

Week 3
1/15/13

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James and this is Betty.

We've got Scott Stapp, Creed's lead singer. I love this title, *Sinner's Creed*. "Now I've shared it all, perhaps I've shared too much but in this you must believe, the only truth I've left is this, my *Sinner's Creed*." That's on the back. Incredible story!

Scott and his wife Jaclyn came by our home today, and Scott told me he had been listening to me preach since he was about 8-10 years old. And we really did have an incredible family reunion together, met Jaclyn.

Would you welcome Scott and Jaclyn Stapp?

[Applause]

Glad to see y'all. How's the journey now? Scott, how's the journey right now with the Lord?

Scott: It's blessed every day in some ways -- in most ways. God's revealing where he's leading us and what he wants us to do. He's just blessed us so much in different ways than we could ever imagine.

James: Are you watching progress in this guy's life all the time just being around him?

Jaclyn: Absolutely! Every day is... it's always exciting. It's never a dull moment in our home but I'm proud of him. We're so proud of him. He's come a long way.

James: He's come out of a lot. When you've got visibility like he had and the fame and the fortune that comes with selling millions and millions of albums, and what you're exposed to. You were watching me preach so I'm trying to help you all the way through this journey.

[Laughter]

You got exposed to a lot of stuff that I guess I wasn't able to quite lift you above it; it kind of got on you a little bit. Because I know I was trying -- I was giving it my all.

But tell our viewers because you really, you cut to the chase in the book but you were hurt and yet you were around a lot of religious stuff and you were around a lot of religious extremists.

I've got to be honest with you, what you share in the book, what you've even told me and Betty just in our time together, you were exposed to the kind of things that would make most people say, "I'll have nothing to do with God. I'll certainly have nothing to do with religion or church." Tell our viewers some of the things you went through.

Scott: Yes. It started at home. My father was abusive on many levels... and spiritually, physically. He was god in the household and introduced me to a god of fear, a god that required perfection.

I told you earlier, there were many times I reached out to the TV while you were on to ask for salvation again and again and again because that was how my relationship with God and Christ was instilled in me, that I could lose it like that. Any time I sinned I better get on my knees because if I get hit by a car or something happened, I'd be in hell. That was a tough place to live as a young person because my thoughts were on such heavy things.

What accompanied some of this punishment, and ritual punishment -- I can remember one time I was locked in my room for a month. I was fed under the door. One thing my dad did do is he had me write Proverbs and Psalms and other books in the Bible and then write a commentary on what they meant to me. So I would sit in there and do that. He would come in every Monday night for that month, and "I know what you've been thinking. I'm god in the household, a priest and prophet. I'm going to spank you every Monday night." And these weren't your typical spankings; I won't go into too much detail but the pants and the shirts were off, head to toe. It just put that fear in me.

And even though as a boy I would read scriptures and hear things from those that love God, God hasn't give us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind. That would get me to sleep at night saying that over and over again. But in my walk with Christ, it really separated me from ever fully understanding the love of God.

James: It's like somebody is cutting my heart out to hear you say this, to think that God is like that, because that's the last thing -- he's trying to prevent us from being hurt. In the name of God you were exposed to something that was as anti-God as it could get in the name of religion.

Scott: Well, as a boy, I looked at him as God, as a nine and ten year old; he was the father I always wanted. My father left when I was -- by biological father when I was five and -- so I desperately wanted a father. When he came in, he was everything I could dream of, 6 foot four, 230 pounds, an athlete, loved the same college football team and pro team I did and showed so much interest in me, and I was just in love. I talk about that in my book. So I equated that with God... perfectionism.

And eventually, as I talk about, I just felt, "God, I can't do this. I'm sorry, I'm just not good enough." That was backed up by things my father would say to me. So that led to me just giving up.

James: Did that lead you over to the addictions and abuses?

Scott: Well, not in the beginning. It led me to exactly what my father said was the antithesis of God and an instrument of the devil and that's an electric guitar.

