

Week 29

7/11/12

James: It's always a privilege to be with you and to come visit with you wherever you happen to be watching. We want you to know how much it blesses Betty and me to know how you're blessed by Beth Moore and this is "Wednesdays with Beth."

I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to present to you week after week inspiration and then to see the inspiration that you make possible not only by your prayers and your support of *LIFE Today*, but all the outreaches of life around the world. Thank you so much.

Beth is talking about an aspect of the net because she has been talking about net. A lot of times people are trapped in the net but there's also a net that Christ casts that is a calling into his will and that's what Beth is going to talk about. Here is Beth Moore.

Beth: I want you to see with me, Luke 5. I'd like to read verses one through eleven with you.

Lord, let this word fall fresh on us. If all scripture is God-breathed and every breath of God is fresh then this can fall fresh upon us today.

"On one occasion while the crowd was pressing on him"

And that him is Jesus Christ.

"to hear the word of God.

What kind of man is it that can cause you to leave everything you have known and follow him? That is the call of someone, I pray, we're going to hear from this very day and this very series.

I saw a cartoon within just the last couple of days, a kind of a typical looking picture that you might have seen in Sunday School had you been raised in those little baby bear chairs where Jesus is talking to a more present looking, present clothed individual, Jesus being in his robes. And then the present day individual sitting there in what may have been a suit or in this case, it was just like a golf shirt and jeans.

So he's sitting beside this one on a bench and underneath it the caption says, "No, I'm not talking about twitter. I literally want you to follow me!"

[Laughter]

Because it's just like a whole new day.

I wonder what my grandmother would have thought if I'd have said that I'd been twitting all day. I have no idea that she might have taken me to the doctor after a day full of tweeting.

But it's a whole new day of what it means to follow someone. But Jesus really means, "Come alongside me and follow me."

We're going to make three points together in this present series as we look at this side of the canon on this concept we call the net. And the first one is this: number one, the gospel casts a new kind of net. The gospel casts a new kind of net.

All of the sudden a net is not something to be feared, it's a place to encounter the living Lord Jesus Christ.

I want you notice something. Go back into the scriptures with me where in Luke chapter 5, look at about verses three and four and I want you to notice something. Notice that it said that there was a great crowd pressing in. That's in verse one. He sees two boats by the lake. The fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land, and he sat down and he taught the people from the boats.

So we already know from verse one that it is a crowd of people. Such a crowd of people that they're pressing in. Then, by the time we get to verse three we find that he is now gotten in a boat, pulled out a little bit so that he can have that amplifying effect of speaking, letting the wind be in his favor and take the voice up through that crowd. It is also to step him back from them just a little way so that he can actually talk to them. So, we have this setup here but something wonderful happens between three and four. He's been talking to the people, we know they're a crowd, and suddenly, it says, "And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.'"

Suddenly we go from the crowd to one person and I am praying that for somebody here and somebody on the other side of that screen that that is exactly what is going to happen in this series. We can be surrounded by people when we hear a message, whether it's on Sunday mornings at our different churches, whether it's at a Bible conference, where ever it might be, we can be so surrounded by people that we can hear a word and wonder if it even applies to us.

You could even find yourself, if you're like me, especially if I'm just sort of out of sorts with my husband, I will apply an entire sermon to my husband. Anybody know what I'm talking about? And he won't even be there and I'll just be ticked that he's not there. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Or, I'll just wonder and kind of cut my eyes, if he's with me, I'll kind of cut my eyes to see if he's listening because he needs that! That word was for him!

We just get caught up in who's around us but if we would come before the word of God and just like let it be, just me and him. Let it be through this series. I wonder if you would let him confirm his call on your sweet life. That he wants to call your name, that this is about you and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let everything else go!

Listen, he knows our hearts toward our families. He knows our hearts toward our spouses, if we're married. He knows what we want for our children. For just a little while let's let every other request, just pause a moment, let that -- just push hold, just for a moment. He knows! He knows!

But how about we let him do something just in us alone. Me, with Jesus. You, with Jesus. Why don't we let the rest of the crowd go and let it just be us.

I've often asked, if I'm in an arena speaking, I love to ask the crowd, "Who came all by themselves?" And it will always be the wildest thing to me and it may be in the midst of hundreds of people that may be just three or four will hold up their hands somewhere out in the audience. And you know what? I always know they're going to get a word. I know every time they're going to. Because without any company whatsoever, just desperate for God to speak, they came by themselves and I always know. I'll see someone up in the rafters just praising God, hands straight in the air and I know! I know she's going to get a word. Because she's come, just like, "If I don't get a word, Lord, I'm not going to make it." Just with that kind of desperation that says, "I've come here and I'm not going home without it."

See, what you've got that we don't have right here in our room is that you are probably alone and so can it just be the two of you, the two of you. Just wrestle this

scene through as if it's just you and Jesus. The lens goes from the people to the person. That's how Jesus does things.

