

Week 25

6/13/12

James: Thank all of you! Hey, I appreciate it. It's a joy to come into your home. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you not only to *LIFE Today* but *Wednesdays with Beth*.

Before we listen to this gifted teacher can I just emphasize something that I think is really important because I love you and I care about you, and I love and care about all the people you love and care about, and God loves and cares about all of you. Well, I think that God made it very clear that we often are destroyed or perish for lack of knowledge. That would be knowledge of the truth, not only Jesus, the truth, but just knowledge concerning truth and how it's applied in everyday life, and how deception can destroy life, the preciousness of it, the meaning and effectiveness of it and the principles upon which we build our lives on that solid rock. Not just hearing about truth but living according to it.

Well, I think we're being misdirected by deception in so many areas of American life. I spend a tremendous amount of time in prayer, 50 years of ministry observation, study analysis of the truth, asked someone to join with me to help write the book, *Indivisible: Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom* before it's too late. Please read prayerfully *Indivisible*. It could change the course of our nation, the very thing you've been praying for.

Well, let's listen to Beth Moore. Would you welcome Beth? Here she is.

Begin video clip:

Beth: So number one was what? Somebody may be joining us just in the last minute or two and they need to know what point one, what was it?

Audience: A net is something you don't see coming.

Beth: A net is something you don't see coming. We're studying nets together in the word of God and our theme verse is, "My eyes are ever toward the Lord..."

That's number one. As we work toward number two I want you to go somewhere with me. Go with me, if I can find it, I've got a new Bible so I'll be there in a month but the rest of you, please turn to Ecclesiastes. Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes. Leave something in Psalm 25 because we're coming back. I'm going to show you guys something so fascinating.

It's Ecclesiastes 7:26. I love it in the ESV, I want you to hear the wording here. I mean this is strong.

I want you to write down number two and we're about to talk about it.

A heart can twist into a net.

Now let that just sink in a moment. We're going to talk about it for a few minutes so let's explore it. But I want you to think this through. I want you to hear it in the Holman Christian Standard because it says it with less words and you'll still hear the word, *net*.

And I find more bitter than death... trap.

Everybody say, "The woman who is a trap." Everybody say the words.

Audience: The woman who is a trap.

Beth: And then it says:

Her heart, a net, and her hands... her heart is a net.

Beth: Wow! Wow! One of my commentators pointed out that it's really not talking about a prostitute. It certainly goes there with his warnings toward his son but it's not talking in this context here. It's not talking necessarily about woman folly. One of the things that the commentator pointed out was that anyone can have a heart that is turned into a net. I mean, it just liked troubled me. And it seems reasonable to me because I thought how in the world does a heart turn into a net? I thought to myself, it seems reasonable to me that if your feet have been in a net long enough, if your feet have made their home in a net... In other words we don't escape it. Maybe we don't know how to get out it. Maybe we don't want out of it. We're just standing with our feet in a net.

If our feet become at home in a net a net can become at home in our hearts. Anybody get that with me? Once our feet get like, "We're home here! This is how my feet usually feel, really comfortable in this net." You stay there long enough and that net will find its home in your heart and that is a dangerous, dangerous thing. Picture it with me because I'm a visual learner. Are many of you? I love images in my head and I just saw it. You know, once you stand here long enough it's like that net just like crawls up your leg like poison ivy, until it just grows around and overtakes the heart and that net that has been under our feet just begins to overtake the heart.

Now let's talk about what she would like. I'm going to say to the gentlemen too, "Is this you? Is this you?" So let's have both genders here because anybody's heart can turn into a net and we need to be aware of it. We want to be aware of it in our relationships and we want to be aware of it most when we look into the mirror and when we look into our own lives and the way we do our relationships.

Have you ever known a woman that you cannot just be friends with? Anybody know what I'm talking about? You have to get all tangled up with them. You know, just here recently I've had to put a little distance between myself and someone I really love. Because I didn't realize until I read the verse...

