

Week 2

1/4/12

Rerun from:

Week 36: 9/5/07

James: Welcome to LIFE Today, and especially "Wednesdays with Beth." This is a really special program. You're going to hear the message, the story, the illustration of the power and presence of God that has basically gone viral with Beth Moore, the entire clip. You're going to hear her tell a story that the whole world ought to hear that should register with every one of us as Christians.

She is teaching on the resources of God and how God blesses you beyond measure, to overflowing. And part of that overflowing presence is his direction and the communication he has with us so that he directs what we do, he basically orders our steps. You're going to hear that and you're going to see how important it is to heed that voice.

Also, at the conclusion of the program, we want you to get *MORE than ENOUGH* because God wants you to have more than enough. He doesn't want you to be troubled by bad news. You read Psalm 112, those who are generous and compassionate and who honor God and put him first, they don't fear bad news. You don't need to fear bad news.

We'll tell you how you can get the teaching series, *MORE than ENOUGH* because it's going to bless you. But here's Beth Moore and I'm telling you, you can get ready to get blessed. You're going to want to pass this on. You'll even want to direct people to *You Tube* to hear her tell the story you're about to hear. Here's Beth.

Beth: Everything we switch out for what Christ came to minister to our souls, every bit of that is an idol -- every bit of that! So, we have struggles thinking of the Old Testament concepts, of their culture, when really we understand this one. We are a culture that certainly understands idolatry. We'll turn to substitution.

I want you to hear some words out of Isaiah 44, verse 20. Jot down that address, but I'm going to read it to you. Isaiah 44, verse 20. Another name, as we're thinking in the terms of idolatry, it says this so perfectly, "He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot say to himself, 'Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?'" "...a deluded heart misleads him."

The word of God tells us that, above all, the heart is deceitful. That your heart -- if you're just going to go on emotion, on how you feel, especially before that heart begins to get sanctified and gets some fullness from Christ, when we're still just an accident waiting to happen -- that heart will lie like a dog to us. Anybody know what I'm talking about?

How many bad relational decisions have we made because of a deluded heart? It says that with this deluded heart we can't look down our right hand and go, "What I'm doing to try to fill my emptiness is one big fat lie!" It is a lie. It is a lie! It's what's at the base and at the root of every addiction. Because it lied! And now we've got to have more. And we've got to have a little more than we did last time, because then, of course, we kind of adjust to that level, and more and more and more... Subsistence or substitution.

You sit tight right there in Luke 4, but I'm going to read to you some stunning words out of Jeremiah 2, that speak to this perfectly. It says in verse 13 of Jeremiah 2, "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

When we dig our own cisterns it's not going to work. It is not going to work. It has cracks in it every time and everything we pour into it just pours out of it. When I come before Christ and I say to him, "All right Lord, I mean I am *a need* waiting to be filled." See, that's fair. That's fair! I know I've got cavernous places in my soul. Psalm 90 says, "Satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love." That's exactly what we see in Ephesians 3. Let's turn back there right now. Let's take a look at this because I want you to note something.

In being filled to the measure that is specified in Ephesians 3, notice with me that it says, in the context of grasping how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, it says that you may know that love that surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Oh, please go there with me. Because you and I don't just need to be full, we need to be full of somebody's love. Every single one of us has an innate, overwhelming, not just desire to be loved, but a *need* to be loved. You are never at greater risk, nor am I, than when we are not feeling properly loved. We will look for that. You want to talk about an empty vessel? If we do not go to God to get that cup filled, let me tell you we are going to get ourselves into a tremendous amount of trouble, because there is something very real inside of each one of us that not only needs to be full, I've got to know somebody totally loves me. I cannot change that, no matter what I do.

But the word of God is teaching us how to come to him. Before he fills me up, I've got to empty myself out. That's when I'm going to come, and I'm going to bring him my confessions of sin. I always have something to confess. I'm going to bring him my concerns. I'm going to tell on people that have hurt my feelings. Do you understand what I'm saying? We'll do all of those things. Then after I just empty myself before him, I want to ask him, "Lord you come, you just overtake me."

See, the filling of the Spirit is not about a spiritual gift! It's about a state of *being*. Full! And with that fullness comes power, and you never know what you're going to do with that kind of power. Something beyond you.

I want to tell you a story that I told many, many years ago, that remains dear to me. Particularly because people bring it back up to me over and over again. It's probably the thing I've been asked about as much as anything regarding stories and Bible studies along the years. It's such a statement in my own life, and such a memory of God overtaking me and enabling me to do something I couldn't do. You have no idea how dangerous you would be if you would live filled to the measure with the fullness of Christ.

I was headed off to the east side of the country to Asheville, North Carolina to speak. I'd been memorizing scripture and I remember very clearly I was memorizing John chapter one at the time. I was on the airplane, and the way I do my memory work is I have to say it. I read it then I say it out loud, and I read it then say it out loud. I read it and then I look away from it and see if I can say it. So I did this over and over again until I got stumped on a passage and the guy sitting next to me completed my sentence. And he was not happy about it. [Laughter] He had no desire to memorize John chapter one. None! None.

So, I got to my layover and I was about to go -- I was going into a small town, Asheville, so I was about to move to a prop. I had to go through a part of the airport that was just one large room where you went off into several different halls, down to the smaller planes. For a small airport, in the small part of the terminal it was packed, absolutely packed. Our chairs were all facing one another so there were a set of chairs that were against the wall and I was in the one straight across from them... I was totally immersed in my memory work.

