

Week 14

3/28/12

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. This is a very special day of the week with Beth Moore. Thank you for being with us.

James: Well, we want you to know that we are grateful for the way *Indivisible* is literally going all over the nation. I believe it is a roadway out of the wilderness of defeat and despair. I believe everything that has blocked the manifold blessings of God being poured out upon us is being exposed even in the pages of this book. We're seeing people come together in a way that is very gratifying. So if you haven't gotten a copy, get a copy. Encourage everyone you know to read it and to pray because if you want to know how to focus your prayers on specific areas of legitimate concern, you're going to find those focal points in the book and we're going to hear an answer to prayer.

Beth Moore is continuing her series that will be a blessing. She is talking, Betty, about family calamity and restoration. I'm just looking down here at the title and I'm thinking about how many people have a crisis in their life and in their family in some way and they don't really understand what it means to be restored.

Let's join Beth on that journey. Here's Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: Number five is this -- remember we talked about that it really can find repair but say, what if it doesn't? That's where point number five comes in and that's where you might really need to listen up. Five is this:

Say the relationship really is permanently broken; you do not have to stay permanently broken. I need somebody eye -- I need to know somebody is getting this today because in some ways, especially if we think it was some of our own consequences or somehow we caused the break to begin with, we will punish ourselves for the rest of our lives thinking, I can never be whole. I can never seek healing because if I've done that, I don't deserve to ever be healed. You know, we didn't deserve it to start with.

Grace is unmerited favor. The grace of God comes to the undeserving. We've got this fear that somehow we'll betray someone that we lost by getting some kind of healing and

wholeness for ourselves. We could have lost a loved one to the grave, to death, and we'll feel like I can never be okay for the rest of my life because I betray that loss.

Listen, that's what Christ came to do! That's what Christ came to do! We've got to get over our phobia of healing, our heal-aphobia. Even if relationships don't heal, if that marriage was never to come back together, if that sibling never was to be restored to you, if that best friend of so many years, who you consider to be your soul mate never is restored back again, you get to be restored. You get to. Even if you tell me today, "Beth, I caused the whole thing." Even if you caused the whole thing, you really do get to come in repentance and authentic faith and confession before God and seek your healing even if relationships don't heal -- what's the rest of it?

Audience: You can heal.

Beth: I want you to say it again.

Audience: You can heal.

Beth: Now I want you to look at one another and say it right in their eyes, "You can heal. You can heal. You can heal." Do you believe that? When somebody says that over you are you still thinking, I'm nodding my head, I'm doing all the religious thing right here. I'm just going fine thank you! Fine thank you! But are you really hearing it?

You really can heal! You really are the one that can heal. In fact, what a tragedy it is going to be when we spend the rest of our lives in this brokenness and in all of this regret when he said, "You know what? I could have healed you!" No wonder he said to the man with the infirmity that had had it for so many years, "Do you want to be whole?" Because a whole lot of people are getting a whole lot of mileage off of their brokenness. They get to continue to use it as an excuse for the bondage that they're in.

And he's going, "Do you want to be whole? Because if you want to be healed, I can heal you! I can heal you! And even if that relationship never heals, I can heal you! I can heal you!"

Here recently I was at a conference and I got to have a time of ministry at the altar there and a woman was absolutely sobbing. When I went over to pray over her and ask her how I could intercede she said, I'm going through a divorce that I do not want -- I do not want this divorce. I want us to be okay! I got her by the shoulders and I looked her right in the eye and said, "You know what? I pray that you will be. And I'm going to pray that

over you right now. I pray that God has got a miracle in mind for you and that whatever you've gone through, God can restore you. That I know! That I know!"

But I said, "It takes two parties being willing to let him do the work. But this I do know, whether or not the two of you are okay, you can be okay! You can be okay!" You may be the biggest obstacle to your healing. You yourself will not receive it because he can heal anybody. He can put anybody back together again. He just wants us to get out of the fake and bring him our authentic confession and our need to cry out to him.

"I cried out to God in my anguish and he answered by setting me free," the Psalmist said. By setting me free; I've got to cry out. It says, whether I've been the victim in it or whether I've been the reason for it, whatever side I may be on, I can know healing.

I want you to go with me to Psalm 147, verse three. [Pages turning.] Psalm 147 verse three says this: I may have to back up to two because I want you to see a word.

2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. **3** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

"The exiles of Israel." When it is talking about the exiles, it is talking about people who went into captivity over their own idolatry and unfaithfulness to God. So it is very important that you hear that verse first because the next verse is going to come right on top of it and it is in reference to those who went into their own exile.

