

Week 37
9/4/12

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: Well, Tammy Maltby has been with us many times. We have so much respect and respect for her. This is a very interesting book title, *The GOD Who Sees You*. Well, we really never doubted that he did. I want to put my glasses on and see what it says down here in the little subheading: Look to him when you feel discouraged, forgotten, or invisible -- overlooked. Do you ever feel that way?

Well, welcome Tammy Maltby. We're going to talk about it.

Tammy, we're so glad to have you. Glad you're here.

Tammy: Thank you! Good to see you, James and Betty.

James: You evidently are writing -- now you've got a wonderful ministry not only writing and teaching and sharing but when I read this, I know it is a study guide but I read it. Do I see you anywhere down here?

Tammy: Every one of those, I picked those words intentionally. Absolutely! I think the whole idea that all of us at times feel overlooked, forgotten, invisible. I think even in our media world we're Twittering -- and I Twitter and Facebook -- I do it all too, but there's this sense that does anyone really know who we are? Does anybody really see the sacrifices we make? Does anyone really understand who we are and what motivates us? And we have a hard time understanding people, particularly if God does.

James: I wonder why -- what contributes to that? What are the major contributors to that?

Tammy: Well, I don't think we really see each other. We see each other but we don't really know each other. I think we want to be seen. We long to be seen. We ache to know that God sees the reality of our lives. I think so many of us live in quiet desperation. We don't know that God is intimately aware of every detail of our life. He is intimately aware of our disappointments, the realities, whether it's our faith crisis,

whether it is a physical dynamic, financial issues, we are living as Christians and people that don't know the Lord wondering does God really see me?

The good news is that he does. In fact, in Matthew six it says that he is the unseen God who sees all of our unseen actions; the unseen father who sees everything about our life. When no one else sees and no one else knows God sees and God knows.

James: It causes some people to think, "I don't like that. I don't like God knowing all of this stuff about me."

[Laughter]

Tammy: Sometimes that is true.

James: I think it's because they don't understand the God that is seeing them. I think that -- go ahead, honey.

Betty: I think it's because we don't understand who God sees when he looks at us. Because he did create us and when we realize how special we are to him, it would be just like our children. We say, "If you could just understand how much I love you!" I think that's what God wants us to know.

Tammy: Exactly! And he wants us to be that, Betty, to one another. In fact, I tell the story of this but it's a very true story, an everyday story of our lives how as God taught me that he saw me, he wanted me to learn to see other people.

And James, you do this so beautifully. This particular illustration actually reminded me of you. But I was in a grocery store with my four adult kids, and you know when you have four adult kids its sort of like you have to bribe them to be with you; like buy them gas cards or take them out to dinner.

[Laughter]

And I had my four adult kids with me and we were standing in this grocery store line and there was this young mom standing in front of me. She was probably 18, 19, 20 years old. She had a little baby and a two or three year old. You know the baby is grabbing candy and the little infant is crying. Life wasn't working for that young mom. God really needed to give her a message that he saw her.

So the Lord said to me, "Tammy, I want you to look at that young woman, and I want you to know that she's just like you." So I looked at her and she had tattoos all up and down her body and all kinds of pierces and I'm thinking, "I don't look anything like her!"

[Laughter]

And at that moment, God said, "Tell her I see her. Tell her I see her, because you know in those moments where life is not working for you, where you feel like everyone is staring at your mistakes and everyone is judging the way you can't manage your life."

So I reached out to her and I picked up her little baby because every momma wants to talk about her baby and I said, "Honey, I just want to tell you something, that God sees you. He sees you in all of your life. He sees you in all of your circumstances and being a mom is hard work. And it is really hard work when you don't have a job and it is really hard work when you don't have a husband. It's really hard work when you don't have a car or an education. It's really hard work, but God sees you."

And as we were packing up her groceries and we walked out of the grocery store. This tiny little 19, 20 year old girl who is the same age as my own daughters came up to me and she said, "Will you just hold me? Will you just --."

James: The same one you just talked to?

Tammy: The same girl I just talked to. She said, "Would you just put your arms around me?" She said, "I think that's the most encouragement I've ever had."

See that's the reality of the world. That is the reality of where people live. They so desperately need to know that people see them, that God sees them in the midst of their failures, in the midst of their striving, God steps in, God sees us in our darkest moments, he sees us when no one else knows and he has called us to see one another. He's called us to speak that to one another, words of encouragement -- courage! Giving people courage. I need courage! We all need courage.

