

Week 12

3/14/12

James: I wish all of you could see how nice you look on camera. You're just a great looking crowd.

Oh, hi! You are too! Some of you saying, "I'm glad you can't see me." Well, we welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to present "Wednesdays with Beth." Every Wednesday Beth is on; only a few exceptions through the year. We may have some special emphasis and maybe some series that sometimes she might not be here but she is our regular, and she is so gifted to communicate the Word of God and truth.

Betty, we have a lot of women who watch during the daytime hours. *LIFE Today* begins airing at ABC Family early in the morning, then it's on Discovery; those are two national secular networks and then we're on all the inspirational networks and we go all the way down 'til 11:00 at night, for instance, central time on Daystar. We're also on Daystar at 7 in the morning; all the different networks so we just kind of keep coming.

But we know that during the daytime hours a tremendous percentage of women and we found, of course, Joyce Meyer is so gifted at teaching and Beth Moore is so gifted and we were blessed to have Beth come and teach on Wednesdays. So ladies, this is really a gift to you, but we find out men have become Beth Moore junkies too. They say, "We want to hear her. We like that!" What a blessing she is.

Here she is, she is talking about Family Calamity and Restoration. Here is Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: Number two is this:

Would somebody agree with that? There are so many layers to it, it is so mixed-up, so tangled up; in every family calamity, the rope that is hanging the whole family has come from many different strands getting tangled up in a knot. It didn't just happen over one thing. A host of things come together and what results is such a big knot that only God can unravel it.

I started thinking of all the things we go through when we're in a family calamity that there's this whole tangled up rope, especially in the David saga between blame and shame. Now blame always points to somebody else; like it's their fault this has happened to us. There is blame. But then there is shame. Well, I think I probably did this or that. Maybe it is all my fault. So we go back and forth. We're just in this dizzying, flip-flop in-between, you did it! No, I did it! You did it! No, I did it! You caused it. Well, maybe I caused it. Maybe I caused it. And all the complexities of going back and forth between that blame and shame.

And I thought -- we've all heard this -- but is it any truer than in the circumstance of family calamity, what a fine line there is between love and hate? What a mighty fine line there is between the two. I want to suggest to you that there is no one in your life you are more capable of hating than someone you have greatly loved because that emotion is so big and you see it with Absalom and Amnon -- they were brothers. They probably hung out together. One reason why he was able to hate him so much is because he'd had such capacity to love.

It is strange in the passages about Amnon toward his sister. It said that he just loved her. He could not get enough of thinking about her. He thought about her all the time. He just loved her!

Then it says he hated her. Why? Because there is a mighty fine line between love and hate; all the complexity that is involved. The complicated nature of family calamity.

That's why it takes God -- he can see into the secret places of our hearts. He can understand things we can't even sort out. He really does know where it began. He really does know the pain that is in under the sin. The mercy that is needed to treat what was at the origin, the broken place, the fissure in the life, he knows exactly where it was.

Now we've got two points so far:

Number three is going to tell us what makes it most complicated of all. Number three is this:

Now this can be on either side. In other words, you may feel like your family calamity, and I want you to think about your family of origin because very often, we can go 25 years and we've never really healed up from something that happened in our childhood. We think, I just try to not think about it anymore but that just means we're getting a more and more calloused heart, especially when we have an old hatred. Remember, that old hatred is cheating us of the love for our present loved ones that didn't have anything to do with

it. There is no way we can come up with a rational thought process that would excuse the fact that our hatred is not hurting anyone.

Oh yes, it is! Oh yes, it is! And a whole lot of people that had nothing to do with it, the calamity of it, the complication of it, it very often involves consequences. It may be consequences to your actions; it may be that I'm the one that caused this calamity. If you're like me, there have been a number of calamities and it is just like which one did I cause? Which one did they cause? It often involves consequences. In other words, someone might have made a poor decision.

Now there really is just victimization; things just happen that have no bearing on consequences at all. But I want to talk to you about this one because this one is what makes it so complex. What if somebody's decision or somebody's decisions help bring about that kind of complication and that kind of calamity? Nothing is more complicated than that.

