

Week 40

9/26/12

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. Well, it is "Wednesdays with Beth." We always look forward to that!

James: Well, we do. I'm James and this is Betty. We're just thrilled to have the opportunity of sharing someone as gifted as Beth is.

I want to remind you that we really want to encourage you to be sure you vote this year. You can go online, IndivisibleBook.com and you can find out how to get that book and I think it is very important, if you have not read it, I would highly suggest you get a copy. It's also available now in paperback.

I wish you could understand the birth pains of producing a book like this to try to bring a nation back to stability and in some ways back to sanity and to understanding so that we can set our course for a better direction.

And the Christian VOTE pin, it just says Christians ought to be responsible citizens and as Christians we hold a standard up try to get all parties, all candidates, all people to go in a better direction when we need correction, let's make it and let's make it together, let's make it like a family, like Americans.

Well, Beth Moore is teaching and she is teaching on treasure. I think you're going to like this. I love the way she shares. I like what she says. You're going to like it too. How about welcoming Beth Moore? Here she is.

Begin video clip

Beth: Number four is so important to us because we know there are treasures out there. We know that they are not our treasures until they make it past our defenses. We know that if we are able to sit and ponder it long enough that these treasures will come together in such a way that we could see relationships between the things that we've experienced and encountered with the Lord Jesus Christ and there would be great healing in some of the things that we've been through.

But what we've got to understand is number four: Our treasure gets lost in the same trash as our time. Our treasure gets lost in the very same trash as our time. Anybody? That's where I'd almost like to drop my purse and sit down because this is the treasure we don't have.

Wouldn't we say today that, "Talk to me about treasures but the one treasure I don't have is I don't have the treasure of time." Well, you know what? If we don't have any time, we don't have any treasure. Because like astonishment or wonder can take a second but it takes time to treasure something. We are incapable of treasuring something that we don't take some time to meditate on, to think over, to let resonate -- to take down deep past the surface of our thinking going all the way from our brain down into our heart. That takes time and it's a scary thing in the culture that we live in that we are losing the art of meditation.

Y'all, let me tell you something. I will be at a stoplight, just at a stoplight and I will grab my phone and look at twitter. What in the world? What in the world? I have said out loud to myself, "Really? Seriously?"

[Laughter]

"45 seconds? And you need to read something?" Am I the only one? I need some company!

[Laughter]

Like really? And like every second has to be taken up. Every now and then, my phone -- this is the sad thing -- my alarm is in my phone. Anybody else? Where you set your alarm with your phone; that means you sleep right next to it. Do you know that because I can get my e-mail on my phone sometimes I will check it right before I go to sleep? Now I ask you something, what good will that ever do me? Because if it is a good e-mail then I'm going to think, "Oh, that is the coolest thing!" I'm going to think about it all night. If it is a bad e-mail, I'm going to really think about it all night. What can you gain?

But oh, no, I'm going to take up every conceivable moment, God forbid, that I sit and think. I have gone to great lengths -- it doesn't sound like I have but over the last couple of years to slow the freight train down. I want to tell you something, I felt this way about my children because I'm going to tell you, there is no doing it again.

I'm not putting any guilt on you. Nothing -- nothing is harder than parenting. But I am going to tell you that if you're thinking someday you're going to take time with them, there ain't no doing this again. There is no doing it again. None of us do it perfectly but we can take the time to invest in the people that we love.

And so I was very aware of that as my children were growing but I'm aware of it again with my grandchildren. I don't want to miss it. They only live about 12 minutes from me and my friend, Janice Meyer here on the team was asking me. She said, "Beth, how often do you get to see them?"

I said, "You know we all do life together, four generations, my in-laws, Keith and I, our kids, their spouses, and our grandchildren." And we're together very -- we do life on a weekly basis together and I don't want to miss it -- I don't want to miss it.

I don't want to miss the moments like a few days ago when Jackson was playing with his cars and we'd been -- we had the whole dining table set up with a track and we were playing together and we were just laughing and it was also very intense. And he said, "Bibby" -- that's what he calls me.

I said, "Yes!" And I'm just ready because it's my turn with my car.

And he says, "I love you!"

It was just like, "Boy, I love you buddy!"