Now, I'm going to tell you something up front and I want you to stay there because we're going to talk this thing through together. I'm in net recovery.

[Laughter]

Truly! I've had a netty heart my own self. Anybody? Have you heard of a neti pot? We're talking netty heart here and it's not any prettier than a neti pot. Don't even think about it.

[Laughter]

So, listen, I'm recovering so I get that but I was just thinking to myself after I saw the verse. It's kind of what I'm trying to get a breather from. You know, it's just like whoa, whoa! Where there is so much drama that you just can't breathe. And I think if we're trying to picture what it looks like I think that with a woman who has a heart that has turned into a net befriending turns into belonging. Is anybody stepping in that with me?

Where you can't just like --- Why can't we just like be friends? Do you ever get the feeling like, suddenly I don't know I suddenly belong to her? How did that happen? Really, really possessive. If it's been a long time since you've been anywhere without your friend she's probably a tad netty. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Like, if you no longer know what it's like to be alone. Can we just be so brave as to say if that's us? If we have a friend that we're scared to death that if we leave them alone for a 24 hour period of time they're going to get a new best friend. And so it may be us and we're in net recovery in this series. Because that's the kind of like sticky, just sticky! A woman who's heart is net can be a woman that won't let go, just won't let go! And this can be true in a friendship or a romantic context.

I thought it was interesting, I was thinking today that we have a name for it, strangely. We have a name for it when it's men. We just don't call it the same thing when it's women. You know what we call them? Stalkers. Do you want to hear something interesting? My ministry would be able to affirm what I'm about to tell you. I've had about four what I would call finally, ultimately qualified as stalkers and I want you to understand something, only one of them was a man. *One* was a man and he was not the big dangerous one. Women can be netty. Women can refuse to let go. Women can decide that they own you.

And it's really interesting how we do, because once we've realized we're kind of caught, then we want out. It's just nature, it's just nature because the relationships you and I enjoy the most are the ones we know we could step back from if we needed to. But the more caught I feel the more I want to run. Is it just me?

A woman with a netty heart really wants to be loved but if love wears out she will settle for obligation. A woman with a netty heart can be --- This is a word I felt God gave me and then he confirmed it in his word, ingratiating. Anybody know what I mean? By that I looked it up in the dictionary to be sure that I had the right concept in my mind when somebody ingratiates them self into your life. I found this definition in a dictionary. It says this: to ingratiate means to bring oneself into favor with someone by flattery or trying to please them.

You're in Ecclesiastes, I'm wondering if I want to let you let it go yet. Go with me to Proverbs 29:5. I want to show you something.

Now, *neighbor* just is friend. Very often it's the same word that is in Hebrew 4, friend. I don't know if it's there or not but for them there, only their neighbors were their friends. Do you get that with me? I mean, you know what? They had no way to travel

like we do all over the place. They didn't have email. Their best friends were their neighbors. So let's give it a nice broad range.

But it says that flattery gets peoples' feet caught in a net. How would that be true? Let me tell you. This is part of what ingratiating does. Have you ever had come into your life that just cannot say enough good about you. Well, they like your hair. And like how do you do your eyeliner and like, gentlemen, I'm sorry, okay, what can I say about you? They like your team. They like ... uh huh, you look like you're really, really working out. You're good at what you do. I mean it's a lot of building up. A lot of building up.

Let me assure you that I'm not talking about encouragement. The word of God calls us to encourage people, to affirm people in their faith. It even tells us to honor our leaders. We're told to honor one another. But that's different than flattery. Flattery has an element of deceit to it. Flattery is a compliment wearing a cloak.