Now, I have a good friend who just had a birthday and my good friend is 55 years old. Her mother acknowledged her birthday this year for -- stay with me here -- the very first time. Somehow, because that baby was conceived outside of marriage and the friend was not told who the father was, that mom had associated so much shame with it that she just could not bring herself to celebrate that day.

Now I promise you, because this is someone I love dearly, this life is worth celebrating! This life is worth celebrating! But I tell you, things in our family can get so messed up and somebody on the other side of that screen understands this kind of pain. Why can't you celebrate me? Why can't you? Why can't this have been a good day instead of a reminder, somehow, of what you're ashamed of? Why can't we move on and receive God's restoration?

I want somebody to hear this today. Let God redeem that day. The worst day of your life, God can redeem that day. He can go back, pick that thing up and bring such a transformation, such redemption from what you've been through that the devil will be sorry he ever messed with you! Why can't he redeem it? Why can't he redeem it?

I love for the enemy to have to think that the first time he tempted my perpetrator to come against me and abuse me, I love to remind him, that needs to be your worst memory because you started something that day that did not turn out well for you. Is anybody stepping in this with me? Anybody at all?

Are we just going to let him get away with it? Or at some point do we stand up and go, that was the beginning of a powerful life! Because when you try to render me powerless, my God came to me and said, "My power will be made perfect in your weakness. I will show you what I can do. I will defy every single odd."

I love Second Corinthians 6:2 that says, "Now is the time of God's favor. Now is the day of salvation." Let him redeem that day. Let him redeem it. Celebrate the work your God has done. Acknowledge how he has redeemed you.

I want to show you something else too in case it is you, or in case it is a loved one that it was your consequences. I want to show you something. Turn with me to Hebrews chapter 12. I'm just going to look at a little portion here for a moment. Hebrews chapter 12.

Anybody glad to be in God's word today?

Audience: Yes!

Beth: I tell you, he's got what you need! He's got what you need! He knows -- he knows. You need to know on the other side of that screen that he knows every single thing you're dealing with. He knows every single emotion, every single memory that this is triggering and he is bringing it to the surface; not so that you can feel pained by it or be reminded by it but so that he can heal you -- so that he can heal us! He lets things come to the surface so that he can skim them off. He wants to redeem everything we've been through.

Now I want to go back to the possibility, if you're like me and have been in my situations where I can look back on circumstances and calamities that I myself know partially came from my poor decisions. One of them flat out was like that one was mine! I have to own that one completely.

What if that's you? Or what if it is your daughter or your son or your brother or your sister or your loved one that you want to see free? These verses set me free!

Chapter 12 of Hebrews, starting at about the point of verse five all the way to verse 13 talk about the chastisement or the discipline of God. The discipline of God that when we have -- when we're going through some kind of suffering, a lot of suffering has nothing to do with consequences but a lot of my pain in life has come from very poor decisions in my past. Can I relate with anybody? So I'm constantly transferring that into the next situation. This is all coming from consequences.

Let me show you something that happens here in the wonders of God's love. I want to show you, when you and I realize we're going through a disciplinary process with God, divine discipline, let me show you what happens here, in verse 10, Hebrews 12: blank.

Everybody say later on.

Audience: Later on!

Beth: Say it again please.

Audience: Later on! Blank.

Beth: Listen carefully -- when we are going through a time of consequences, we've got to just cast ourselves before God because he transforms our consequences into something he just calls "divine discipline." And we're all going to... first of all, tend to think that I can't think of anything worse than just subjecting myself to the discipline of God.

Oh yes, you can! David himself said, "I'd rather be at the mercy of God any day than at the mercy of man." -- Because our God only disciplines us in such a way that will bring healing. The goal of every single chastisement of God is so that the lame would not be disabled but would be healed. I'm going to stand here until somebody gets a word because I'm going to tell you something, many of us have been disabled by our past actions -- disabled! We're paralyzed from them. Or we're at the very least handicapped from them.

