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Week 36

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. Well, it is "Wednesdays with Beth" and it is always such a special day. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: And we are honored to present to you one of the most gifted communicators and Bible teachers, we think, in the whole world.

Again, we want to say thank you for expressing appreciation for the fact that we share Beth with you and we want to make it clear that this is fresh water and you tell us we love to drill water wells, we like to feed the hungry. We see Beth as one of the greatest mission outreaches we have because she gives you fresh water and she gives you the bread of life and the truth every single week.

Later in the program we're going to show you some of the cutest little shoes you'll ever see and actually show you something else that someone designed for you. I love this! Betty, we'll pretty soon people will be decorating trees and so forth. Here's a little shoe that represents our opportunity to put shoes on precious little feet all over the world and by the way, we've got some shoes for some kids that are little bit bigger too. We're just not giving them for little bitty toddlers but these last for so many years, it is amazing. This is what love does.

Well, Beth is going to talk to you about treasure and about how you relate to it and I can promise you, you're going to treasure what Beth Moore shares. Here she is. Welcome Beth.

Begin video clip:

Beth: Needless to say there is no more familiar narrative in the entire Word of God than the birth narrative of Christ and you and I are going to look at something that happens soon after he is born as word begins to circulate through the proclamation of the angels that the Messiah has been born -- the very son of God.

I want to pick up right there in Luke chapter two. You've just seen it in verse seven that Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn. I want to pick up

at verse eight, Luke two, verse eight. In the same region there were shepherds out in the field keeping watch over their flock by night and an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shown around them and they were filled with fear. The angel said to them, "Fear not for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you. You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace among those with whom he is pleased."

When the angels went away from them into heaven the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened that the Lord has made known to us."

Verse 16: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger and when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds had told them.

Some of your translations say that they were astonished at what the shepherds had told them. But Mary -- this is going to be a key phrase right here -- but Mary treasured up all these things pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told to them. But Mary, we're told, treasured up all of these things and pondered them in her heart.

I want you to see something toward the end of the chapter that is just as powerful using some of the same wording. Look toward Luke, I want to drop you at about Luke 2, verse 40 where it tells us in just this one place, it wraps up what is probably about a 10 year period of time.

We have in the gospel of Matthew referenced to what was probably about Christ when he was also a toddler. From that point on, we have only this that stretches us all the way from his toddlerhood to about 12, it says in verse 40. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. Now we're going to get to the treasuring part in just a moment. But I just want you to push hold on that for a moment because I want to know what he was like at three. I want to know what he was like at six. I want to wonder all of these things. That's all we have to

stretch over about a decade period of time. I want to know all sorts of things. I want to picture what he was like at around one when he first began to toddle. I want to know if the word made flesh to dwell among us, the Logos, I wonder if he first said "mama" or did he say "dada"? Because that's really a big deal to young parents, who is he going to name first? I wonder if when he was about six years old when he lost his front teeth, and I wonder what he looked like when they came in. And I wonder if they came in straight or if they came in just slightly crooked. Don't you wonder if his face broke out in his teenage years?

[Laughter]

These are things I want to know. What did it sound like when the voice, the word made flesh to dwell among us, when his voice changed and he first began to turn in to a man?

I also want to know, did he get really, really tickled? I mean like did he bend over, hold his side and get really, really tickled? There are all sorts of things I want to know. But we're just told that he grew in favor with God and with man.

Then we're told about this scene, pick up with me when it says in verse 41: Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of Passover. And when he was 12 years old they went up according to the custom. And when the feast was ended as they were returning, the boy, Jesus, stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. But supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances and when they did not find him...

Now just push hold. Let it be a... there for just a moment because I want you to try to gather this in your mind with me. How do you go that far and not realize that your child is missing? How do you do that? Because they traveled in packs. It would have been all sorts of people from this area and this region of Judea that would have come together. So there is no time in my household that I'm more aware of the babies. My youngest grandchild is two and I'm never more aware of what's going on in the house and whether or not she is being looked after than I am when the house is packed with people because everybody thinks the other person is watching them. So I'm forever going, "Did someone lock the front door? Where is the baby? Where is the baby?" Now her mother is fastidious but if she is not around and the house is packed, I'm like... is someone watching the kids? Because you always think someone else has got them.

Well, that's exactly what happened here. It says they went a day's journey. One of the other translations says that they went to the evening. What would have happened is that by the time it got time to lay out the mats and go to sleep they were like bringing the kids in and where on earth was he? Can you even imagine? Don't you know Mary was going, "I knew he shouldn't have chosen me! He never should have given him to me!" Just think of the crisis of that! "Oh, I was the worst choice ever!" Oh, it would have been so upsetting.

And don't you know they fought all the way back to Jerusalem. Don't tell me they didn't!

[Laughter]

Don't tell me they didn't! They were not even speaking to one another. I think -- now I'm reading this in but if they're like us, they were not speaking to one another when they got there.

And it says that after three days, verse 46, they find him in the temple sitting among the teachers listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding -- that word is important -- at his understanding and his answers. And when Jesus' parents saw him they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold your father and I..."