Treasure it! Ponder it! Pull it in! Guard it! Defend it! Don't ever forget it when he is a teenager. And the favorite thing he has to do is not come to his grandparents with his friends. Remember this -- remember this!

I never want to forget what Annabeth looks like when I've just got her out of the bathtub and I've put her little jammies or her little gown on her and I sit her on my bathroom counter with her little feet in the sink and I blow dry that hair. Y'all, I can get it this big.

[Laughter]

You cannot believe how I can get that hair to do. It's just like huge by the time -- then if it is not big enough I put a big bow in the very top of it. I love it! I always want to see what she looks like, what that hair felt like in my hands. I love it!

I love, still to this day, to see my daughters. I don't very often see Amanda because she lives close enough where she doesn't spend the night with us very often but Melissa, my youngest daughter does and I love to see her when she is asleep because she looks just like she did when she was four! And I just love to sit there; and I'll sit there on the side of the bed and just play with her hair. I just love it. When I leave, very often she

will say, "I love you, Mom." Because she's been awake, I just haven't known she was. She is aware of me sitting there. I don't ever want to forget it. I want to treasure it.

I like to take a minute and stare at Keith's hand. We're planning to grow old together but what if we don't? I know every freckle on it. I helped put every line on his face.

[Laughter]

You know, what's a treasure to one of us is not necessarily a treasure to another. I've got to tell y'all a story. I wrote it down right before I came out to serve you guys today. I've told you before, I just love this team so much. My dear sister, Faith, not my blood sister naturally but my blood sister in Christ, Faith is the makeup artist and I'm just crazy about her because she is a woman of the spirit. I love that! She loves the music that we play while we're getting ready. And she told me such a story. I said, "Oh, I've got to jot that down." It is just perfect with our lesson. I knew that God had done it on purpose.

I was looking -- I was complimenting a bracelet that she had on and she said that years ago, many years ago she had seen a woman with a bracelet like it. It was like gold or maybe brass type and hollow inside, kind of a round... you can picture what it looks like, just a very simple gold or brass bracelet that's hollow inside. She said she really loved it because she thought that maybe it had been made to be all dented in like this woman's was. And she said it was the coolest thing because it was just like... it almost looked like an antique the way it had all been bent up, and she wondered if that was the way it came. So she said something to the woman and the woman said, "Oh, no." She said, "My baby teathed on it."

[Laughter]

She said she just couldn't get enough of it. And she just teathed on it. She goes, "Those are all the marks of her teething." She goes, "So I wear it." And she said, "Every time I see it..." and the child was much older then.

Well, my friend, Faith said oh! She was going to do the same thing.

[Laughter]

If she had another baby she was going to do the same thing. Well, sure enough the Lord gave her another baby; got her gold bracelet, just like it, handed it to that baby. She said -- this part killed me. The baby wouldn't do it. She said she even put it in her

own mouth and chewed on it!

[Laughter]

"Really, honestly, this isn't that hard. You put everything else in this house in your mouth, why can't you put this one bracelet?" She said to this day, that bracelet doesn't have a single dent on it. Why? Because that baby didn't treasure that but the other did. Sometimes one treasures something that the other one doesn't quite get.

Number five, we're going to build from Luke 2:22-35. I want you to see these words. It says:

And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses they brought him, (this is the Christ child,) they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. As it is written in the law of the Lord, every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord.

Now I want you to just picture that the son of God, God's own son is being lifted up before him in this scene in the temple courts. It is just so intriguing to me. 24:

And to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves or two pigeons.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon and this man was righteous and devout waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came in the spirit into the temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother --

Listen to this --

"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is opposed... 35: and a sword will pierce through your own soul also. A sword will pierce through your own soul also so the thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.

This whole portion tucked in-between these bookends of Mary being the exception. You see we'll always be the exception that we will be a people who treasure but Mary -

- while everybody else was just like all awed and full of amazement, Mary stopped and she treasured it in her heart. Everything that is tucked in-between is part of what she would have treasured in these scenes in the life of the young Christ.

I want you to notice with me that she's told at this moment that a sword will pierce her own heart too. I want you to write this down and then I want to illustrate it to you if I can.