We've done it! How many of us have lived in exile because of what -- ordinarily, if we can boil it down to such, was an idolatry of our heart, some other God but God himself, something that became a savior to us, something that we looked at to be Christ for us, and here we find ourselves in the rubble that it invariably causes. And it has giving us a distance from the things that we know are our wholeness to us, and holy to us and it says:

"He heals the brokenhearted and he binds up their wounds." He doesn't say that the brokenhearted always have to be a victim of their broken heartedness. In other words, that something happened to them. Even if you caused it, even if you were the reason why you ended up with such a broken heart, whatever side you happen to be on, he has come to heal your heart and to bind up your wounds.

Have you noticed, did you see that it is a plural wounds? Because I find in my situations, it never does end with one. Never! It starts with one but then there is the next phase of it and then the next phase of it and then my own sin enters into it even if I was a victim to begin with.

I've shared with you many, many times on Wednesdays that I come from a background of sexual abuse. But the thing of it is, I didn't just stay a victim. Then I became tremendously dysfunctional myself and went into destruction and bondage of my own because that's how it happens when we don't let God heal us, what began as a victimization then turns into our own bondage to sin. Does that make sense to anybody?

And at that point, I can't put that off on my perpetrator. I've got to deal with that myself. My perpetrator has got his sins but I've got my own that instead of looking for the healing and I wouldn't have even known to. God has mercy on that. I was a child at the time but there comes a time when we no longer think like a child, act like a child, and talk like a child and God said, "I have healing for you!" And if you don't get it, you will be the only obstacle to your wholeness. It will be you and nobody else and I want it! I want it!

I love how it talks of tenderness and tending because it says that he binds up our wounds. What I see in that picture, that word picture draws the image of us being tended to over a course of time. Can you just see it? When he binds up our wounds, we have to sit still for a little while. I don't know if you've ever tried to put a Band-Aid on a child that was running from you --

[Laughter]

But when you bandage somebody up you need them to sit still for a little while.

When I broke my toe I had it bandaged up to the toe next to it. It needed a buddy so it would straighten out. Sometimes we could also use a buddy to help us straighten out. Anybody? Binding up, letting him tend to us, healing our broken hearts, binding up our wounds.

I've got to show you something. I want you to turn -- you're right here in the Psalms. Turn with me over to Psalm 8. I want to show you something. I'm going to ask God through the power of his Holy Spirit to please overtake my mouth right now. I want somebody listening very, very carefully to what we're about to talk about because I feel like that in the subject matter of family calamity that one of the biggest things in the fallout that we have to deal with and what so often doesn't ever get dealt with is the shame that comes as a result of it. And shame can come in all sorts of ways. It may have come in the form of sexual misconduct in David's family but shame can come in all sorts of ways. It can come from someone being jailed for a DWI. It can come from a prison term. It can come from all sorts of financial disaster and extortion, a job loss, a bankruptcy. There are all sorts of ways that we can feel like shame has come upon the family.

But I can tell you this, if we don't let God deal with it and if Christ came to do anything at all he came to deliver us from our shame. And when we stay in under that thing and it is as old as the garden, any time you want to see the enemy's been there and done that, look for shame because it is always a clear case sign in the garden, the very first reaction they had after they had fallen for his devices was that they were ashamed and they tried to cover themselves, and we see that characteristically in our own lives; we do it all the time.

So we become fakers and posers because we're trying to cover what really has happened and that is that we feel shamed by whatever it is. We can feel shamed by ridiculous things. We can feel shamed by 15 extra pounds. We can feel shamed by an old broken down car and where we live. We can just feel ashamed, and we've got to get through it and let God deal with what we feel like for whatever reason is a loss of dignity -- a loss of dignity. I want to read these words to you out of Psalm eight. This is one fabulous Psalm and I'm going to have to back up to verse one. I'm going to get you to verse five. It says:

1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.**2** From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. **3** When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, **4** what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

It is so wonderful because those two references to LORD that look the same in many of our English translations are not the same word. If you have a translation that makes the distinction between the two you'll see the first one in all caps, that is Yahweh, the Tetragrammaton. Oh, LORD, that is going to be the covenant name of God, our LORD, that next word is for master, Adonai.

This is our verse that gives us the proof that the only thing that makes the devil shut his mouth is praise of God. If he is just tormenting you and tormenting you, you want to silence the avenger, you just give way to praise. You turn that thing up! And you sing with all of your heart and with every bit of the capacity of your lungs and you will silence the foe and the avenger.