He said, "Let me tell you something, if you will just bend your knee before me and if you will just let me love you and let me bring healing to you, I will put you back together again. And I will raise you mighty in me and mighty in the faith." We're just staying back there in our shame. Psalm 103, verse ten tells us:

I promise you, I wouldn't be here if he did. I wouldn't be here! He doesn't give us what our sins deserve. He only brings about the kind of chastisements that have the capability to teach us -- to teach us. I do think there are times when he wants to say, "Can you not learn?"

[Laughter]

You know what? If we could learn this one, we could go on to the next one. But like let's get this lesson learned. It's not pass or fail, it's that he wants you to make an A. Let's get

this one down so that the enemy can't keep using this against us over and over again. Here's what we've got so far: blank.

Now here's what we're going to end this first part of our series of family calamity and family restoration with. This is our fourth one but it will lead to five, six, and seven in the coming weeks. Number four is this: blank.

We really can find some restoration. Marriages really can be put back together again. Families really can come through disasters and have God bring such a full redemption that like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we've come through the fire and we don't even smell like smoke! You want to be able to sit across the table and minister to someone and say -- when they say, "You just have no idea what I've been through."

You go, "You know what? I'm going to tell you what I've been through."

Then they look at you and go, "Never... in my wildest dreams would I have expected that out of you. Never!" Because, you see, we came through the fire but we no longer smell like smoke. We need healing. You haven't been through the one thing God cannot heal you from. God can bring healing after total calamity. And not every family calamity has to end up in complete destruction but I promise you, that is the will of Satan for your family -- that is the will of Satan.

You want to turn that thing around where you come out of a calamity. You want to reverse that order where God brings us out of a calamity and then we sit before him and go, who am I, and who is my family, Lord that you have brought us this far? I want to say this about friendships, I want to say it about every kind of meaningful relationship in our lives, every crisis does not have to be fatal!

I ask you today and I'm just going to get in your business for just a minute but I ask you this out of compassion, out of one who has thought about this and seen track records in my own life that I didn't like and knew I needed to change, I needed to turn, I needed a repentance.

When we look back and we cannot see a history of restoration, if everything behind us is like a broken relationship, we just have a whole line of them back there; like oh, that friendship, well, we've never spoken again. Now I really -- I'm not in contact with that sibling anymore. Have you got just like a long line -- have we got any history whatsoever of true restoration or are we just big fat quitters? Are we just always going to quit? We have a fight and quit. You go, this was no fight, this was calamity. Are we -- with every

calamity -- are we just going to quit? Will there be no end to the cycle of, behind every calamity I find a way to quit.

We have more than that! God has done more than that in us. We have it in us to get to the other side of a relationship and be stronger than we have ever been in our lives. Now let me tell you, there are biblical grounds for fissures but I'm talking about all the occasions we have that instead of doing the work that it would take to be put back together again and see the joy of restoration, we just quit -- we just quit. It doesn't have to be terminal. Every crisis doesn't have to end up in us quitting. Well, I can tell you that Keith and I, you can imagine, are fiery people.

[Laughter]

We just are. We do believe in occasionally clearing the air with a good fight. And both of us are proof that we can kiss and make up because we never would have made it 31 years if we could not kiss and make up. We both have strong feelings about everything; everyone in our family is opinionated. All of us have an opinion about something and we feel the need to share it, if not flat out impose it upon you.

[Laughter]

It is just a way of our family. A couple of months ago Keith really hurt my feelings about something. I had just come out of a surgery and was not feeling very well anyway and was just a wound waiting to happen. My heart and my mind were not in the state yet that they needed to be in and he said something that really hurt my feelings. So of course it was a very, very cold evening. But the next morning, he said he realized within about three minutes, okay that was the wrong thing to say!