James: You share those stories like that one and you share that one in the book, *The God Who Sees You*. I think that it's really, really important to try to understand to some degree maybe what was going on in that girl's life that she was drawn to talk to. Perhaps all the tattoos were attention getters, where maybe somebody will notice me. I'm not noticed so maybe I'll be noticed. It may be that everything she was doing was expressing that desire and then suddenly you showed it to her and she actually had to

feel it coming from a bigger source because you just noticed her and her baby and where she was. Then she was drawn to come back to you and tell you, "No one has ever held me."

While you were talking about that God watching, my mind is tracking and I'm thinking about how people might feel that some would say and I even referenced it, I hope God is not seeing me. And see, I have those moments where I know he is seeing, but I think it would be better if you checked out for a little bit --

[Laughter]

And focus some other place... and he doesn't.

Tammy: Me too! I've had those too!

James: But he doesn't! That's the thing, if you understand this Father that you're trying to get people to understand who sees you, when you're in that -- when you're in the process of digging the ditch that you're fixing to get ready to jump in, when you're making the bad decisions and he is seeing, the enemy would have you believe that he turns away from you and walks away. He really doesn't. He actually lingers. He will actually incline his ear down over the pit you just dug and got in and want you to just lift your voice. And when you're out of step with him and out-of-sync, he is actually still walking and he is seeking to communicate with you: I understand you're embarrassed and you understand this is not best. I want to help you. I'm not waiting to clobber you, I'm trying to keep you from falling in the ditch that this practice is going to cause to be a catastrophic event in your life. I'm your friend. I'm your father.

This is what we as believers need to communicate and project. It is what you communicated to that woman and it is what God wants to communicate. There are other stories that you tell in here that are very, very I think illustrate what God wants people to hear.

Tammy: I think the book, *The GOD Who Sees You* is all about that perspective change. Sometimes the greatest miracle in our lives is just a perspective change. It is just seeing something we always knew to be true but we see it differently. So we start to see it differently the way God sees us. He doesn't see us as a God that wants to come in and judge us. He is a God who comes in and loves us. He is a God who comes in and heals us. He is a God who comes in and forgives us over and over and over, especially when we don't think he's going to show up, he does.

In fact, I tell that story about my son, Sam. I have four children, four grown kids now. My son Samuel is Korean born. We adopted Sam when he was four months old but at this time he was about 12 or 13. He was in a camp in upstate New York. And I'm sort of like an Italian Jewish momma; my son's been gone for three weeks, I'm a little worried about my son.

[Laughter]

I couldn't wait for him to come home because I love my son, I'm crazy about my son. So the airlines called and they said, "Your son had missed his flight" so they were going to put him on another flight. So I looked at my watch and I thought, well, I'm going to head to the airport two hours later. So I head to the airport, get ready to go out the door. They call again, there was a mechanical -- so a couple more hours go by.

My son is in New York City, my little darling 11-year-old son. So I get three calls from the airlines that he has now been sitting at the airport for 12 hours and they're trying to get him home. Well, I'm upstairs, on the computer, trying to turn in points and screaming at everybody in the house because they need to be just as upset as I am about this.

[Laughter]

And all of the sudden the phone rings and it is my son, Sam. And he said, "Mom! Did you know that I've been at this airport for 12 hours? Haven't you been worried about me?"

I said, "Sam, are you kidding? You're the only thing I could think of. I've been doing everything I can. I've been ready to drive my suburban from Colorado Springs to New York City to go get you! You're always on my mind. I love you. I want you home with me."

And when I hung up the phone the Holy Spirit said to me, "I do that for you all the time. You're in some wilderness place. You don't think I see you, you don't think I know what you're going through but I'm on the real worldwide web. I see everything. And I'm bringing this person into your life to communicate hope to you. And I'm bringing this person into your life to bring encouragement to you. Tammy, I'm on the real worldwide web. When you don't think I see, when you don't think I know, I'm mindful of you. I'm thinking about you. You're ever on my mind."

That is the God who sees us. In the midst of our darkest moments, when we don't think anyone knows, God knows -- God sees.

James: And by the way, if you ever remembered any verse, for God so loved you -- you -- that he gave his only son for you to give you his presence, his love, life now, life forever. He's focused on you. He loves you. He didn't overlook you. That's the reason you're watching. And he wants to do just exactly what that woman, that young girl asking in the grocery store, "Would you just hold me?" -- He wants to hold you. He wants you right now to say, "God, hold me." And you are going to hear his heart leap.

