell us because I've actually never heard the story, I've only heard it referenced. Share it with our viewers.

Kim: I would love to.

I'm around people constantly at our ranch that I hear this resounding theme that oh, I don't have anything to give to God. That God couldn't use a person like me. The truth is God will use whatever you give him. He is the God of loaves and fishes. It doesn't matter how little it seems to us, it only matters that we trust him enough to be obedient to give him something. If we give God nothing, that's exactly what we can expect him to do in our heart and in the hearts of those around us. But if we give him something, even a little thing, we blow the door open for God to do amazing things through us. It is him -- it is always him.

So someone I love very much shared this story with me and it's changed my life, and I hope it will change yours too. This young woman at 15 years of age was living in a household that was so dangerous that children services came in, picked her up, drove her a great distance and dropped her off into a new home and a new life. "Here, start over. Knock yourself out."

And this young woman lost everything. In one moment it was gone: Her home, her friends, her family, her pets, her peers, her neighborhood, her school, everything! And she said, "Kim, I was walking down this brand new high school, down halls that I'd never seen before and I didn't know anyone." She said, "After one day of going to this school I realized something, not one person spoke to me, not one person even looked at me. And one day became two and then a week and then a month."

This young woman is dying inside. She has lost everything and she said, "No one spoke to me -- no one even looked at me." Two months went by and she said, "I remember I was sitting in the back of my fourth period math class right against the wall and that's when I realized that no human heart should suffer like this. She said, "I came to the conclusion that the only way to make the pain in my heart stop was to just make my heart stop." She said, "I made the decision that I was going to go home and end my life. And no one would ever know that I died because nobody ever knew that I lived. Nobody!" And she said, "I felt so much peace in knowing that it would be over -- it would just be over, my suffering, and my hurt, and my sorrow and pain."

And the bell rang and she picked up her books and walked out into the hallway with a 1,000 other kids coming and going. She was on her way down the hall and these two boys

were pushing and shoving. One of these young men hit her so hard it knocked her down on her knees on the floor and just splattered her books across the hall. She said, "I was on my hands and knees trying to reach my things as people are stamping them with their grimy shoes and carrying my papers down the hall. Nobody stopped to help. Nobody cared. Nobody even noticed."

She said, "I gathered up as much as I could and I was just so sad. I just needed to get away so I could cry, I was just so sad." She said, "I stood up and there was this blond girl across the hall with blue eyes that saw the whole thing and she was looking at me." And she said, "I was just waiting for her to laugh or call me names or just be like everyone else and just ignore me all together. She did none of those things. We watched each other."

She said all of the sudden this blond girl did something very unexpected -- she smiled at me. And we watched each other walk until our necks wouldn't turn any further and I couldn't believe it. Maybe there was one person that saw me.

"Resolute," she said, "I went home, I got the things that I needed and I went to the place that I chose and I got down on my knees, locked into the position of destruction and all I could see was this blond girl's face and this beautiful smile that was directed at me." And I thought, "Maybe Lord, there's just one -- one person in this world who cares for me. I'll wait one more day. Maybe it meant something."

Sure enough, the next day that space between fourth and fifth period, you can imagine her just caring her books right up under her chin just looking, looking, looking, are you there? Is there one? Just looking, looking and she said, "I went all the way to my next class and stopped in front of the threshold knowing if I go in it's over -- it's all over."

She looked down the hall one more time and the blond girl pops around and she's kind of looking around too. Sees her again and smiles again! And one day became two and then a week and then a month. This went on every day and this devastated young woman told me, she said, "Kim, I knew I could hold on until I made it to that space between fourth and fifth period that I would be okay because there was one person in this world who cared enough for me to smile at me. And one smile a day given to the Lord," (this young woman was a Christian,) "was enough to save my life until I came to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ."

She said, "You know what, Kim? The amazing part of this story is that girl and I don't even know each other's names. We never even met." And that her smile dedicated to the Lord in the hands of God was enough to save my life. Don't you dare think that anything

you have to give God is too small. He is the Lord of loaves and fishes and he'll take that gift and make it into something that can change the world around us.

James: And that is so true. The thing that is so critically important is sometimes the expression that you give and the attention you pay just that moment has transforming power and potential. Thoreau said, "Who knows what healings are set in motion when we simply smile one upon the other; what ripples of healing are set in motion."

Fierce Beauty, it is an unusual title. I really wonder sometimes if there doesn't have to be a boldness and a fierceness in the way that we really stand up for what we know the Lord is offering.

I want to just say to you, the book is in the bookstores. But let me just say to you, that one of the reasons that Betty and I come into your home, the reason *LIFE Today* is here and we have guests is for you to know you're not overlooked. You're not forgotten.

