

Week 20

5/9/12

James: Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity of sharing "Wednesdays with Beth." Beth Moore will be sharing and teaching in a moment.

I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have this opportunity. I want to mention something that we'll be talking about during the course of the week. *The Gift of Life*, Governor Huckabee narrates a documentary on the importance and preciousness of life -- *The Gift of Life*.

I really believe that we're facing a critical problem in our nation and we have been for some time and I think we're reaping the consequences of it and that is a disregard of the importance and preciousness of human life. The right to life which is the first of all rights from which all other rights come. We have really, I believe, turned in the wrong direction now for several decades and I think it is costing us.

I think personally, Betty, that a lot of economic challenges that we face, a lot of pressures that people have and even how they relate to life itself has been negatively impacted because we don't value life properly. So I'm asking you, this year is a very important year, pray about the leaders who will lead us and represent you. How do they stand regarding life? Very, very important!

Beth is teaching on the law of kindness. I think kindness would start with the unborn. Let's let Beth talk about the law of kindness. You're going to be blessed.

Beth: Now because some people are just now catching up with us in this series on the law of kindness, what was number one?

Audience: Kindness is not weakness.

Beth: Kindness is not weakness. Kindness is a strength. In fact, we're going to see it as a supernatural strength.

Number two is this: kindness gets worn down when we are. I want you to be thinking... when we're talking about living and being in the world, and we're talking about that if

we're not going to get a hard heart it will be because we were purposeful about continuing to let God nurse in us through his spirit a graciousness and a tenderness to people and a heart that was still warm toward people and trade out that heart of stone.

But what we're going to find as we're trying to figure out where did I start getting mean? And I'm not saying this is everybody but I will tell you this, we all have a mean streak in us -- all of us do! I just cannot think of a single soul that doesn't.

I have one friend, my darling little friend, 16 year old Kendall with Down syndrome. I can honestly tell you, Kendall does not have a mean streak! But she is one of the only people I've met in my entire life that really does not seem to have one. The rest of us, something can just come out of nowhere and we can either just live out there in the meanness or it will just fly out of us every now and then. But you and I are trying to figure out where does it come from? Why did I say that? I didn't even mean that! Where did that action come from? Sometimes it's purely because we are worn down.

I want you to write down the address, Daniel 7:25. I'm not going to take the time to look it up with you but I am going to read it to you. Daniel 7:25 talks about the end of days when the enemy force, the force of the anti Christ will speak against the most high and oppress his saints.

That word "oppress" and it says it straight out in the N.A.S. it means to wear down the saints. That won't only be true of the way the enemy forces work in the end of days, it is true of every single era on the kingdom calendar. One of the things that the enemy tries to do with us is just flat out wear us down. Like now we're tired. We're just like tired! And we've been dealing with this mean situation for so long.

You may have someone in your life, maybe it is in your workplace, in your extended family that just is mean-spirited. And we come to a place where we think, you know what? I'm going to pay you back meanness for meanness.

I want you to know I come to this out of a personal testimony. The reason why I went to the scripture to study it is because I began to pray it over myself because by and large, just across the board, I tend to be a fairly happy person. I tend to be happier than a lot of people may want me to be. Do you understand what I'm saying to you?

I may even be annoying. Yes! Yes, it is annoying, Beth. I'm glad you realize that.

But I got in a situation -- and I don't want you to try to figure out who this is. I live in very close community with about 10 family members so it could be any one of those but

that wide range -- but in the daily where every week you're with them. I just have somebody in my life that tends to be unkind. I mean just like you hang in there and you hang in there and you hang in there. I just need to see somebody's hand if you're just stepping in this with me. I need to see this group over here -- anybody over there? Yeah! Yes! Okay, you just hang in there with it as long as you can and finally you just go, you know what? You're meaner than a snake and I'm going to be mean right back! There is just something about it, I'm going to give them -- I want them to know how this feels.

And so what happened to me was that I formed a bad habit. I just got to where well -- and you can imagine, it was a free for all because that person was mean and I was mean right back. And I got into this where I lost the filter on my tongue. And the thing about it, it wasn't with everybody in my life, it was with this person. But this person was important to me and it's someone I have to do a whole lot of life with and this is not the way I want to live -- it is not godly. I find myself every single morning confessing the same thing. And that's when you know, well, maybe the thing needs to change.

See, if I'm saying the same thing, "Forgive me for what I said." Every morning I'm saying, "Forgive me for what I said yesterday!" Or "Forgive me for what I said day before yesterday." Anybody else? I formed a bad habit of unkindness.

Now we can reason all day long that they deserved it, that's not what God's word says we're supposed to do. We're children of the most high God called to be kind to the ungrateful and even the wicked. We're to love and be merciful like our father in heaven has loved and been merciful, and so it was just flat wrong, there was no excuse for it. But I was in a habit and I would decide that morning that I wasn't going to do it and then I'd get to about one or two in the afternoon and boom! There it would come and then I never could just shut up with that one thing because see, I'd been storing it up. I would find myself thinking -- I would daydream of all the things I was going to say. Anybody else?

