

8/15/12

Week 34

James: Thank you so much! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Betty and I, James Robison, welcome you to the program.

I want to mention something that is available right now. It is the Christian vote pin. If you'll go online *LifeToday.org* we'll tell you how to get *Indivisible*, either in the hardback bound or the paperback and we'll send you two Christian vote pins when you simply ask for it.

We really want to thank you for praying for our country. No doubt in our mind, Betty and I are convinced the viewers of *LIFE Today* care about others. And if we want our nation to continue to be able to bless the nations of the world and our people to enjoy the blessings of our freedom, we're going to have to make some very wise decisions. We need to be protecting precious innocent life and we really need to be emphasizing the importance and sanctity of marriage and the importance of family.

Beth Moore is teaching on the call of God and on the net that God literally draws us in so that we can cast to reach people for Christ. The enemy has a net too and it is deceptive and destructive.

I want you to listen to Beth Moore. I think you're going to really enjoy this. Here she is.

Begin video clip:

Beth: I want to read you a passage out of John 12:41. It's talking about a portion, Jesus is telling them, is reciting for them a portion of Isaiah, off of those very, very pages and it says something that's just startling. You'll hear it in the NIV. John 12:41 says this:

Isaiah said these things. And you can look back and see among the writings of the prophet Isaiah these very words and the words in 40 are right there in that portion back around 6.

Isaiah said these things because he saw....

Isaiah said these things because he saw what many of your translations are going to say, "He saw his glory." The NIV says, "He saw Jesus' glory. He saw Jesus' glory."

Now, two different commentaries, Word Biblical Commentary and then Expositor's Commentary both said they were able to confirm, yes, it is very, very possible that what we're hearing Christ say is that when Isaiah spoke those things, when he had that vision of the one upon the throne that it was Christ that he saw. That just blows my mind!

This is something, I kind of learned this early on, I don't think you should make a rule out of it but it's just a good principle to try to wrap your mind around when it comes to epiphanies. That in the scriptures, in the Old Testament, any see-able, humanly see-able revelation of God in the Old Testament was some form of Christ because we cannot look upon God and live. So, somehow there are many scholars that believe that anytime there was seen the one upon the throne, that if they were able to see any part of the person that it was Christ himself.

So, you don't have to go there, that's not a deal breaker right there but what's so fascinating is Jesus saying that Isaiah saw him, Jesus' glory, on that throne. In other words, back there in Isaiah 6, when he sees the Lord high and lifted up that verse could imply that who he saw sitting upon that throne was Jesus himself. I mean, like all those seraphim were just flying around and saying, "Holy, holy, holy. The whole earth is full of his glory." And all of this is happening in that we've got this calling that's happening. But what's happened now is that this same God --.

See here's what we've got to get. Do you realize who has called you? That same God wraps himself in flesh, comes to the earth and walks onto that shore and calls the likes of Simon Peter from the boat.

Here's where I want to take you for a minute because I just did -- I sat back and started just whirling, whirling back and forth between the two. So, I wonder if you would go with me here for just a moment or two. I want you to picture that we have Isaiah and we have Peter right here up on the platform. Because it's Old Testament I'll put him first, I want you to think of Isaiah right here. Then I want you to think of Peter over here. What I would like to do with you is compare, for just a moment, the calling of both Peter and Isaiah and how they might have similarities because I want you to wrap your brain around that this is the God, the holy, holy, holy one who has called us. We make the most grievous mistake of all when we try to dumb Jesus down. He is God! He is God! The sky will split for him when he comes back. We will literally mourn over the sight of him, he will be so glorious! Somehow we've detached the two.

So, who do we have over here?

Audience: Isaiah.

Beth: And who do we have over here?

Audience: Peter.

Beth: Okay, just go with me here and see if this makes any sense to you. Isaiah 6:1, the prophet Isaiah wrote:

Fast forward with me all of the way over to Simon Peter. He might have been able to say it like this: In the year AD 30, I saw the Lord. With people packed around him listening to the word of God, and all at once he was seated in a boat a little from the shore and the train of his robe filled the floorboard and suddenly it was as if it were just the two of us and he told me to put out into the deep and let down my nets after I fished all night and caught exactly nothing. But, because he said so, I did so and lo and behold two boats could not contain the haul of fish. And I looked at him and wondered what manner of man was seated there in the boat, the train of his robe filling the floorboard.

But what Peter's eyes were shielded from seeing was that surely as Christ is God, on that very day in the deep there were above him seraphs, each with six wings. With two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And though Peter's ears were unable to hear as surely as Christ is God, right there above that boat those seraphs were calling to one another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty! The whole earth is full of his glory.

And back in Isaiah chapter 6 the prophet cried out, "Woe is me! For I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips and my eyes have seen the king, the Lord Almighty!"