[Laughter]

Just prior to that I went to a Christian college for a year; that was a deal my father made with me, I had to go there for at least a year. And I had a similar experience with -- I made a mistake, with the dean's son, and I confessed. Again, was shown "get out of here." So that just put the last nail in the coffin that I was made wrong, there must be something wrong with me and I can't do it.

But then on the other hand, periodically, my grandfather was teaching me about a God of love and a God that spoke to me and the world around me through nature. As I went on this journey, I couldn't escape God. And even though that word was put inside of me in a way that was damaging at the time, it never came back void. So that conversation continued.

As we talked earlier, I went into the darkness and I made rationalizations about it. I felt a call on my life and I'd tell God, "How I am supposed to ever really minister to people, and then think I'm credible if I don't have experience doing..."

James: So I'm going to go experience what the world offers, that way I'm more credible. You bought the lie. What made the turn around?

Scott: A series of unfortunate events. I'll have to make the movie but I had to hit my bottom. And for me, the whole world knew that I had some serious issues before I

could even see it. I talk about an onion, I had a lot of layers around me that I allowed to be put around my mind and my heart and was living in serious denial, serious ego; life run on self will. But through those times, and even though it was from my back, I cried out. And looking back, God was always there. Then he sent this angel into my life to help me relearn love.

James: What did she do for you?

Scott: Oh, my goodness! So much! She showed me God's love and the reality of what real love is and accepted me because see, I kept all that -- I cleaned up for her. When I met her, I was like, "I've got to get my life together."

[Laughter]

So I hit the gym and got buff and stopped everything I was doing. Then eventually it came out. She has faith and she was committed to me and she loved me even though I was unlovable.

James: When you saw the -- you'd seen the potential and you'd seen the dress up act, and when you saw the weaknesses, Jaclyn, what's going on in your mind?

Jaclyn: There were some very scary moments in the beginning. I didn't know what was going on. Scott didn't really know what was going on. I think I learned a lot even more about him after the book. But we finally just kind of accepted the situation. But one thing in our family is learning about forgiveness and compassion and just patience, to really look at someone and see who their real heart is. He always wanted to do the right things. And we've had our ups and our downs and our bumps like everyone else but we always kept prayer in our home.

James: When I first saw this couple because I meet a lot of people with my staff and guest coordination, and I want to show you how I met you first. You won my heart, Scott without ever being a rock guy and keeping up with everybody, and any kind of contemporary or rock music, knowing you're famous and all that. But I wanted to have you when I saw this, just a clip. It's probably on YouTube and some other places. Watch this.

Begin video clip:

Jaclyn: There was definitely several parts of the book that really, really moved me. There were many parts that were very, very sad that you can't put the book down but

you also -- you want to cry to know what he endured and what he survived, and the journey that he went through and just overcame. I was just speechless. It really just made me look at him differently in different ways. It's not every human can go through what he's gone through and be here today... and he's alive and we're so blessed to have him, the kids and I, and he's healthy. We're very grateful. We definitely take everything one day at a time.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Scott, just watching –

Was that a beautiful clip? Watching him?

What got me... what got me was you were looking at her and I was watching your hand on her shoulder, and just watching the way you looked at her, the way I think people looked at Jesus. But you were also looking at her with just the greatest admiration and appreciation and love, adoration... and it was in your face.

When a man loves a woman... when a man really loves a woman and appreciates her, it -- I can't tell you what it does. When I watch a man love his wife, want to build her up, and help the wife enter into all her splendor and glory in Christ, which I can just see that in the appreciation, you won my heart. Could you see that even watching that then? You weren't able to watch it while he was sitting there but could you feel too the appreciation and love?

Jaclyn: I can feel his love and just humbleness and his open heart and just the connection when he looks into your eyes and he is just connected with you.

James: Well, I want to tell you this, Scott. I didn't have a father. I've had many fathers now that have impacted me -- Billy Graham's been a father to me.

I love you Billy!

I've had people who just cared about me now on my journey. I want you to know I love you. You didn't have a father in a lot of ways you needed, I'm going to be available to you, if you need me. I've already told you I'll be there. So I'm with you. Tell what you think God's got for you guys. What do you feel?