It says this, this is the key part to our present series:

5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Stop right there. You crowned him with glory and honor. If you mark in your Bibles, I want you to circle that word "honor." Because when we were created in the image of God, he gave us by virtue of our creation, as his prized creatures, he gave us honor. We have honor because we are the created ones of God himself. That is the same word that is used in Proverbs 31, verse 25; that same exact Hebrew word there is translated dignity -- dignity.

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

It is a word, that word honor and dignity. When shame comes, when brokenness, or devastation or calamity comes to the family, very often it will result in this feeling of a loss of dignity.

I want you to know God is who can give that back to you. God is the one that gives us back our honor. God is the one that gives us back our dignity. And he has it; you never lost it, it is still in his hands; it still is his possession and his right to give.

I want to say this to you and I want somebody to hear this all the way to the depths of their heart, whether it is to you or about someone that has been in your life but listen carefully, the loss of honor as a life sentence is too much to bear -- it is too much to bear to have a life sentence of a loss of honor. I watched this happen -- I want you to stay with this story real quickly. I wish I could just flat tell it all to you but I still have loved ones that don't necessarily feel called to speak on television. I know you understand that.

But I really saw this illustrated a year or so ago when a father over a household passed away and I watched some -- I knew the family story and I watched a lot of the dynamics with great interest because the father had sinned decades before against the family -- and I do want to say sinned grievously. If I told you what those things were that had been entrusted to me, you would say, "Oh, yeah. Like he earned it! He earned it! Oh, yes he did. He earned it." But what happened was that there had been such a loss of honor in the family that because it is too much to bear in a lifelong sentence, he went and found it elsewhere.

I could not believe the people that were gathered there. The man had repented; he said he had repented. And from the fruit of his actions on the outside there was no reason to disbelieve that except that his family members had been hurt badly enough to just continue to crown him with shame and a loss of dignity. Does this make sense to

anybody? Because we think you know what? That deserved a life sentence. Well, it is too much to bear -- it is too much to bear.

I realize over the course of this life his dignity had been restored even though his family had never seen it. He had gotten his honor back but his family had missed the whole thing. And there was testimony after testimony of the good things that he had done, people that loved him and wept over him while his family did not weep. Why? -- Because they never ever gave him his dignity back. It is too much to bear.

Now there are people who are not sorry. There are people that sin grievously against others; there's devastation of victimization. This was a man who swore he had repented and from his actions and from observers there was no reason to believe that he had not. But he had to find his dignity again, even if it meant to forfeit those that he wished would forgive him. It was the oddest phenomenon.

Eugene Peterson, the one who translated *The Message* said of David's sin toward Absalom, when David would not bring his son home even after all the family had been through, that he would not restore his son to his heart, he says (and I'm quoting Eugene Peterson now,) "This is sin that requires long-term commitment." Bitterness requires long term commitment and it is a sin. Unforgiveness: These are things that we recommit ourselves to every day. I'm going to hate again today. I'm going to be bitter again today. I'm going to once again choose that mindset and I'm in a long term commitment to my bitterness.

Anybody but me? Anybody but me? Where does it break? Where does it break? Because even if that family never heals, you can! You can! You've got to be the one to start something new! Start something new!

End of clip

James: Wow! You talk about getting stuck, you talk about being held captive in bondage and a prison, the root of bitterness, many are defiled.

Betty, if a root of bitterness springs up and it begins to really put out its poisonous sprouts, it is worse than a cancer of your spirit and your life and everything that is precious. But you can even if others around you refuse to escape the grip, you can.

Father, I pray that everyone listening today heard you speaking through Beth and that they'll find the freedom and restoration that you freely offer in Christ. In Jesus' name we pray.

If you need someone to pray with you, do you see the phone number there? It is always there as a prayer line for you to call someone, in many instances, who have experienced exactly what you may be going through, and they're ready to join hands and hearts in prayer with you. Don't hesitate to call.

Right now we are joining our hearts and hands with people all over the world to rescue precious children and women from the sex trafficking. You're going to see some of the most beautiful children, many of whom that they are not -- if they don't find safe haven and love, they're going to be taken into the sex trade. They're going to be sex slaves.

We're going to provide a *LIFE* Center. We're going to provide a way of escape and we're going to get people with your help out of this situation.

You should listen to one of our missionary partners and I want you to look with your eyes, sense with your heart but I want you to help with your hands because you can make a difference in this situation. Watch it closely.

On the mission field

>> So you know, the nation of India is loaded with streets like these and neighborhoods like this and they've become a hot bed, a breeding ground for traffickers. They prey on children in these neighborhoods. They prey down lanes like this. Moms are afraid for their children to go outside at dark because so many children go missing... mostly young girls.