[Laughter]

Tell me, does anybody else have a fight with somebody in your imagination? And I mean it's the perfect -- and you say it with perfect timing, and look a certain way when you say it. I mean -- and you just turn and walk away. You leave them with it and it's just like the perfect fight. It's the perfect fight only I kept picturing that and I then I just acted on it because sooner or later the overflow of your heart is going to come out through your mouth and that's exactly what was happening.

Well, on my own, I couldn't quit doing it. And it had been about three months -- I'd just given way to it, whatever I thought, I just said. I could not stand myself. I didn't know

what to do. I kept confessing it to God. I kept asking for him to fill me with his spirit. And you know one of the things he directed me to do? I had to go confess it to some people. Here's what I did: I had five of my friends I called together and said, "I don't know what in the world is wrong with me but I have lapsed into unkindness. I don't know what has happened to my tongue. I want God to use my mouth and yet here's what I was doing with it." I said, "I need you guys to hold me accountable."

And what I had to do because this person is in and out of my normal everyday life and every week life, so what I told them to do, I said, "I have to report to you every morning in a group text" (I had all five of them on one text,) "I will report to you every single morning how I did the day before. And anything I say I have to tell you what I said."

They said, "Okay, we'll do it." And they said, "We'll pray you up." Because it is one thing to just confess but I needed the help of my sisters so they could see me through.

Well, I want to tell you because I knew I was going to have to report to them, you don't think that habit broke?

[Laughter]

And what God wanted me to do was just humble myself and go, "I'm really having a problem." They almost got tickled because they just -- it really is not like me to just go off on a tangent like that. And it has not been -- I've had so many strongholds but unkindness has really not been the big one on the list until just here recently. I just got worn down. You just like -- you get worn out after a while, and you no longer have that filter on your tongue. I'm just telling you, get you some support from some friends that will hold you accountable because that ain't no way to live!

And you know what? In some respects the person got nicer and in some respects not. But I feel a whole lot better -- a whole lot better because I want to live in the spirit.

I ask you today, are you just worn out? I was flipping through a magazine here recently while I was coming back on an airplane from an event and there was this wonderful cartoon of a man laying on a couch talking on his telephone. And there is a picture over the top of it that says, "One-downmanship." Not one-upmanship -- but "one-downmanship." And the caption says this, "You're depressed? My depression makes your depression look like euphoria!"

I thought, how many of us have somebody like that in our lives? When you try to say, "I'm really going through a hard time."

They go, "You think you're having a hard time?" For some of us there is someone in your life that just hogs up all the hard time!

[Laughter]

There is just so much space for hard time. They take all of it all of the time. They're a hard time hog! And you know what? By golly, I'm going to get to be depressed today!

[Laughter]

I demand the right, in this family, in this house, it is my turn to be depressed! Anybody know? We just get worn out.

I want you to see something else, we're not only worn out we're over burdened.

I've got to show y'all the coolest thing. This is the beauty -- I tell you every now and then -
- why is it we ever mention Greek or Hebrew words? Right here is the reason! I want to read you a wonderful verse that is familiar to many of you out of Matthew chapter 11. Listen to it. It says in 28-30.

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Okay, I've got to tell you something. I don't know why because you're going to ask me, "Why did the translators translate it that way?" And I'm not sure.

I went to my little Greek scholar, my youngest daughter has just really done the academic thing. And I went to her and I said, "I need you to look up this word and tell me why."

And she said, "Now mother, I can figure out why they did it but she said it's still really by and large a mystery."

That word right there for, "My yoke is easy," that is a word -- the lexical form of that word, *crestos*, that I told you about earlier, *crestos*, if we were going to look for a really tight rendering of that it would be, my yoke is kind -- my yoke is kind. Listen, when we get all yoked up to other people -- I'm not talking about marriage here, I'm just talking yokes, I'm talking about bondage -- when we're all yoked up to people, we get in all sorts

of unkind situations. But he says to me, let me tell you something, my yoke will always be kind -- always! I'll never be unkind to you.

And somebody is tuned in today just to hear that very word. God wants you to hear today, "I'll never be unkind to you." He is incapable of being unkind to you. His yoke -- even his yoke is kind.

We're living in so much stress and pressure that it is just crushing the life out of us. Something else, and I'm not going to read this one but I do want you to write it down. Second Timothy 2:24 talks about when we get into the trap -- I said I wasn't going to read it but of course, I am.

[Laughter]

Because sometimes I'm about to tell you what it says and I think, you know what? They would have been better off actually hearing the verse where it would have had the power. Second Timothy 2:24 says this: blank.