And you know what it's like because someone will come in and I mean just be all like that and they'll – and boy, you want that because it's addictive. I mean, it's addictive. Flattery is very addictive. Affirmation can be addictive. So here's what happens, if they're really good at it, if they've really been in a net long enough where their heart has been overtaken by a net, they're really, really netty of heart, what's going to happen is when the time is right, I'm not saying it's this conscious but I mean it happens like clockwork. Then they begin to withhold it. Have you ever gotten into the car with somebody, you're used to them pumping you up all the time, and this time they don't say anything and you knew you looked cute when you got in!

[Laughter]

So, you don't know what went wrong here. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Maybe you're a singer. You know what I'm talking about! That you have that person that says, I mean they just tell you every time, "No one sings like you!" I mean, it's just like – but that time, right afterwards they don't say it. And when you miss it you know you're an addict. Flattery! It's a lot of ingratiating, going on with a woman who has a netty heart and notice that you say, "What's wrong?"

And they always go, "Nothing! Nothing!"

And you're wound in, because now you're netty with them.

[Laughter]

I wrote this down too. We're about to get out of our misery in just a minute. Are y'all still hanging in there? Are you still out there? I need to know if you're still watching. You may have turned it off and you're trying to like untangle yourself and go to work but stay in there for just a moment.

Something else that dawned on me that I wrote down in my notes is that sometimes people get you in a net by getting you tell them things that are so private that later you won't let go of them because they too much. Who is it that you really is extremely unhealthy for you but the truth of it is they know too much. That's netty! That's netty! If you can't trust them outside your intimate boundaries, you're in a net. And we've got the God who is going to pull our feet out of a net.

For some people, we've got to have a little mercy on them because it's the only way they think they can stay in a relationship, is that they just have to belong, you have to belong to them and they have to belong to you. I thought to myself, you know, one way we know we've been in a net if long after that relationship has soured we still have all manner of debris in our heart. I wonder who I'm serving today that has a heart just like full of debris.

I've started picturing an old screen door. Can you picture it with me? Kind of torn up on the edges, insects in it, dust in it, leaves stuck in it. Have you ever felt like long after a relationship was over you still got all this debris in your heart because somehow that net just was infectious? Crawled right down that person's leg and right up yours and into your heart. I thought, it takes a brave heart to admit it's a net heart. And I love 1 Peter 1:22. It's one of my memory verses. From here, recently it says:

Love one.... Heart.

We were meant to love one another deeply but not with a netty heart. You'll get to where now, since you've heard the verse, it will start being so obvious to you.

Lord, we want to see it in our own hearts.

End of clip

James: Boy, I tell you what. I know every time Beth shares...

By the way, Betty and I travel. We actually traveled quite a bit with the book, *Indivisible* and meeting people around the country and they said, "Thank you not only for *LIFE Today* every day and all the mission outreaches, but thank you for Beth Moore."

We say, "Well, Beth is a mission outreach; she's fresh water, she's bread, she's life-giving, she's a mission project to you because we love you."

What we're trying to do, Betty, is to express love out of a pure heart like Beth talks about for you and encourage you to care for others, and yes, to care for our nation. Let's pray for an awakening.

I want to show you one of the most touching, as a matter of fact I don't think I've ever seen anything that moved me any more than this and I've been all over the world. You're going to hear, I think, the heart cry of God in behalf of the suffering, the same way God would care about you and your need and he does care about you. Here we've got a situation, we've got a need, we've got a problem that we can correct. You can be a part of the correction today immediately, and you're going to want to be. Watch!

On the mission field:

Janice: My name is Janice. I've been a photographer with the *LIFE Outreach* mission team for over 20 years. I've traveled all over the world trying to help children in need.

Even though my heart is broken each trip by the amount of pain and suffering I've witnessed, I wasn't prepared for what I saw on our latest trip to south Sudan. This boy's name is Lazarus. His Christian mother gave him this name and it is very fitting because Lazarus needs a miracle. He wanted to see his picture a minute ago. I was scared to even show it to him because I don't know if he understands what he looks like. And I showed him and the man said he is saying, "Who is that? Who is that?" He can't even recognize himself.