Jaclyn, do you have any idea what is going to happen? Where y'all are going? Sure, he is a musician, and I think that's cool.

Jaclyn: Well, we take everything one day at a time in our house. But we're excited about the future and just getting our lives in order with the kids and getting started in a new church home. Dad's got some exciting things with work ahead but we're reflecting and learning.

James: How do we pray for you?

Scott: Well, we're rebuilding a foundation and trying to do it as God is leading us, and trying to keep one foot out of the future, and one foot out of the past, and just move forward. And just in being here, I know this is exactly -- today, I felt it in your home -- this is exactly where the Lord wanted me to be. Those affirmations just keep coming and I've got to be patient as you were telling me because I want all the answers now.

[Laughter]

I want to know it all now. In praying for us, just that God will continue to reveal himself to us and his plans for us, and just guide us in the direction that he wants us to go; help me and my wife to truly understand the love and grace of God.

James: If you said something, which the book is fabulous. His story is incredible. There's a tremendous amount of history in here. Hard to believe this little guy had a lot of the hurts and pains that he went through; just the whole story and the journey there with Creed and their fame. Boy, the incredible defeat and despair that Jesus lifted him out of it.

You've got a camera here that will have a tally light come on in a moment on you. If you want to talk to all those people and say to kids and people in music or whatever, or people who have been hurt by religion, kind of turned off, is Jesus real enough, big enough, personal enough, and God/father enough to get them out? Would you want to say something right to them?

Scott: Well, the first thing I've got to say is if Jesus can love a sinner like me, and provide me that love and grace, he most definitely is there for you 1,000%. I tell you, in seeking him, even from a place of not understanding, I found that Christ reveals himself. That's why I'm here today, that's why she's in my life -- just don't give up! And when there's nothing left to do, no matter how low you are and where you are, because I've been there, I've been there.

James: Father, I pray for all of our viewers today, wherever they are in their life's

journey, it may feel like hell on earth to them. They may be in a pit that somebody threw them in like they did Joseph, maybe one they've stumbled in like so many do, it may be one they're in because they dug it with their actions and their misdeeds and their foolish choices, but Lord, I want them to see that you're there wanting to lift them up today. In Jesus' name.

I pray with all my heart you'll understand that the *Sinner's Creed* is really and truly -- this is a rock group, but he's got a creed relationship with Jesus Christ that's real and genuine, it is not religion, it is relationship. He had been hurt by quote "religious" talk and actions that were totally ungodly. And wherever you've been, Jesus is real. He's real -- I'm telling you. It's the relationship you can have with God the father.

If you want someone to pray with you, that telephone number is there, it's paid for by love. We have a lot of people call who say, "I just need a friend. I want to be forgiven. I want a new start in life." There's somebody ready to pray with you. Would you just say thanks to God but also would you say thanks to Scott and Jaclyn for sharing with us?

[Applause]

God bless you. Love y'all! If you want a web site where you can kind of check on what's going on in their lives, there's the web site you can go to and say, okay, here's where they're going to be appearing, here's what they're going to do. And you can just focus your prayers and ask God to direct their steps.

Scott and Jaclyn, we're giving clean water to children that never had a chance. We've got a lot of diseases we don't have a cure for, we've got a perfect cure for contaminated water diseases and that's to give people clean water. I want you to watch this and I want you to join us in this incredible opportunity.

On the mission field:

>> Pathways... they often represent choices. And while some in life are trivial, this one... this one... and this one carry the weight of great consequence. But in reality, these pathways in this village can hardly be considered choices because they all end here. Which when it comes down to it, leads here.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Boy, that breaks my heart. That's... hmmm! Not just a little name there -- it's a name but it's a precious little life. Dear God! Betty and I have knelt too often by those graves. A lot of times they bury children right around their little hut or house. You walk outside their house and they've got little mounds -- it's family. They don't have to go to a cemetery with my baby. Then we go to -- we wouldn't call them cemeteries, they just go to burial areas where they just bury the children. It doesn't have to happen.