24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

Well, it occurred to me in that context that one of the things that make us unkind is resentment. One reason why we get in a trap where we just have lost the kindness on our tongue and we begin to hear ourselves say all sorts of mean things that we think at the end of the day, most of them we don't even mean, what's happened to us? Well, we feel resentment.

If you feel resentment towards somebody or something long enough you will lose your kindness. These are the things that just drain -- that wear out our kindness.

I want to show you one last one and I want you to turn with me on this one. Turn with me to Genesis 37, verse four.

I'm praying God is about to speak a word to somebody and set somebody free. This is a story about the son of Jacob that he was most partial to. There is nothing like partiality to get a kid in trouble with his siblings. So that is the case here. I wish we could tell the whole story but I want you to just lock in because we're talking about the law of what?

Audience: Kindness.

Beth: So something about this account or this verse is going to speak to our theme so listen up. Genesis 37:4.

4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

For some people that we find that we cannot be nice to somehow, it could be that we're jealous of them or it could be that we hate them.

I want to say something to you today, we don't talk enough about hate because we try to act like that's the thing that we really do not do. That would be the one thing like we sin in many ways as James says, we stumble in many ways but hate is too far and how often is it that we'll ever admit to having hated someone, but you know you have and I know I have.

There are times in our lives when we feel such strong feelings for someone that we literally, whether or not we treat them like a frenemy, whether or not we act nice to their face and ugly behind their back, the truth is we resent them, we may be jealous of them or we just may flat out hate them and it wears out our kindness. This just helps us to see when it is worn down, where is it going? What has happened to it? And it's not that we need our egos built back up, we need our spirits built back up by God and his word and his people. Get some accountability to get back in the habit of kindness. Unkindness becomes habitual. It just becomes a way of reacting over and over again until we become someone we don't even like.

Listen, you have to live in there with yourself. We don't want to be in this trap. Somebody tell me what number one was so our audience can catch up with us.

Audience: Kindness is not weakness.

Beth: Number two is what?

Audience: Kindness gets worn down when we are.

Beth: When we're worn down, kindness gets worn down with us. And number three is this: Kindness is willing to look in the face of the hurting.

Okay somebody say that back to me.

Audience: Kindness is willing to look in the face of the hurting.

Beth: Write down beside it, Job 6:28. This is when Job says, of course to the worst friends in all humanity, with friends like these who needs enemies? That's where that saying would have come from. Job 6:28, he said to his friends who are telling him all manner of thing that they do not know, speaking out of turn. And he says to them:

28 "But now be so kind as to look at me. Would I lie to your face?"

I told you in the beginning of this series that this topic reminds me more of James and Betty Robison than anything I think I've ever had the privilege to share on Wednesdays because they live by the law of kindness. They believe in doing the hard thing and as resistant as we are in soul to looking in the face of suffering, it is a must if we are going to resolve to respond to it. We've got to be a people that we're blessed of God, when we are kind to the needy, they live by this. This is their entire lives.

All of us have that tendency to want to turn that channel when it starts into that part and the faces of those who are suffering are shown to us, and on other programs as well that show suffering, our first tendency is to shut it off. But kindness looks right in the face of the homeless, of the hungry, of the needy.

Y'all, I recently became aware of a condition I had never heard of in my life. By its actual name it is prosopagnosia, but it means face blindness. Do you know that there are people on this planet, one of them if you ever want to do any research is the artist, a very well-known artist, well-known for his large faces that he paints on canvases, Chuck Close has this very malady. It is a condition where people cannot recognize other people's faces. They have to know someone extremely well, sometimes not even those.

For instance, one guy that was being interviewed said that he could have lunch with a co-worker and go out of the restaurant and wait for their car to be brought up by the valet, be standing right with them and say, "Hi there." And have no idea he'd just had lunch with them. Face blindness.

It is one reason why the artist, Chuck Close, he paints faces, is because the flatness of the image somehow helps him to get it in his mind. He says he paints people who are dear to him for that very purpose. Can you imagine?

Yet we are living in a culture of face blindness. We don't want to see it -- we don't want it staring in our face. It is so difficult for us and so heartbreaking to us that we just feel like we can't bear it. We need to be healed of our face blindness.

Listen, even social networking has figured out that you need a face on there. That hints Facebook, not just Book.

[Laughter]

I just got on today, I got on "book" and I wrote to everybody. No, part of what makes that work for you is because it's got their face with it.

Bloggers now have identities with their faces and pictures, if they want it. Why? Because it adds the personal aspect to it. It keeps us in this electronic relational life we're living in our culture; it keeps us from face blindness. Somebody is talking to us and they're hurting. Our first inclination is to look away.

No, look them dead in the eye. Lean over the table and go, "I hear what you're saying to me. I'm so, so sorry!" We've got to be cured of our face blindness.