Now, mind you, I think it's important to know this is not the first time Peter has seen Christ do something miraculous. It's even right here in this same context. Look back just a little bit to verse 38 in the previous chapter, Luke 4:38. It's talking about Christ again. It says,

"And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house." That's our same Simon Peter. "Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. And he stood over her and rebuked the fever and it left her and immediately she rose and began to serve them."

After that it says, "... all sorts of people were brought to be healed of diseases."

But I want you to lock in on that for just a moment because he had come into their very house but I want to suggest to you it had not messed with him like this messed with him. It's hard to explain to somebody why it is that one particular encounter with Jesus changes everything. That after all the times he's pursued you, after all the times he's pursued me, that somehow something will happen and you will so know it is him that there is no way to deny that you are looking face-to-face at the living Lord Jesus Christ and he's all in your business and that's what happened here.

And when Jesus comes and he messes with Simon in his work place, everything changes. I want to say to you today, Jesus not only can come to your home, he can meet you at work. For some of us, we're glad about that, for others of us, we're not so glad about it.

And one of the things that is so interesting here is that Jesus can beat us at our own game. In other words he joins Peter and tells Peter what to do when it is what Peter is best at. There is nothing more annoying than someone telling you how to do something you are already good at! So, I want you to picture that he just goes and he just climbs in his boat and I mean they're cleaning everything up. He just gets in his boat and I mean, he has great respect for him. He has seen what he can do. He saw him heal all of these diseases earlier in the scene in the chapter before but I'm just saying something huge happens here because he is having a reaction in this scene that we do not see prior to this. So, there is some reason why this got to him in a way that the other did not.

And I'm going to tell you today and I need to know this, I think you need to know this, and unless you're in some area of illicit work, Jesus is better at your job than you are. I don't care what it is, if it's real estate, if you're a bank teller, if you are in computer technology, if you are working in the health profession, I don't care what it is. I don't doubt that if you are a hair dresser, he could fix hair better than you could.

That's the thing about him, is that he could just do it all. In him is hidden all wisdom and knowledge. It's the craziest thing, it's impossible to conceive, that everything we learn how to do he already knew how to do in eternity behind us. That all of this knowledge age, he already knew it. He already knew it! He's proficient at it. He is author of all things, wisdom and knowledge, and he casts this new kind of net, beats Peter at his own game.

I also want to suggest to you, especially by the way it ends and what he calls him to do. I want you to be encouraged that, first of all, you have a calling. If you know Jesus Christ you are called. You are called! Look at one another and go, "You are called!"

Audience: You are called.

Beth: If you know Jesus you've got a calling on your life. In other words that means that before the foundation of the world God already knew and had ordained in advance, that is why he put you in this particular generation, it's why you're here on planet earth at exactly this time is because your calling fits to what is going on in your sphere of influence at this exact time in your life. We've got a calling on our lives.

What we need to understand is that for most of us we don't just do our calling professionally, we also have what Paul showed us by example, what we call tent making. He still had to make a living for himself by making tents all the while he was sharing the gospel. For the most part that's what most people are doing. But I do want you to know that there's a connection between the two. There are things that God is teaching you in your work place that are very, very, very, strategic in your calling. So, I just implore you, ask him to show up at work! Ask him to give you spiritual eyes to see and ears to hear, to make you aware of him and what you may think is the most God-forsaken workplace you have ever entered.

Listen, he goes in with you. If you're the only reason he shows up for work he goes in with you and there's something there that is strategic for you to learn for your calling or else it's time for you to go because you're here to fulfill your calling. I'm here to fulfill my calling. It is the reason why you are here on the planet. No other reason! No other reason!

So everything that we're doing, everything that all of our experience, all of our family life, all of our relational experience, all of our circumstantial experience, all of that is part and parcel of this thing that is called the calling of Christ.

I want you to notice something in -- because it says it pretty well in the ESV that I'm reading from. Notice that it says that he tells them to "-- put out into the deep, let down your nets for a catch."

I'll do it if you say. Everything humanly possible, Lord, we've already done it! We've already tried it!"

Jesus is telling somebody listening or watching today to do something that you've already done and it didn't work. And he's going, "Do it again! This time I want you to just cast it over on this side."

"But I already did it over here!"

"No. Do it again."

"Master, at your word... at your word I'll let down the net."

James: Oh, boy, I want to obey the Lord and everything he says for me to do. I know this year I've been on an unusual journey. I want to pick up the book, *Indivisible*. Well, when God told me to write this book, and of all things to write it with a Catholic philosopher, who is truly a gift from God to us right now in America and in the free world, to do this it was really, Betty, obeying the Lord to cast our nets. It is kind of like when you launch out into the deep or you do something a little different, it is kind of like step out on the water, you get the book.

I want to just mention this because you can go to lifetoday.org and also get the Christian vote pin. There is the V-O-T-E with the cross, everyone who professes faith certainly needs to be involved in the political process. I want to say to all of you about the importance of casting a net that I don't know of anything we do more important than to cast a net of love over people who need our help and need water. Nothing touches me any more than seeing what clean water will do. Here is our son Randy, I

think referencing something that I believe many of you are going to identify with. Listen to him in Cambodia.