"It's what I've been wanting to do. I want to hold you. Let me hold you. Let me carry you. Let me embrace you." Then Tammy, and don't miss this -- for all of you, some of you may say, "I feel pretty good where I am." Wonderful!

For those of you that say, "I just need that. Okay, God, do it. I want you to do it." But let's go to the next step. Let's be the arms around somebody because there really is incredible comfort in giving comfort. There is great strength when you lean on him and you understand leaning on him oftentimes mean I'm leaning on them.

I lean on this little five foot three-inch precious girl, six three, big old ugly guy like me, leaning on her; she carries me. I know I can go but she knows she can come here. And people who know us know they can lean on us. People need to know that about you.

So let's get it straight. You let God take you in his arms right now, he wants to. And while you're there just say, "God, I accept your love, I receive your son, I receive the forgiveness, the life; I receive your life, your love, now God, I want to express that life and that love. Show me how." And he will. Which is one reason why we come, and others like us who care will come into your home to try to help you.

There are churches where there are people, believe it or not, who are not just there for religion, they're there because they have a relationship with God and they love to have relationship with others.

Tammy, what you're sharing here is a blessing.

By the way, you see the phone number there? You say, "I wish somebody would pray with me right now." Call it. Say, "Would you pray with me about this?" You'll find a caring person there and the call is paid for by love. Betty and I can't pay that 800-number bill, it's paid for by people who with us love you. So call.

Tammy, I believe God wants everybody to know that he is loving them and he expressed it. And the neat thing is, if people will grasp not only the fact that he loves them, if they will just hear, I think really, it's almost like the hidden message but it is so important, that what you did in that grocery store, when you expressed God's love, that can happen all over the world. The whole world is waiting to be embraced by the loving arms of God.

Tammy: You know, we never know what's waiting on the other side of our obedience -- we never know. So when God impresses upon us, speak to that one, encourage that one person. I love the word encouragement because the core word is courage. We need courage. We have to come alongside and link arms with each other and start to actually see each other, become the real body, the real light, the real salt, the hands and feet of Christ. That's what he has called us to do. And when we walk into that, it is amazing what we see. It is absolutely powerful!

James: Absolutely! And Tammy has -- there is her web site. You see it there on the screen. Her ministry, her gift and you can see what's available, what she's doing, how she might be able to help you, and the book is in the bookstores or I'm sure you can get it online.

Tammy, we bless you and we thank you.

Would you say thanks to Tammy for sharing with us? I want to show you something. This is way out ahead of Christmas but we start way ahead of Christmas to show people -- isn't this a cute little Christmas ornament?

Tammy: Yes, it is! It's darling! I have a new baby coming right around Christmas so this is going to be perfect.

James: You know this is a great little ornament and really and truly, I hope you just get a whole bunch of them over the years. What we're doing, I promise you, when you and friends look at your tree they'll say, "What's that?"

And you're going to say, "Well, I gave shoes for Christmas all over the world. I helped give 200,000 children shoes for Christmas. I did that!" Little ones and older ones -- whatever age; would you help us do that?

And we're asking you to give smiles for Christmas. Not just make people smile, give them a smile because we can.

I want you to watch this. I want you to listen, not just to what you hear, I want you to listen to God and then I want you to be his hands and I want you to do something for somebody's feet and for somebody's smile. It will put a smile on your face. Put a smile on the face of God -- he's pleased. Watch this.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Unfortunately, there are children around the world who have many different kinds of needs. Some are hungry and thirsty, in need of food to eat or clean water to drink. Others still simply have never had a new pair of shoes or they're unable to smile due to a cleft palate.

>> All year long we come to you and tell you about things that change people's lives, that save people's lives and you're a part of that. I want to tell you what we want to do this Christmas, is we do what is called "Shoes and Smiles." A little child just like this that has a cleft palate, that's never had a real smile, we give them surgery and this little child will have a new smile. Little kids like this that have never had a pair of shoes before in their life, we give them one.

Announcer: A child with bare feet may seem harmless but the potential danger for children living in these types of conditions can be life-threatening.

James: One of the things we found in the Central American countries is that they have a real problem with hookworms, which they get from walking in dirt or sand and then it creates a tremendous intestinal problem.

The answer is just shoes. We can provide literally for some of them the first pair of shoes they've ever had, not only for fun and comfort, but for health.