[Laughter]

I like to tease about Keith and Melissa, they never have a thought that they do not share. So whatever they're thinking kind of comes out that way. So all evening long and I can really get over some things but I just had a mind not to this particular time. But the next morning when he came, I got up before he did, and I -- and even had my quiet time but somehow it just had to taken in the way --

[Laughter]

Anybody know what I'm talking about? Sometimes it just did not bring about the fruit yet -- there is just not the little harvest yet -- I'm sure it was coming later in the morning but it

had not come yet and when he got up he could tell, oh, it not only was a cold night it is going to be a cold day! Because I was not over it. Next thing I knew, I couldn't hear him in the house and I heard a door shut so I just didn't pay any attention. I thought, well, he can do whatever he wants!

[Laughter]

So I was getting ready for work, feeling all pious and wounded.

You know, it's funny how you can feel both those things at the same time.

[Laughter]

Not just wounded but pious in your wounding. God, get him! Get him!

[Laughter]

So in a little while, Keith comes back and he knows that I love nothing better -- I cannot resist a hot Shipley's Donuts. That is a brand of donuts back in my neck of the woods. Do y'all have them in this area?

Audience: Yes!

Beth: Oh, there is nothing like it! And to me, if it gets cold, I'm not interested but if it is hot, I've got no restraint. So he comes in, he's holding them like this. Comes in where I'm putting on my makeup and he holds it out. He goes, "Feel the bottom of this box." Of course, I just touch it with my index finger like this.

And he says, "The recipient of the very hot, just out of the grease, just with the sugar glaze on it... the recipient of these hot Shipley's Donuts has to be in a state where she agrees to be no longer mad about the offense of her husband."

[Laughter]

I mean, he bribed me!

I said -- I stood there for a second and I said, "That's not fair!"

He goes, "That is the deal! You can have these donuts but you cannot be mad any longer if you take even one bite."

I said, "Let me feel the bottom of it." Because it was like, how hot are the donuts? Because I was willing to cool off to the extent that the donuts were hot. Do you understand what I'm saying? So I felt; they were hot! So I said, "Okay!" And I took it and we kind of lived, at least that day happily ever after. There can come a time when we really can get through it; we really can get through it. I want you to see if God can give you a different attitude toward some of your struggles.

A friend of mine said something to me the other day I keep thinking about. They have a teenager that is just turning them inside out. She said, "You know what? I'm not sure that God is not using that teenager to save our marriage." We think about like this is going to split us up forever but she saw it exactly the opposite way because she is in Christ and she sees hope in every situation when she is willing to.

She goes, "I'm not altogether sure God is not letting us go through this," because she said, "I want to promise you this, Beth Moore," she said, "It's taken both of us to raise this child. Both of us!" She said, "This is no time to cut out." She said, "We were getting a little bit bored but now it's taken both of our attentions. We know neither one of us can deal with this child by ourselves."

I thought about what a wild way that was to look at it. We really could forgive. We really could say we're sorry. We don't have to be sorry for everybody's part but we could be sorry for ours.

That same friend has said before, "You know what? We can come down to it and decide, do I just want to be right or do I want to have a relationship? Do I want to have a relationship?"

I want to tell you a story as we close this part of our series. I have a sibling that I have loved dearly all of my entire life that has lived a story that really is hers to tell and it will just be shocking and thrilling when she gets a format to tell it publicly. But she had -- I'm watching her be restored after a ten year drop out from life, having lost everything over the power of an addiction.

I've told you guys before that, our viewers, that it was my family's thing! We're just riddled with addiction. We're very addictive personalities. I've said so often, all you'd have to do is watch me drink a cup of coffee and how I stare into it before I drink it to know that I have a huge capacity for addiction, and this is one of my dear loved ones who honestly dropped out of life. And I'm watching her, little by little, seeing family moments of restoration come.

There was a divorce. There was being out of her children's lives for a matter of years. But little by little God is putting it back together because she is just celebrating a year and a month of sobriety and walking in the power and freedom of Christ. And she gives him all credit! All credit! Her sons are slowly being restored to her.

And my other sibling got with her not too long ago and he said -- when we were all getting together -- he said, "I felt completely comfortable with our sister but I wasn't sure what it would be like with the kids being there and would it be awkward?"