>> So this little girl was just sharing with me right now that she knows of a story of a two and a half year old boy that was kidnapped and has disappeared.

But she also shared when the little girls sometimes play in the evenings, right at the back out there, they were playing, and she said that the girls just disappeared. So there have been about five or six girls, they were playing in a bunch and men just came and kidnap them and take them.

She says, "Yeah, I'm afraid but I don't venture out too much. I try to stay as much as I can at home. So I don't go out by myself." But it is definitely a fear for her.

It's children like this and it is girls like this that our hearts go out for. We need to reach out to communities just like this and rescue these little girls and protect them from those horrors and give them a hope.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I'm asking you to put arms of love around those children. When we tell you there are literally hundreds of children that are vulnerable to the predators, we're not exaggerating. And when we tell you that their parents, who know those children are vulnerable, who are really asking us to take their children, take care of them because they know they're going to be captured, they want them to have -- some of them make the mistake of letting their children go with the wrong kind of people because they're telling them they're going to help the child or even give the child a job.

Now we've got several fronts we're asking you to join us on. We want to rescue as many as we can. The average cost, this is what the missionaries have literally worked out to make it very clear, it's \$128 average to rescue one of these children or one of the women from the sex trade and we're actually getting the women into a trade. They're making these beautiful beads, and doing other things to learn how to make a living. We're actually sending these as a thank you gift to send a set of beads to say thank you if you'll help us rescue one of these girls or one of the children.

And we're also asking you to help us build the *LIFE* Center in Nepal, which the children there in poverty are so vulnerable to be taken captive and taken into India and into the sex trade.

And the beautiful thing is, Betty, right now we've got some very special concern coming from some of our supporters who said they will match the gift. They believe this is so serious that whatever gift to build the center, we're asking for gifts of \$1,000 or more to help build the *LIFE* Center in Nepal, and we really need that. And it will be doubled. I pray some of you would give several thousand and know it will be doubled.

But we also need many who will give \$128 and that will be doubled. Or, Betty, if they give \$64, that will be doubled and we've got enough to rescue another child.

Betty: James, I know here in the states when we hear on the news about a child missing, a child being taken, and we begin to be concerned, we even pray for them, God, please bring that child back safely. What you're seeing here is many children and women being taken; not by choice. I mean they were taken into captivity and they're put into a lifestyle that they never would have chosen for themselves or for anyone in their family.

Please help us so we can have a safe place for these children, and these women to come, a place for them to work, and James, for them to make a living for themselves and to have the opportunity to live and laugh and play like children should be able to.

James: I'm really confident that you are going to help. Would you dial the telephone number there? It's always there if your heart's broken or you need prayer, someone really to help you. Well, we're asking you to reach out and be an answer to someone's prayer, someone's heart cry, someone's need.

Take your bankcard and use it like a check; that's how you should always use it. But make the largest gift you can today. If there is any way you can help with a special gift to help us build that center of \$1,000 or more, please do it. And if you could make the \$128 gift, it will immediately be doubled.

Don't ever think, "My gift isn't important." Whatever you do, it's going to be matched and it's going to have a powerful effect. We have special gifts to send you.

We are sending the book, *Indivisible*. I feel like if you really want to know how to pray and how to focus your attention properly on the issues of our day and see God heal our land, this is wisdom, this is direction. We will send it to you to say thank you for any gift.

And remember, the beads that these precious women are making to say thank you. Help us rescue someone. "The Lion and The Lamb" bronze for those of you who will help us build that *LIFE* Center in Nepal.

If you want to go online, *LifeToday.org*, make the gift God put on your heart. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*, call us, please? Tell us what you're putting in the mail. Thank you for making that gift.

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 really do want to encourage you, if you possibly can make a gift of \$1,000 or more to help us build that *LIFE* Center -- now remember if you do, it will be matched, it will be doubled. Somebody that's impressed to give a \$5,000 gift, it immediately becomes \$10,000.

We really need your help to build the *LIFE* Center. We're going to send "The Lion and The Lamb" bronze to say thank you. It's a beautiful collectible, a beautiful art piece.

We're sending the jewelry, the beads to say thank you if you'll make a gift to help rescue one, a \$128 gift -- but remember it's going to be doubled.

Then the book, *Indivisible*, I'm telling you it is a roadway back into the land of blessing and promise, back into the shadow and the shelter of the Almighty.

Thank you so much for watching. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today* and tell them about Wednesdays with Beth. Thank you for this opportunity to be with you.

Announcer: Tomorrow, Lisa Osteen Comes, the sister of Pastor Joel Osteen, shares the story of surviving a mail bomb explosion.