Number five is this: We'll miss our most expensive treasure if we look past the hardship and pain. We'll miss -- we will miss our most expensive treasure if we look past the hardship and pain. We've got to get a new way of looking at hardship because listen, there is not a single thing you've been allowed to go through, think how many things you've asked God to help you completely avoid, to deliver you from, and you're still in it.

Now do you think he didn't hear you? Because he heard every single plea of your heart and still you are here in it. So somehow, some way, there was treasure in it. There was treasure in it. And we've got to begin to look at a hardship to realize, if God has placed me here and if he has not delivered me when he can most certainly hear my prayers, there is something here for me to treasure.

I want to show you something because we've thought about all sorts of things we can treasure: Experiences, encounters, revelation, things that God has done for us, wonders of God, all these things, but I want you to think now about the people we treasure most on the planet. There are a lot of people we like. You would agree with me on that. There are a lot of people that we even say, "Man, I love her. I love her!" We just pitch that word around. But in a lot of respects what we mean is, "I don't know her very well but I'm really taken with her. She really seems to be a neat person." So many of those, but then there are people in our lives... whoo! They're in... they're in. And how we know we treasure them is this:

I'm going to ask if I can use you for an illustration. Tell me your name.

>> Ashton.

Beth: Ashton, you are so precious. Can I use you for just a minute? Ashton, I'm going to turn you around just like this. You know that you treasure somebody when, if a sword went through Ashton, it would pierce my soul too. That's how I would know. That anything that hurt this child went not only through her stomach but all the way through mine -- that's when you know you are emotionally invested in the people that

you treasure. What happens to them that causes pain, what pierces them pierces you -- that's how you know.

Now Ashton, when my daughter was about 21 years old, my youngest daughter, she went through a broken engagement and it was one of the most painful things I have seen either of my children go through. It was a train wreck. We had the dress; we had everything under the sun. We had it planned; these were two godly people. In every other respect you would have thought they should have lived happily ever after if there was really any such thing. It was just not the Lord's will.

I can tell you that I sat next to that child for weeks and weeks, rubbed that back, sat with her and talked to her, just sat silent with her. I can't -- she was as limp as a dish rag. I mean this is a child that has the heart of a lion, and she was just spent, brokenhearted.

I'm going to tell you something, I said so many times during that period of time it was like she had been in a car wreck in a head-on collision but I was in the back seat. Make no mistake. Momma's in the back seat because nothing can happen to them. There are probably... what would we say? Let's not overdo it because how many people can you put yourself that much at risk with? So say there are 20 people in life that we treasure. Anybody getting this with me? We treasure. That what happens to them affects me. And when the sword goes through her heart, it goes straight through mine. That's why we hate to take the risk.

To treasure something is always -- always a risk -- always! But this is life. If I get home to my father and I have not treasured relationship, that I've treasured all of these experiences but I did not want to put my heart so far out there that everything that stabbed her had to stab me too. If I missed that, if she had missed the one, if Mary had decided listen... like what if God could tell us, what if we would -- we could -- but what if he would tell us when we're holding an infant in our arms, "Man, that child is going to be a lot of trouble -- a lot of trouble!"

[Laughter]

What if we began to distance our self? What if she had said, "A sword into my heart? Uh-uh -- I'm going to move back." But she stayed right in there to the point when that sword came she was standing right there at that cross and it went straight through her soul too.

Thank you, darling child. That's what it is to love. That's what it is to truly treasure. That we literally throw our hearts out there at risk over and over and over again.

The end of that chapter tells us what to do when we've lost our treasure. Go looking for Christ. Where is he? Where is he? Where did he go? Where did he go? It says that they were in a traveling party and I love that because man, I do love a traveling party. I love me a party!

I thought to myself, isn't it interesting, can't this happen, has it ever happened to you, because it has happened to me, that they were all together to go to the feast, they were all around Jesus but has it ever happened that you got together with this whole group of people that you really loved, that you had really gotten together because of Jesus? Maybe at your church, maybe a Bible study group, but somewhere along the way where is he? Where did he go? Anybody?

Like you thought, this is how we started. What happened? Where did Jesus go in this church plant? Where is Jesus? I don't mean where are all our rituals? Yes, we've got our bulletin, we've got our music, we've got -- we're going to pass the offering plate. We've got all of that going but no, no, where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?