I love that -- I always wish I could remember to say that to the children, "Behold, your father and I..." Behold! Your father and I... I want you to try that next time. "Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?"

They did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. Verse 51: And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them and his mother -- and it says in some of our translations I'm positive the N.I.V. is one of them, but his mother -- and his mother treasured up all of these things in her heart.

In these two places like bookends over this part of the narrative, we're told that Mary stopped and treasured something up. One time it seemed to be in such a beautiful exhilarating context but it's just as important that we see that later in the narrative, in this verse, in this scene it is over something that was tremendously distressing. So there was something about her that stopped and treasured it up. It is the most

beautiful word back in verse 19 when you see it in the scriptures: But Mary treasured up all of these things. The word in the later part is very similar, it is a Greek synonym. But right here this word for "treasured up" is pronounced soon-te-ray-o -- soon-te-ray-o -- soon-te-ray-o. I want you to say that back to me.

Audience: Soon-te-ray-o.

Beth: Soon-te-ray-o. It is the most beautiful word that means to treasure up. Listen to some of this definition. It means to hold or treasure up in one's memory. To guard. To keep. To preserve. To keep safe. To keep close. To protect. I love this part: to preserve against harm or ruin. To defend.

Another definition says: to store information in one's mind for careful consideration. Hold or treasure up in one's memory. To guard it. When something precious happens to you it is the ability to be able to hold on to it, to keep it from ruin.

I wondered how many things God has done in our lives that we've just forgotten about, that we just let go of, that somehow did not get guarded or defended. How often does the enemy of our souls come back after us and say, "Did he really say? Did he really do? Was that really God or did you just make that up?" We have to defend the treasures that the Lord Jesus Christ has brought into our lives.

I looked up the word. This is one of those times when I pitched that word out on my Bible software and I look up every occasion of it. I looked up every occasion of the word treasure or treasured. I found that from the very beginning of scripture it begins with something that God himself is doing.

For instance, Exodus 19:5 he says to his people: You will be my treasured possession. Deuteronomy 7:6: The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his treasured possession.

Deuteronomy 26:18: The Lord has declared this day that you are his people, his -- what do you think I'm going to say? -- Two words, treasured possession as he promised because the Lord himself has this innate, inherent ability to treasure. We as created in his image also have that ability to actually hold something up and guard it as jewels, and of things of great treasure and pricelessness in our hearts and in our minds. Just so that we have some further understanding of what it can look like and just so that our men do not drop out of the application and think treasuring is something only women do, I want to show you in context where it is a story of a man.

Hold something here in Luke 2 and go with me to Genesis 37. You might know the story of Joseph. I like him all right but he is a spoiled brat. I mean -- somebody is going to argue with me on that but he was almost unbearable to his brothers. And it picks up in verse five and says: Now Joseph had a dream. See his father was partial to him and set him of course then at enmity with his brothers. He had a dream and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.

Sometimes it's best not to share the dreams that God has given us. Sometimes that doesn't go over well when they haven't had a good night's sleep and had a good dream in a number of years.

And it says he said to them, "Hear this dream that I dreamed. Behold we were binding sheaves in the field and behold my sheaf arose and stood up right and behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."

How about that dream?

[Laughter]

They were like, "Good dream!" And his brother said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his Words.

Then he dreamed another dream and he told it to his brothers.

This is why I'm telling you he is a brat. Why go back the second time unless you're enjoying this? Anybody? Anybody? He goes back. He dreams -- he tells it to his brother.

"Behold! I have dreamed another dream."

Whoo hoo!

"Behold, the sun, the moon, and the 11 stars were bowing down to me. But when he told it to his brother and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"

And in verse 11 it says something very intriguing.

And his brothers were jealous of him but his father kept the saying in mind. His brothers were jealous of him but his father kept the saying in mind. You probably already concluded what is our word that is in the Greek version of the Old Testament right here is the same lexical word for treasured up is that he kept it in his mind. Think about the definition we heard just a moment ago. He protected it. He stuck it in there. Thought, you know what? Don't let go of that. You might need to remember that. And he guarded it... maybe even defended it in his mind.

I wonder, when was the last time something happened that you thought I ought not forget that. Where you didn't even know why but you thought that might turn out to be significant some day. Have you ever had that feeling, perhaps, if you're a parent with your children that you saw something in them, something remarkable that you thought, I'm going to remember that... I want to remember that. That is the process of treasuring something up.

Now turning back with me to Luke chapter 2 so that we can see it in both contexts, that it doesn't have to be something that you're really glad happened for you to treasure it. Sometimes something could be a very difficult experience like Mary and Joseph had when they realized that Christ was missing from their caravan.

Also we see it in Genesis 37 with Jacob that it could be all sorts of kinds of moments that you just think, I don't know if I should let that go. I'm going to let that in a moment. He didn't discard it. He guarded it carefully and you know if you know the story that it came to pass. You guard it until it fits. You guard it until it is fulfilled. Or you guard it -- stay with me here -- you guard it until you get it. That sometimes God does something and you think, okay, something is up with that. And right now I don't get it, but I'm going to guard it until I get it.