On the mission field:

Randy: Proverbs tells us that grandchildren are the crown of the old age. I find this to be true no matter where I travel in the world; grandparents treasure their grandchildren. While in Cambodia, our mission team came upon a grandfather named Vaughn. As Vaughn was telling us the names of his grandchildren, his joy suddenly turned to sadness. Blank.

Randy: Vaughn has lost two generations, a child and a grandchild. No one should have to go through that. It doesn't have to be that way. In fact, it shouldn't be that way. I don't want this grandfather or any other grandfather to lose another grandchild simply because they have no other choice but to drink contaminated water. I hope you will help us provide Vaughn and thousands of others like him with the gift of the life, the gift of clean water.

In the studio:

James: I thank you, Lord, that Randy has a sensitivity that comes from you. I know I'm talking to a lot of grandparents, I know Randy was. He's certainly seen two grandparents of 11 beautiful grandchildren; we would do anything for them. We really would. I think you understand that. But the fact is we care about your grandchildren and we care about the grandchildren that Randy talked about and the children. They just need -- they just need clean water that's not contaminated. Betty, we can give it to them.

Betty: We can. Randy's right; it doesn't have to be that way and it shouldn't be that way, especially since the solution is so simple. We can drill the water wells. We can give them clean water. And his precious grandchildren of the grandfather that you saw, can watch his grandchildren grow up and be strong and be overjoyed with the fact that his grandchildren didn't have to die because of that contaminated water. I hope you'll help us.

James: Jesus said, "If you'll just give a cup of water in my name you won't lose your reward," and I don't think we need to start trying to figure out what that reward might be, like all our bills paid and all our problems solved.

I wish we could be spiritually elevated beyond that type of thinking to where we could think maybe the reward would be just that we did the will of God, that we became an answer to a grandfather's hope; maybe it was his prayer too that his children and grandchildren would have clean water. And Jesus knew how important that was. He said, "If you'll just give a cup in my name, I know the rewards. They're beyond anything you can ever fathom."

I can tell you that we've been blessed. Our son, loving his four children, four of our grandchildren the way he does, the way he loves the Lord and loves us and loves others, it just blesses us so much. Well, I want to ask you to be an answer to that grandfather's request. Would you help us drill a water well? Would you help us drill several of them in the area where Randy was? We're committed to drill with your help and it's one well at a time, but we've targeted 350 specific areas at the request of missionaries who have such a heart. They've heard the grandparents and the parents cry for help. They've seen the children suffer and die.

Would you dial that number right now? Would you help us drill a well? Could you give the \$4800? You know what? I think if you can, I think you would, and I want to thank you. You can put it on your bankcard or write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. You can go online, lifetoday.org and make the gift.

Many people say, "I can't give an entire well but I can help toward it." Some of you can give \$2400 and pray someone joins you and we've got a well or \$1200 and pray three join you. Pray, be in prayer like that grandfather, with that hope. Whatever you can do. But remember this, your gift, whatever it is, is going to save so many lives: \$144 -- 30 people water for the rest of their life. We have some beautiful gifts that we want to send you. Whatever gift you make, we want to send you the devotion, *Arise*. We want to send you the Bible study CD and DVD series from these incredibly gifted women that you've seen on *LIFE Today* if you'll make a gift of \$100 or more. And the beautiful "Lion and the Lamb" bronze if you can give at least \$1200 toward a well.

Father, I pray right now people would move -- move in compassion and make the gift you put on their heart. In Jesus' name.

Thank you for making that call. Thank you for going online, or writing that check. God bless you for doing it.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision!

The good news is there is a solution! *Mission: Water For Life* is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything! With your gift today, we can establish and drill 350 new water wells for remote villages in 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people. \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh, clean, disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request *Arise*, a beautiful new daily devotional featuring words of encouragement from inspiring women who have shared their faith on *LIFE Today*. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the *Arise* audio visual devotional featuring 40 days of inspiration from *LIFE Today's* favorite women guests.

Please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request the 2012 commemorative bronze sculpture, "The Lion and the Lamb."

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

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You are going to be blessed by the incredible devotions of so many of the women that have been our guests on *LIFE Today* that you respect and love. The video, audio series is also available. Make a gift, the largest gift you can, please, to help us drill those wells. If there is any way you can give \$1200 or \$2400, pray for three people to join you or another person to join you, we'll have a well. If you could give a well, the \$4800 gift, please do so.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our heart for changing things in so many places for so many people. And all of you in our audience, thank you for being with us. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. Remind them of "Wednesdays with Beth."

Announcer: Faith, family, and freedom are under attack. James Robison and Jay Richards encourage a divided America to stand together before it's too late. *Indivisible* -- now available in paperback and online and retail bookstores.

Announcer: Tomorrow, a successful mega church pastor is caught having an affair.

>> Your purpose, your destiny doesn't end with a person.