Because sometimes it's time to get up and go look for him. If you've lost your treasure, you don't go looking for your treasure, you go looking for Jesus because he's got it -- he's got it. Because girlfriend, he is it. Guy friend, he is it.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, you will find what you're looking for in him. Whether you lost it or you feel like you never found it in the first place, he is the source, he really is the treasure in the pursuit of the joy, the happiness, the security, the peace, everything your heart longs for, he's the source. I pray you'll go there just like Beth is suggesting.

Betty, we've got some real exciting opportunities. I pick up here a little Christmas ornament. It's in this beautiful little felt bag and then there's a little gold shoe on a little string and that's a Christmas decoration. The thing that makes it so important is that it represents little shoes for little feet like these and then for a little bit older children with adjustable straps like this and many other sizes that we're going to do our best with your help to put on the feet of 200,000 children this Christmas in areas where most of them never had shoes. And many of them get diseases that cause incredible health problems, sometimes brain damage and even death.

I want you to watch. You're going to like the scenes. I've already seen what we're about to watch; thinking about one of the little children you're going to see, thinking about the joy that we can give them. We call it Christmas shoes and smiles. And that's what we can do together. Watch this. I think you'll see what I'm talking about.

On the mission field:

James: And I'm asking you to give as many pairs of shoes as you can to put on these beautiful, beautiful feet of these beautiful children! Thank you! Thank you for your help!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: That's... I tell you what, that's Christmas smiles and shoes right there for Christmas. She didn't have any cleft palate surgery, she got some shoes and put that big old smile on her face.

Betty, I'm praying everybody watching during this last week when we take the Christmas shoes and Christmas smiles emphasis that everybody watching will help us at least give 10 children shoes. That only takes \$36; \$72 will give 20 children shoes; a gift of \$144 -- you've got to do the math -- \$144 will give 40 children shoes. At some level you can help us. Would you do that? Is there any way you could say, "I'm going to make 40 children really happy for Christmas. I'm going to give them shoes." But don't step out if you can't do that.

If you can give ten, those ten because we'll target, with the missionaries, 200,000 little children and their feet to bless them. And then the smiles, Betty, I think everybody wants to give a smile to a child.

Betty: I do too! You had to have a big smile on your face when you watched that little girl dancing around in those shoes. It had to make you grin. We want to put some shoes on some children's precious feet but we want to put some smiles on some children's faces too, James.

James: And we can do that together. Would you dial the number right now? Like I said, this is our last week of this Christmas Shoes and Smiles emphasis. You dial the number, please. Take your bankcard, use it like a check -- the wisest way to use it -- and make the largest gift you can. If you want to write a check, make the check to *LIFE* but call that same number, tell us what you're mailing.

Many of our friends like to go online now and make their gift. You can go to *LifeToday.org* and just make the gift God puts on your heart. We've got it immediately and that helps us, we can tell the missionaries, "Hey, you're going to have shoes for the children in your area." That's why we work way ahead of time. I know it's way out, the little Christmas ornament, I'm excited about that right now but you will treasure it and it will bring back great memories.

Our son's book, *God Wants You to Be Happy* -- great Bible study, great lessons. What a gifted writer. I'm proud of our son. He's a treasure. We want to send you the book, as well as the other things we've mentioned like the beautiful "Lion and the Lamb" bronze if you'll give those smiles, those gifts for a couple of children to have a smile, \$1,000, will give two smiles. Would you do it? Whatever you can do, we're asking you to go to the phone or go online. Make that special gift and from the bottom of our hearts we 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.

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

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End of clip

James: Well, we really do want to send you Randy, our son's book, *God Wants You to Be Happy: Discovering deeper joy than you've ever imagined*. Joy is within. Happiness on the outside can be fleeting but joy within allows you to have a peace and a happiness in the midst of challenges and circumstances. It's a fabulous book. We're

sending it to all of you who will just help us give some shoes. We have the beautiful Christmas ornament, "The Lion and the Lamb" bronze.

Remember this is the last week of our Christmas shoes and smiles and we're asking, please, every one of you all over the world, would you call? Would you go online, *LifeToday.org* and make the gift God puts on your heart? You're going to make a big difference. You're going to really give some children some smiles and some shoes for Christmas that's going to be special. Thanks for doing it!