But when Peter had seen the sight before him he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord! I'm a sinful man!" Then one of the seraphs flew to Isaiah with a live coal in his hand which he had taken with tongs off the altar. And Isaiah wrote of the event that, "With it he touched my mouth and said, "See! This has touched your lips and your guilt is taken away and your sin is atoned for."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

Peter and all his companions were absolutely astonished. So were James and John and the sons of Zebedee. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid!" From now on you will be catchers of men."

And then Isaiah 6:8 the prophet said, "Here am I! Send me!"

And in Luke 5:11 Peter, James, and John pulled their boats up to the shore, left everything, and followed him.

It was perhaps the youngest of these that would later write:

"In the beginning was the word and the....

Don't you understand it has to be like that? Don't you understand it's the reason why he came? That that very God stood up from the throne, left his father's side, wrapped himself in human flesh and blood, came to the shores of earth, got sand in-between his toes to say, "Whom shall I send? Who will go from me? Depart from me. Depart from me! I'm a man of unclean lips." And he says, "I have atoned for your sins."

Number two is this:

"If you forget the value of your calling look back at the One who called."

If you forget the value of your calling, girlfriend, guy friend, look back at the One who called. We keep looking for our worthiness and all of our value inside and he's going, "Listen, you search me out. I'm the one who called your name. Look at who I am. I am the one who sought you, chased you down, met you at home, chased you to work. I am the one who calls you."

You look at him and you will see your significance and I will see my significance.

Look at verse ten, where he says this:

It's a compound word in Greek and it doesn't just mean to catch, it means to catch alive. So he's playing off on a very, very well known maxim in fishing and that's that you don't bring home the fish --. Keith does not bring home fish and put them in a tank and we watch them swim around. We fry up those babies and we make homemade tartar sauce. That's what we do with the fish he brings home because he catches them to kill them.

Remember, for some of us that's studied the concept of the net in the Old Testament together, remember when we were praying that God would just pluck our feet out of the net. See, that is a net to kill, to steal, and destroy. But his net is to catch us alive! To catch us alive!

You've heard of the internet? Beloved, this is the E-N-T-E-R N-E-T. Enter net. "I will catch you," he says. "I will catch you for good."

That brings us to number three:

Gospel fishing is catch and release.

Now, that is going to make some man out there happy that he has watched these women, so many times, and he thinks to himself, "Finally, something I can understand in a metaphor!"

And what we've got here is that gospel fishing is catch and release. That's what my husband has to do in many of the rivers where he is out for --. Am I saying it right, gentlemen? White fish, or some kind of trout that you catch in a river, very often they can't take any home where he fishes and you have to throw them back. It's catch and release.

And what happens here in gospel fishing is that we're caught so that we can be released, not from him but from everything else that binds us, from anything else that has trapped us he catches us so that we can be free. So that we can be free! It's net for life, not for death.

There are just a couple of words here: *From now on* you will be catching men – *From now on*. Would you just write down those three words: *from now on*. Would someone say them out loud?

Audience: From now on.

Beth: I want you to say it so loud that I could hear you all the way up here. Would y'all say it again?

Audience: [louder] From now on.

Beth: From now on.

Anybody just wish you could have a *from now on* kind of word. I mean, just like one. One? One? Because the thing of it is we know that according to the scriptures that so much of what we're going through is process. We know that he who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it. We know that we are in a long process here that began with our salvation and will not end until he redeems all things, until we've seen him face-to-face and he has brought in the day of the Lord.

So, until then we know that this is a process and we're in a progression. We're moving from glory to glory as we reflect his countenance. We know all of that. It's one of the most important things to understand is that once we are saved then there is the matter of completion, that he completes what he starts. It's a beautiful thing! We get that! But just every now and then wouldn't you just like something to be done? Done! Maybe the grip of that addiction. Wouldn't it be wonderful if just like finally, it was done?

Do you know what I think he'd say to us? "You can have it. Come follow me. Come follow me. Come follow me!"

Our freedom is in following him. That for every single one of us that would just go with him, just go with him, where he leads, we'd have a *from now on*.

Some things really would get to be that was then, this is now. Come follow me. Every encounter you ever have with him, everything he's ever caught you in the middle of was a savior and redeemer who loved you, called your name, and said, "You cannot get rid of me no matter how you've say 'Depart from me'"

And the miracle of it is that over his head, in the heavenlies where we cannot see him are seraph flying and crying, "Holy, holy, holy!"

This one cannot do you wrong! He cannot betray you. He cannot forsake you. He cannot abandon you. He will not leave you! No! He's not going to depart, so today, from now on, cease trying to get rid of Jesus! Because he's not leaving without you!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: What an amazing truth. No matter how far we wander -- you know that sheep when they got 99 safe, the shepherd, secure, he's after one.