He said, "Beth, the moment I sat down her oldest son, our nephew said to his uncle, 'Hey, what do you think about my mother?'"

I told my sister something, I've told this -- Keith and I have talked about this many, many times. Don't we wish we'd always done it right? Wouldn't it be something? And wouldn't we be proud of ourselves? Wouldn't we? We don't just want self-esteem, we want to be proud of ourselves! Wouldn't that be wonderful?

But that's just not the way life is. Life is hard, and the devil comes to kill, to steal, and to destroy. I promise you, he meant to destroy you. The fact that he has not is the wonder of God alone! You know we could have done it right or we could just be a miracle. She's a miracle!

I said, "You have won your children's respect!"

I want somebody to know, it is not too late! No matter what you've been through, no matter how shamed you feel like you are -- it is not too late!

I ask you to please stay tuned to the weeks ahead of us as we see God bring us back dignity after family shame. People are going to think about us... all right. But we do get to have something to do with what they think. Maybe they could think we're a wonder! Maybe they could think we're a miracle.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I really hope the answer is: I want a relationship. There is no question that to have a relationship here, like for you and me to have a lasting relationship, always starts with the right relationship with God because there is going to be those calamities, those

tragedies, those crisis moments, those challenging times, and I pray you will find the healing, the restoration through every crisis, through every calamity.

Father, I pray that for our viewers. Thank you for Beth. Thank you for your word. Thank you for your love, your forgiveness and your restoring power. In Jesus' name.

One of the things that I think probably really grips our heart and tears at our heart as much as anything -- as a matter of fact, it's hard to even imagine that people, Betty, will take children and we understand that sex is always been a challenge through the ages. It's been something that has led to the downfall of civilizations, so we understand that drive, we understand the beauty of what God gave us that can be so misused and become so destructive when it is intended to be so creative and beautiful.

But the thought of taking a child or taking people captive and into bondage and slavery, into sexual bondage, it almost -- it flies in the face of all common sense. It just seems like a thought too horrific to imagine but it does happen.

But here's what you need to know. We can rescue -- rescue and restore lives. Rescue children from it, keep them from ever being taken into that bondage and get people out and that's what we do together.

I want you to listen to this story of one who was taken captive. Listen to her story.

On the mission field:

>> As night falls in this Indian city, the clamoring songs and shadowy figures of men in the darkness cause Sunita to become extremely uncomfortable. It is a reminder of the times in her childhood when everything around her was dark and despairing. Now she can hardly raise her head because of the shame and crushing guilt she feels from her past. Forced into the sex slave trade by a mother who considered her a commodity, a way to earn money, Sunita was helpless and had nowhere to turn.

After four years of torment and abuse by older men, Sunita, as a teenager ran away and married a young man who she thought she could trust. But she found herself once again trapped in the sex slave trade by a husband who had deceived her and became her trafficker. After severe beatings and emotional abuse, Sunita became so sick she could not service any more men.

Enraged by this her husband threw alcohol on her and set her on fire. Sunita suffered severe burns from her stomach down to her legs and she almost died. When asked how she now feels, Sunita simply replies, "I am happy to be alive."

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I just want to cry out to God, asking for forgiveness for how his beautiful gift has been so idolized, and not only such a distraction but so destructive to relationships and to lives.

God forgive all that goes on. It is so horrible! But Lord, give us the grace to help these people who are held captive. I'm praying for anyone that's held captive by the desire to use these who have been trafficked and little children. What a horrible bondage! We pray for those who are trapped by the addiction. We can only offer the delivering power of God to these people and we do and we will. But we can free these slaves that are held captive by just making a way out, by rescuing them and restoring them. That's what we're asking you to do.

Betty and I always look forward to participating in every one of our outreaches because we believe so strongly in what God has called us to do. Here's very specifically what I'd like to ask you to do, dial the phone number. If you needed someone to pray with you it's always there. Someone who cares will pray for you and with you and it's paid for by love. But would you dial the number today and say, "I want to rescue someone"? It takes \$128 to rescue someone, that's the cost. That's what it takes -- that's what it takes with the mission workers we work with, that's what it takes oftentimes to keep them in a place of care.