Father, I pray everyone will know that that's watching today. Perhaps they just turned to this channel or they watched today wondering why and you want so much for them to know that you notice and that you care. Father, I pray they'll receive your love. In Jesus' name.

Listen -- to all of you who know the Lord, you know that love, one of the greatest things you can do is find a way to express that love to someone who may feel overlooked. We find, as you all do, helping children that are in trouble, we love to help people all over the world. We've been feeding the hungry for years, and rescuing... and rescuing people out of the sex trafficking.

One of the most thrilling things we do is to give a village, a community, a freshwater well where they don't have anything but contaminated deadly water. Let me remind you, this is the last week of our Water for Life emphasis for this season, and we really do need your help to do as Jesus put it, to share a cup of water. I want you to listen but I'd really like you to also be saying, "God, what can I do to make a difference for them?" Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Translator: I have 12 children here from ages 6 to 14. Sometimes the children say, "Teacher, we are thirsty." So I go to the river to bring the water for the children.

Children are often sick with diarrhea and fever. I think the river is contaminated and becomes worse because of the waste from the cows.

Our only option is to go to the river because we cannot afford to buy water. My dream is that we can have clean water and no one will get sick.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I don't know, Betty, if you ever feel like when you see needs and we've helped them in such an effective way that sometimes you wonder, what can we say to help our viewers understand we're not showing you children that are just dying and emaciated bodies, they're dealing with a situation that keeps nearly causing a serious problem when there's a teacher that obviously loves her students and her children, and the children in that whole area, and yet they're watching them get ill and they watch them lose their health and even lose their lives. We can just reach out here and get a fresh drink of water, how do we help our viewers understand that these people don't have that chance. If we give them fresh water they're seeing one of the greatest expressions of love to give them a chance at life.

I'm thinking, what can we say to help our viewers understand? Because I'm looking at the time frame, we're in the last week, and I know we're going to need a lot of help to be able to drill the hundreds of wells that are needed this year.

Betty: James, I think our viewers and our friends that watch, they do know, they sense the love of the Lord in their lives and your lives -- I know you do. There are times when you've been so desperate, times when you thought, if someone would reach out to me and help me, well, I think that's what you can relate to in these stories that we show you about these precious children. I watched that and I saw a little smile here and there, James, and I thought, these precious little children, they don't know what's being put into their bodies. They've never had a choice of any other kind of water so they don't know. So they're drinking it because they're thirsty. They're drinking it because their bodies are saying, "I'm thirsty." Let's give them a choice to grow up healthy as possible. And the heart of this teacher was I care about these children. I know the water is bad. Please help them.

James: She really can't do anything but care but you and I can drill a well in that village and we're asking you to do that. The wells are \$4800.

I'm grateful because when I will look throughout the week to see did someone drill a well? And on occasion I will see two or three wells, sometimes I may go several days and I'll see a \$1200 gift and I'll begin to pray, "God raise up three more people." Or "God, I thank you for all the people who have joined hands to give \$48 or \$144 so 10 or 30 people can have water."

I don't know what you can do, but whatever you do, it's going to be giving life to as many as possible. Would you dial that number?

We have some special gifts to give you as you give this great gift. In this last week we need to hear from every one of you who can do something to help. If you can give a well or part of a well or you make that very special \$48 gift and you say, "You know what? We're going to give 10 people water. We're going to do it." We have gifts to bless you but you're giving an indescribable gift. Thank you for making the call.

Use your bankcard, write a check, or you can go online and make that gift. 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."

This is the last week. Call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I just want to say thanks in behalf of the teacher and in behalf of all of the students, all the children in the area that will be helped.

We want to send you the book, *Believe This Not That*. It's God's truth; really an answer to the things that the enemy and the whole world will throw at you to discourage you, show you the truth.

I want to remind you that *Fierce Beauty* by Kim Meeder is in the bookstores.

We're going to be talking to her husband Troy about the incredible outreach that they have. He's written a book called *The Average Joe: God's Extraordinary Calling on Ordinary Men*. It's amazing.

I do want to remind you, *Indivisible*, you can get it and you can order it and go to the bookstores and get it. We really do encourage you to get it and pass that information on.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to Troy and to Kim. Thank you so much for sharing your story. Bless you as you're helping children and those who really need to hear what we're going to be hearing from you later this week.

Thanks so much for sharing this time with us.

Announcer: Faith, family, and freedom are under attack. As America faces battles within, many wonder where to turn. In their new book, James Robison and Jay Richards call us to stand together before it's too late as one nation truly under God. *Indivisible* -- available now at online and retail bookstores.

>> God's calling on your life, God's value of your life is not in what you do.

Announcer: Tomorrow, Troy Meeder proves the importance of being an average Joe.