[Weeping]

Janice: There is thousands like this all over Sudan. We need to help them get a brand-new start. We need to help them grow and be children and have fun. All it takes is food... food! It's so simple.

Jesus, give him a miracle.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I was thinking tears last for a day but joy comes in the morning. I thought I want joy to come to the mother and to Lazarus. I want a modern day resurrection. Of Lazarus, I want to see him raised up by love. It is always love... love lifted me, that's the only thing that can lift him. You saw the love of God in Janice. Janice has been with us since she was a teenager. We love her because the love of God is in her. She's a witness everywhere she goes, everywhere she moves.

Betty: James, I think we should be weeping in our hearts when we see scenes like that. Our compassion... we should be compelled to want to reach out and help these precious children that don't understand what's happening to them. They don't understand why they don't feel good. They don't understand why they can't have something to eat. It's because it's not there unless we give it. I hope your heart has been touched just as Janice's heart has been touched, and our hearts, to want to reach out and to help these children.

James: This is our last week of the Spring Mission Feeding in the mission feeding emphasis that we have twice a year. This is our last week and we've got hundreds of thousands of children that are desperate. We've got them in feeding centers and we've assured them we'll be feeding them for the next six months there and it takes months to turn it around, get them stabilized. And we found 20,000 more in Sudan, and most of them are suffering because their families are Christians.

In South Sudan they've been pushed out. They have now become a country terribly persecuted and abused and plundered by ruthless corporations and they can be ruthless – not from America, thank God! Other countries and have pushed them out of their villages. And they've been maimed and attacked and had body parts cut off by cruel religious zealots in the northern part of Sudan. And so they suffer. And they pray. That's why they have Bible names.

Would you in this last week, would you make the most special gift you can? \$100 will enable us to feed ten children for the next several months. \$50 will feed five. \$30 will feed three. So I don't need anyone to sit here and say, "Well, I don't have very much." Well, it's huge that \$30 to three like Lazarus perhaps. Maybe you could help somebody like him. Could you help ten like him? Could you give \$1,000 and help 100?

Betty and I find our hearts leap at the thought that we can feed those children and stabilize them. And they're so grateful; they don't feel like, well, you owe me. They don't resent people who have something. They say, "I'm glad you noticed!" How refreshing is that? I appreciate the fact that somebody made something, had something and gave it.

Would you please dial that number right now please? Be an answer to Janice's prayer, the mother's prayer, Lazarus' need and many others? Help as many as you can. Use your bankcard. Please do it. Do it now. Use your bankcard like a check. You write a check, make it to *LIFE* – that's what you're giving. Go online *LifeToday.org* and say, "Here's my gift today." That would be wonderful to have it right now. Tell the missionaries, "You can get those additional 20,000 where Lazarus is." Would you do it? Thank you for making that gift.

We have got some special gifts for you to help you grow and for the children you love in your family.

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 -- and help save a life.

In addition to the 400,000 children already in Life's mission feeding program our teams have found a region in South Sudan with another 20,000 children in need of immediate life-saving assistance. Our mission teams are in place but we desperately need your help to replenish critically needed food 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 rush 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 right now!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You're going to bless children with the *Jesus Storybook Bible* and the Side-by-Side Bible when you take the New International Version that Beth uses, the New King James Version our pastor, Robert Morris uses, and many do. You've got them side-by-side. Great study! We want to bless you.

Remember this, this is the last week for our mission feeding and we need a miracle response. We need to hear from every single one of you. Betty and I have given several gifts to mission feeding. Why? Because we have 20,000 additional children that are in desperate need in Sudan, with hundreds of thousands of others we've already found and begun them in feeding programs. We need to continue. Last week... we really need to hear from you if you can possibly make another gift. Thank you for doing it.

>> God began to undo my view of Him and bust it up.

Announcer: Tomorrow, Bible teacher, Jennie Allen.