I think in the heart of every person there's a desire to relieve pain, suffering, pressure and there should be. If you have a perfect cure for anything... we've had West Nile outbreaks, no cure. We've had all kinds of problems taking lives.

I've told you many times, Betty and I are strong faithful supporters of St. Jude's. We don't stop and say, "Well, it was started by someone that was Jewish." How do you let stuff like that stop you, for crying out loud? If you love God and you love people, I say, "Praise God!" They're trying to save these little children's lives. We can find so many reasons, it seems, to not do the compassionate thing. What could be more compassionate than giving to people? See, we help St. Jude's to try to find a cure. We've got the cure for what's killing these children. We've got the answer to a mother's prayer, a child's need, to a family -- stop the death cycle.

Our missionaries have found 500 key locations where the need is desperate in 12 countries. And we've set up behind mark this year, economic uncertainties, a lot of people are thinking about many times, but I'm believing God is going to correct that. I think he'll correct our nation's course if we'll seek his wisdom and guidance and the heart harmony that only he can bring. We're trusting God to let us drill 500 water wells in these 12 countries. Would you drill one of them?

I'm asking all of you who watch -- I'm praying that all of our donors, Betty, will make it a personal goal to drill a water well in a year. We made it our goal 14 years ago. We were drilling once a year, then we started drilling twice a year. The wells were \$3600 and now they're \$4800 but we asked God to let us do it. We did it the first time, the next time. You know what? God has honored our prayer to where we've been able to do it every time. Sometimes we've drilled several. We ask God to help us start with one. We're meeting children who are drilling a well -- little kids! So if they can do it, we just say, "God help us do it."

But here's the thing that's really critically important. Not everyone can. You don't start there necessarily but we start somewhere. This is really important. \$48, ten people

water for the rest of their life; you make a \$48 gift toward a \$4800 well. If you could give \$144, 30 people water the rest of their life. There's a level at which you can start. Some of you could give \$1200 toward the \$4800 and say, "I'll pray three people join me. God, let three people join me!" Or \$2400 and pray one joins you. There are some of you who will say, "You know what? I can drill a well. I can do more than that."

Betty: James, as I was watching that, I thought, they're walking along a path. And most of the time, that path leads to a grave. I want them to walk a path that leads to the well, the well of life not only for their thirsty souls but for their bodies. I want you to help us and join us in doing that.

James: Well, really and truly, I've made it kind of a prayer theme that in mission outreach, I want to provide water for every thirsty person on planet earth, clean water, so they will have water for life and they'll be anxious to hear about the water of life that gave them that love expression.

Would you start today with that \$48 or \$144 or something toward the well or perhaps a well? We want to send you some special gifts to bless you because we love you. Thank you for helping us share Water for Life.

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 500 new water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten 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 Beth Moore's *"Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights,"* a beautiful new daily devotional to begin and end your day in God's presence.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Morning and Evening: I will Praise You*, a two CD collection of 20 instrumental hymns and the companion book that shares the stories behind each hymn.

Also, 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 limited edition 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, *Living Water* by artist Robert Summers.

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

In the studio:

James: You are going to want to ask for the beautiful songs of praise. Help us give 30 people water. And the hymns, this is incredible. This is how they were birthed and inspired, the story of the writers. *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*, what a great title! I don't know anybody that can help us any better than Beth. Just thanks to all of you!

By the way, if you call, we've got a lot of people calling to give their life to Christ. Praise God! But you want to call to give somebody life, you want to give them water and tell them about the water of life by sharing the Water for Life. Get through! Call until you get through because lives depend upon it -- futures depend on it.

Then I want to say thanks again to Scott and Jaclyn, *Sinner's Creed*. What a beautifully done book. It is absolutely awesome. Tyndale did it -- one of the great publishers. I've done probably 8-10 books with Tyndale. They gave us the LIVING BIBLE, and Taylor was a great, great man of inspiration to all of us.

Well, would you just say a big thanks to Scott, to Jaclyn?

Love you! Thanks for the way you love and honor her. Thanks for the way you look at her. Blessing! That's the way we ought to be with our beautiful wives! Build them up, lift them. Thank you!