Betty, every time we've drifted, and I've drifted. Sometimes I think maybe you haven't, but I have and as I have made these mistakes, not only do I have the prayers of someone like you and others who care but the Lord was after me. He's after us in the deepest ditch or pit that anyone can throw us in or we fall in or we dig our way into and he wants to lift us up. He wants to lift our nation up out of a ditch of debt and depression and depravity and I think deception in many ways.

I want to show you in this last week of the emphasis, I think something that is as moving as anything you'll ever see. As a matter of fact, I don't even think I could even begin to set it up right because the emotion and the reality is so great. It moved me beyond words, and Betty. I want you to watch because I can promise you if you've ever seen something that needed attention and you say, I wish I could do the exact right thing, well, you can. And you're going to want to watch and then you'll want to do the right thing and you are the answer. You're the solution. You're the joyful solution to a great challenge. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Pich: My son, Chaktra, is sick because he drank dirty water. I am so very afraid he will die like his sister Meum. When Meum turned three, she drank dirty water and got sick. She suffered a lot of stomach pain and diarrhea until she died.

I am asking every mother to help save my baby. Please help give us clean water.

End of clip**In the studio:**

James: Betty and I watched a mother named Pich lose one of her little babies, her children and now she had another one she didn't know if she was going to lose him. When Betty and I saw it, we said we're going to drill a well for her village. We're going to pay the whole well for that village.

It is \$4800; that's the average cost. We started asking God years ago, probably 20 years ago, wells for \$3600 at that time. I don't know how long they'll stay \$4800 but that's still the average now. With the rising petroleum costs, I don't know how long it will stay. But we said, "Lord, we would like to drill a well."

We asked God -- I can't tell you how he blessed us, just the blessing of doing it. It wouldn't have mattered what we had to do to do it but the way He blesses to enable us to keep doing it and now that, and I've got to be honest, Betty, I almost find myself saying, "Boy, I just want to do another one right now." But here's what I feel I'm supposed to say, I think there is somebody watching who said, "I can cover that village and maybe one next to it." Or some of you say, "I think that mother is representing a lot of villages."

See we've already targeted 350; I wish it would be 550. I pray today, "God, before I die, as long as I'm on this earth, would you let me live to see that I can help inspire fresh clean water to every village and every person on this planet?" That's a dream -- that's a desire -- I believe it is God's desire.

What do you feel when you see that?

Betty: Just as I listened to her and her plea was, "Mothers... other mothers, help me help my baby." She's lost one child. Children are so dear to the heart of mothers. We feel their pain. And I can't even imagine, James, as she had to watch her baby die like that simply because they had dirty water. Now she's got her other child she's afraid for. She doesn't want to lose this baby.

We can help. We can reach out and make that difference. James, I know my heart is with yours, I want to help this mother but there are so many more mothers that need our help with their children. Please help us drill the water wells!

James: The thing is that the way we meet the need is each one of us do what we can. Not everyone can drill a well. If you can, I believe you will.

Dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check and say, "Here's the well." Or write a check, make it to *LIFE*, call us and tell us it's in the mail. Go online, *LifeToday.org* and say, "Here it is. Boy, I rejoice, I can do it!"

Remember this, sometimes you say, "I can't do that." Well, what can you do? Could you give \$1200 and pray three people join you or \$2400 and pray one person joins? Or could you give \$48 during this last week to complete the targeted 350 wells? Could you say, "I'll give \$48 and give ten people water?" -- Ten children like she was referring to? \$48 will do that. \$144 will give 30 people water. Would you do that? Please? Right now, I know you're praying but would you put feet to the prayers and would you be an answer to her prayer and her heart cry? Would you dial the number please or gone online and make the gift?

We have some gifts to send you to say thank you. Please make that gift. Father, you move and as you move on the hearts of the viewers and the listeners, help them to simply obey your loving voice and your direction in Jesus' name. He always blesses us when we bless others. Thank you for making the call. Should you get a busy, that's a good sign, that means somebody else is trying to get through too. You be determined, you call until you get through. Thank you for making the gift.

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."

This is the last week. Call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I'd really like to emphasize that this is the last week Mission: Water for Life for this year. We'd love to send you this beautiful collectible, this art piece, this bronze. It is absolutely beautiful! I don't even think we can get shots that give the beautiful detail. We're sending it to those of you who will help us drill a well by either giving

the amount for the well or giving \$1200 and praying for three to join you and I believe they will or \$2400 and pray something joins you.

We're going to be sending *Arise* for any gift. We've told you, you can go online and find out how to get *Indivisible*, get the Christian vote pins, it would be wonderful to do that.

And really begin to pray for our country and let's meet the needs of these precious people and let's be an answer to the heart cry of mothers just like the one you saw represented. They're so precious... these precious little children. Let's help them. Thanks for doing it.