End of clip

James: That is wise counsel. Sometimes we don't understand what has been entrusted to our watch care or what we're supposed to guard or treasure or actually not allow to become an inappropriate treasure but what we are supposed to hold as a sacred treasure and a sacred trust. Ask God for wisdom.

We have an opportunity right now to do something that we know pleases God and that is to express his love to people in need because of viewers like you, we began years ago giving shoes to little children and we call it Christmas shoes and Christmas smiles. The "smiles" is an indication that we can together give surgeries to children that have cleft palate or some kind of a disease that has misshaped their face and we

can give them a smile. And for many of these children, it is something that they never dreamed could ever happen.

You have the opportunity -- I want you to watch and see a need right now that together we can meet with our Christmas shoes and smiles emphasis. I think you're going to be blessed as you just look at the scenes that you and I can really offer hope and help resulting in an expression of love that will totally change their life. Watch this.

On the mission field:

Without shoes parasites can enter a child's body, which can lead to illness and death.

A pair of shoes can save lives.

In the studio:

James: Boy, you know my mind and my heart races when I watch those images. I don't know -- you may wonder how in the world you can think this. I was looking at some of those little feet and they were real dirty and some of them had sores on them. And yet I was thinking about all the times I used to kiss our little children's feet, our little babies and our little grandbabies feet and hold them up, their precious little feet and think about all the little feet that never would have a little shoe like that and they'd probably get some kind of a disease, maybe a hookworm that would ultimately go into their brain and kill them. It happens.

I don't know what you thought when you looked at that little child with little eyes looking up like that, do you remember? You can see the image there just staring up. It was like that little child was looking up and saying, "What do you want? Who are you? What are you going to do?" I really wonder what they were thinking as they were looking at the camera, obviously, "Who are you? What are you going to do?" I find myself wanting to look out and say, "What are you going to do?"

I know what I'm going to do. I want to believe people here would want to do it. I want to believe people all over the world would say, "I'll tell you what I'd like to do, I'd like to put some shoes on children's feet and help protect them."

You know what I think? I think you want to do that. I think you want to answer the question, what do you want? What are you looking at? What are you going to do?

I'm going to ask you to extend literally and this is not an exaggeration, I'm going to ask you to extend the hands of a loving God. You see, Jesus made it clear that we're his

body. The New Testament says we're the body of Christ. We're the ones who can put the arms of God around a hurting world. We can pick up the people that are suffering. We not only can, we have the opportunity to do it. We ought to rejoice to do it. We can bless those that are suffering.

Would you help us provide the shoes and smiles for Christmas? The smiles implies giving surgery to those who have cleft palates; little children who have never smiled. I've watched children all over the world who had not even seen their face until we showed them their image in a camera and we watched them pull back; they didn't know what they looked like. They had not seen a mirror in some of the areas where we minister and they didn't know what they looked like, and they were frightened.

We can correct that. We've done it. When I say "we," that is a big embrace of all of you who enable us to do it because Betty and I can do our part, we can care, but we're limited on what we can share unless we do it together.

Would you help us provide 200,000 pairs of shoes for Christmas by dialing the number, take your bankcard, make the largest gift you can? \$36 will give ten children shoes. \$144 will give 40 children shoes. Would you do that?

We've got some special gifts for you. A special book that our son Randy wrote, *God Wants You to be Happy* to discover the deeper joy that is available if your relationship with God. It is an incredible book. It is an inspirational read. I'm so thankful, yes, that our son wrote a book like this but I'm so thankful we can offer it to you. When you give joy to someone else, you're going to learn some things about joy in your own life.

We have a little Christmas decoration we want to send you. It will remind you to pray for the little children that you have blessed with the love of God.

"The Lion and the Lamb" bronze, a gift for those of you who will make a special gift right now of \$1,000 or more to help us give shoes and smiles. \$500 is the average cost of a smile in one of those surgeries, you can provide two. Would you do that? Thank you so much for doing it.

Dial the number, use your bankcard or you can go to *LifeToday.org* and make that special gift. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water, but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children, they've never owned a new pair of shoes and while that may seem minor in light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

By responding today, you can help *LIFE* immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pair and a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

In appreciation of your gift, be sure to request the inspirational new book, *God Wants You to be Happy* by James and Betty's son, Randy Robison.

With your gift of \$100 to help provide 28 pairs of shoes, you may request this beautifully crafted shoe ornament to place on your tree each Christmas.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may 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 can promise you that you are going to find tremendous joy when you read the book that Randy wrote. It is a very -- it's a great blessing for parents to be able to talk about their son writing something that -- I'll be honest with you, I can't write nearly as well as Randy, he's got an incredible gift. But to think that our son was able to teach the word, you've just listened to a great Bible teacher, Randy is an incredible Bible teacher. And what he shares about the joy and happiness that God wants us to experience. We want to send it to you. It will be a blessing to you.

The little Christmas shoe ornament, it will just make you say, "Thank you, God. I got to bless children."

Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*. Tell your friends to watch and tell them about "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 at online and retail bookstores.