James: Boy, I don't -- I don't want you to turn away. God doesn't want you to turn away from pain or heartache or suffering or challenges.

I thought Beth was really correct when she referenced the fact that even with our television program oftentimes after you've heard the teaching and we really know a lot of you just love to listen to Beth.

In case you don't know it, Beth is a mission outreach to the thirsty and the spiritually hungry. We believe she has a supernatural, a divine ability to communicate and to teach God's Word and she really connects and relates so effectively with women who are a tremendous part of our viewing audience and we love you and we want to bless you. But Beth knows what she is talking about when we sometimes, you know, will show you a need and sometimes it is painful to watch. You turn away. You wouldn't want God to turn away from you if you were in a desperate very difficult situation.

Now I promise you, what you're about to see could cause you to turn away, don't! Let kindness and love prevail and look the way God would look and then do what God would want you to do. Watch very closely.

On the mission field:

Clint: Normally, we have the kids in an orderly line and they stand patiently and wait for their meals. But these kids are just so desperate; they're so hungry that they just want food right now. They've gone days without food and they don't want to wait a minute longer.

[Child crying]

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You saw those children fighting for the food that they've stood in line to get. Did you know that right there where you were just watching, in Sudan, just recently, our mission team reported to us that of the children trying to get to the lines to get the food, two children were dying every day?

As you looked at that clip, you saw the three children there with the little beautiful orange bowls that you the viewers told us you wanted to give them, heat-resistant, and you saw those three children, Betty, that's one person, \$30 feeds those three. Then you saw the bowls disappear, that's what happens every six months in the cycle of feeding because we come to you, our viewers, every six months and we ask you to help us feed those children for the next months. And then Betty and I work continually at doing special outreaches to get enough money to feed between the feeding emphases.

Would you help us put food in those bowls? Would you assure the missionaries they're not going to run out, they're going to have the food? Would you dial the telephone number there on the screen?

If your heart was broken and you needed prayer, you call it any time, it's paid for by love. We'll pray for you, pray with you. We care about you. Right now that number is there as a lifeline. We're asking you to help us feed hundreds of thousands of children just like those who saw in Sudan, all over Africa and you see them three at a time, five at a time, ten at a time and here's the amazing thing, for \$30 we can feed three of those children for several months, for \$50, we can feed five, for \$100 we can feed ten, \$1,000, we can feed 100. It's not total life support. It is not everything children need but it stabilizes their diet, it gets them healthy, it gets them on their feet and then we teach them how to live, and ultimately how

to make a living -- and it's a miraculous transformation. It is where the compassion connection brings the necessary healing.

But without you, and the missionaries say you're the key, you're the greatest Christians. I always say the missionaries are. They say, "No, the people that enable us to do what we do are the greatest Christians."

Would you dial the number and take your bankcard and use it like a check please? If you could give \$100, please do so. Help us feed ten of those children. If you can give \$1,000, do it. \$50 will feed five. \$30 will feed three.

We're sending to those of you who would like to have it, the Jesus Storybook for children, children's Bible -- it is fabulous. For your children or grandchildren, the side-by-side parallel Bible with the New International Version, the New King James version -- beautiful study Bible -- to say thank you for helping us feed ten children.

If you'd like to have the DVD, *The Gift of Life*, talking about the importance and value of life, request it. We'll be happy to send it to you. Please help us care for as many children as you possibly can.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment, a child is drawing his last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help many like him face death as well.

Today you can make a difference -- you can help save a life. Life's mission feeding teams are in place right now, ready to answer the hunger cries of 400,000 suffering children in remote areas of Africa.

With previous food reserves gone and parts of Africa facing its worst famine and food shortage in more than two decades, we desperately need to replenish our supplies immediately! Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift, we'll send you the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. This beautifully illustrated book will help your children discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation, and at the center of their lives too!

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, you may request our New International Version and New King James side-by-side Bible with a two-column format for easy comparison.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children, and you may also request The Lion and The Lamb bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I really do hope you will make a large gift and help us care for 100 of those precious children. And ask for "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze; it is an absolutely beautiful art piece and a collectible.

The *Jesus Storybook Bible*, fabulous. We are sending the side-by-side Bible, the New International Version, which is what Beth uses and the New King James, our Pastor Robert Morris uses.

I also want to mention if you've not gotten *Indivisible*, it's in the bookstores or you can go online but if you would say, "James, we haven't gotten it, would like to have it." If you help us and you make a gift to help us feed those children, the gift God puts on your heart, and say, "I'd like to have the book, *Indivisible*," we'll be happy to send it to you. We just want you to help us help others. And then the message here will help you see faith, family, and freedom restored in your day in your country for the glory of God. Thank you so much for watching.

Announcer: Tomorrow, a man born with no arms and shortened legs overcomes the challenges to live a positive life.

>> Life is from God.