As a matter of fact, we're asking you to help us build a *LIFE* Center in Nepal, which is one of the areas where more are recruited than you could ever imagine out of the impoverished children and taken as slaves. We want to build a beautiful *LIFE* Center there. And in my opinion, it's a meager cost of \$225,000 because labor and materials are very inexpensive.

But we're going to be able to impact hundreds and hundreds of precious children, change their lives, give them a future. \$128 is what it takes to rescue one person. We need \$225,000 to build a *LIFE* Center. We're asking you to pray about giving \$1,000 or more toward that if you can help with the *LIFE* Center.

We're going to send you the beautiful bronze of "The Lion and the Lamb" to say thank you. I want to remind you that your gift will be matched. Whatever you give will be matched because someone else has said, "I believe so much in the importance of this that whatever someone does, I'll match it." That means even \$64 will be matched and doubled to be \$128. So at whatever level you can participate, please, don't think it is unimportant.

We are asking for large gifts for the *LIFE* Center. I'm praying, Father, that somebody will give \$10,000. I just feel impressed someone can do that.

And it may be that you could give several thousand or you could give \$1,000 but we need the \$225,000. We've got a short period of time in which we need to raise the funds to build the *LIFE* Center in Nepal. Then remember, \$128, you make that gift, you'll actually be rescuing two.

If you say, "James, I can't do that," \$64 someone will match it and we've rescued another one --whatever you can do. Use your bankcard, use it like a check, that's how you should always use it. If you do write a check make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. You can go online at *LifeToday.org*.

Please, please put arms of love around these desperately needy children and the women that are already trapped and we can help them get out and have a new life. These women are being put to work making beautiful beads. Giselle, a former fashion model and our partner there, has given these women a beautiful place to work and given them something to do and we're going to send you one of these to say thank you if you help us rescue one of these precious lives, along with the book, *Indivisible*. Thank you for making the call.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's impossible to believe but at this very moment innocent children, many very young are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable, and someone must save them!

With your help today we can reach, rescue, and restore their hope for a better future and we can also build the New Hope Life Center in Nepal, which will be a safe house for children for years to come.

And now a miracle opportunity of \$384,000 matching gift with a cost of \$128 to rescue a child, that means your gift of \$128 will be matched to help rescue two children. And \$64 will be matched to help rescue one more child.

With your gift please request *Indivisible* by James Robison and Jay Richards, a soul-stirring read for every Christian who desires to restore America to the values that formed our strong foundation built on faith, family, and freedom.

With your gift of \$128, which today will help rescue two children, you will receive a unique and beautiful necklace handcrafted by women who are survivors of human trafficking and slavery.

Finally, please prayerful consider a gift of \$1,000 which will be matched to \$2,000 for the New Hope Life Center and you may request the beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Lion and the Lamb."

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

In the studio:

James: I would love for you to get one of these beautiful necklaces. They were made, the result of love, giving these precious women an opportunity to make a living because they found a life through the love you share in the Rescue Life.

I want to encourage you to help us build the *LIFE* Center in Nepal. We're sending "The Lamb and the Lion" bronze -- absolutely beautiful! Betty and I have this in our home; we treasure it. We're asking you to make a gift of \$1,000. We need to raise \$225,000. I really sense there is someone who can give several thousand but we're asking you to help.

And then I do want to remind you that for every gift, we're sending the book, *Indivisible*. This is our gift to you, the family of God and to this nation as a way out of the wilderness and back into the blessings of our Lord. Please read it, encourage others to get a copy. We want you to have it. We're sending it with thanks for your help to rescue life.

Thank all of you for being with us. God bless you! Tell your friends about "Wednesdays with Beth" and encourage them to watch *LIFE Today* every day.

Announcer: Tomorrow on *LIFE Today*, best-selling author, Andy Andrews and successful business executive, Buddy Pilgrim reveal the missing link to prosperity.