Announcer: During the past several holiday seasons, *LIFE Outreach* and its missionary partners have passed out thousands of pairs of shoes to children in many different countries around the world. In addition, we have been able to restore numerous children's smiles through corrective surgeries.

>> You know we put smiles on the faces of these children today as we've given them shoes but others need a little more, they need that cleft palate surgery. I hope you can help put a smile on even more children's faces. Do the best that you can and you can give shoes and smiles to children all over the world. So I have a special message just for you --

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You're welcome! You are!

That was our son Randy there with those beautiful children. As I look at them I just -- I love them. How do you not want to take the little children in the arms of God? How do you not want to pick them up and hold them? I love -- I love people! That's the love of God in my heart because I can be a totally self-absorbed person. I've never had any problem thinking about me; I've never really had a problem with that. But this supernatural thing that is so much bigger than I am makes me want to put a smile on a child's face.

That little boy you saw -- that you saw being rolled into surgery. I remember the first time we saw him. He actually saw himself for the first time. He lived where he didn't see mirrors; there weren't even cars around where he lived where he could see his reflection in something. We took a picture of him with us and he was watching. And then they turned around and showed him the image and when he saw his face he pulled back and he ran, he screamed. He had not seen what he looked like or if he ever had he thought it was awful.

It so moved us, I looked at our viewers, and I said, "We want to give that boy a smile. We don't know how we're going to do it," because there were no surgeons where he was. You know viewers like you said, "Whatever it takes." And we got permission and we got visas, we got the ability to move from one country to another to get him to Johannesburg to a great surgeon, and the surgeon donated, in that case, his time because he heard the story.

But somebody like you said, "We will pay to fly him if it takes a private plane, go get him." And somebody like you moved and gave him that smile. He got a smile. Well, we can do that over and over because now we've got doctors in place where we found these children with the missionaries, we can get them to it but we will pay for it. It will cost \$500 to give a smile. So we want to give smiles for Christmas.

But we also want to give the shoes for Christmas, for the little ones, for the older children and these they can wear actually for years; they are adjustable even in size because of the way they're made. They are \$3.60 cents a pair. We want to give 200,000 for Christmas, pairs like this. That means \$36, Betty we've got ten pairs of shoes. So I

don't think there is anybody watching that can't help give some children some shoes for Christmas.

Some of you can give the \$500 or \$1,000 and give two smiles or give a smile. But whatever you can do, Betty, I'm praying every viewer will at least do something to help provide the shoes and smiles.

Betty: I think you will because shoes and smiles, what a great combination because we see the smiles come on the children's faces when we put the shoes on their feet. But also we can see the smiles of children that need the surgery to give them a smile that they've never had before. So join with us.

James: We're excited about what we can do to bless you. We always like to say thank you. Our son wrote a book, *God Wants You to Be Happy*. You're going to be happy when you give shoes and smiles but this is about the joy of the Lord. It is a fabulous book. I know our son wrote it but I can't write as well as he can and this is his first book to be published and I promise you, it will bless you. We're sending it for any gift to say thanks.

And we're sending the Christmas ornament to those of you who will make a special gift, we ask you to give \$100 or more, make a special gift to help us provide those shoes and those smiles. And also "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze, this beautiful -- if you make a gift of \$1,000 or more.

Really and truly, at this time of year as you think about Christmas gifts, you could make a sizable gift that would have an incredible impact right now so I pray you'll do it. Would you? Would you dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check? Write a check, make it to *LIFE* or you can go to *LifeToday.org* and many of you do that now. It's very convenient and it is an immediate gift and you make that gift. But please, please today give some shoes, give some smiles, whatever you can do, remember ten pairs of shoes \$36. It's big to those children -- that's a real big gift. Thank you for making the gift God put on your heart and that he has enabled you to make.

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: Betty and I just say thanks from the bottom of our heart. We do want to remind you to pray about the election. Betty and I are wearing the Christian VOTE pin. We're sending that to any of you who want to go online and ask for the book, *Indivisible*. We'll be so happy to get that to you and send the Christian VOTE pins along with it. But would you really pray about the issues we face and about the decisions that need to be made? It is not a matter of left or right, so often it is right or wrong. It's not a matter of party, its principle. It's not a personality, it is what are we going to do? And let's do to together as a family of faith and as great Americans.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to the author of this great book, *A GOD Who Sees You*, thanks to Tammy Maltby. Would you join us?

Tammy, thank you so much! Thanks for sharing the stories not only here but so effectively in the book.

There again is her web site. Check it out. Thanks again for watching the program and helping us bless others.

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.