The only reason I am telling you this is I was filled to the measure. I had had a wonderful morning with him and I was filled to the measure. So I was sitting Indian style in my jeans and sweater, and I had my Bible open in my lap, and I was going back over it and back over it. Boy, I was getting it. I was all the way down to about verse 18, and boy, it was coming to me. I was having a great time.

Suddenly I see that the eyes of all the people against the wall are watching something behind me. It was like a movie because all of their eyes shifted this way, this big around, and they began to come this way. Whatever it was, it was going right behind me. I'm thinking, "Oh, I wish I were looking." Are you like that? I'm a people watcher. I so desperately thought, "What are they looking at?" And I can't wait to look for myself until it comes all the way around here. Suddenly, in my peripheral vision, I began to see a little of it. It is a flight hostess that is pushing a man in a wheel chair right to the end of my row, and there is nobody between us. And this place is packed. So I want you to know that Jesus went to a significant amount of trouble to make sure that I saw this man.

I wait until everybody else gets more polite, and then I go -- And when I look over at him, he was the oddest sight. He looked like he was not one iota less than about 129 and I'm not kidding. This was the oldest looking person I had ever seen. Not only that, but he had gray hair that was down to here. His finger nails were every bit as long as mine. He was clean, but it was just an odd sight!

His pants looked like he had obviously lost a lot of weight because they were just bunched up. I'll never forget how he looked. His head was just hanging down like this and his hair was in streams this long. Whoa! It was one of those times when you think, "That is Howard Hughes!" [Laughter] "That has got to be Howard Hughes." You think any moment, "I'm going to have an Elvis sighting." You know, it was that kind of thing. This is what's happening in the airport today... so I can hardly take my gaze off of him.

I try to get my face back down and go back to my memory work. This is how much God thinks of us just memorizing scripture but not doing anything with it... because the Lord begins to compel my heart. Overwhelms me! Overwhelms me! Well, I have learned, I've walked with him a long time. I knew by now that is scary. God is up to something when he is overwhelming your heart like that.

I just thought, "Oh please, God, no! Oh, please! Please, God, *no!*" because I'm already knowing he wants me to witness to this man. So I say to myself in my spirit -- and I'm not talking out loud, but in my spirit I'm talking to God silently. I'm sure my mouth is going -- because I say to him, "Do not make me witness to that man!"

Now, I'm going to tell you, as clear as I'm talking to you now, the Lord spoke to my heart. There's been very few times I've ever heard God be this articulate with me. And I'm telling you, word for word, these words came into my heart: "I'm not asking you to witness to him; I'm asking you to brush his hair." "Lord, that man needs witnessing to!" [Laughter] "What good is combed hair if a man is lost? And I can tell, Lord, that man -- I

am your witness, I am your witness! *I am* your witness! *I am* your girl! Me! Me!" I've got the Roman road! Amen?

Still, in my heart, I mean we're just having a fight. "I didn't tell you to witness to him. I told you to brush his hair!" I thought, "I don't have a hair brush!" I fix my hair, and then it's done for the day, until I unfix it. And the brush is in the luggage. Do you understand what I'm saying to you?

So I say, "I don't even have a hair brush!" And the Lord's still compelling me. So I get up, walk over, and I'm thinking to myself, "I don't even have a hair brush." I'm supposed to be thoroughly equipped under all good works. I do not have my hair brush! [Laughter]

I walk over; I get right in front of the man. His head is hanging down like this. I lean down like this and I said, "Sir, may I have the honor of brushing your hair?"

And he says, "What?"

A little louder, "Sir, may I have the honor of brushing your hair?"

He goes, "Little lady, if you want me to hear you, you're going to have to speak up."

[Shouting] "Sir, may I have the privilege of brushing your hair?"

To which every one in the airport goes whoa... [Laughter] I can feel every eye just piercing me, just like this, and I was humiliated! He looks at me and says, "If you want to." And I'm thinking, "I don't!" [Laughter] I don't want to!

I said, "Yes, sir. I would absolutely love to, but my problem is I don't have a hair brush." [Laughter]

He says, "I have a hair brush. It's back in my bag."

So I go all the way around the wheel chair, his bag is on the back of it like this. I get down on my knees. I unzip this little duffle bag and I start pulling out his clean undershirts, his pair of pajamas... all sorts of things.

And as I do, I cannot tell you the feeling that overwhelms me. I'm just flooded with the love of Christ. I found the hairbrush; it's one of those real old bristle ones. It doesn't look anything like our brushes do now.

When I stood up I went over to him and I thought, "You know, to tell you the truth, this is what I'm good at!" I had two girls. I'm *good* at this. I just came and I began to brush his hair. It was so matted that I couldn't even believe it. So I had to get down to the very bottom of it and I just brushed the very ends of it. And then just a little bit; it took us forever! I want to tell you, I was oblivious to everybody else in that room.

At that point, nobody else was alive to me. I just kept brushing and brushing until that hair was as smooth as silk. I went back around to him and squatted down in front of him and put my hands on his hands – they were on his knees and his head was just like that. And I said, "Sir, do you know Jesus?" And he said, "Yes, I do." I said, "Well, of course you do." [Laughter] That figures! I wanted to share the gospel with you, but no, you need your hair brushed!

He told me that his little bride of so many years would not marry him until he came to know Christ. And he said, "I was just sitting here thinking to myself ..." and he wept, I'm about to cry telling you. He said, "I was just sitting here thinking what a mess I must be for my bride."

He'd been in that hospital for months and he was about to return back home. Nobody had cut his hair or anything. I don't know how long it had been since it had been brushed!

That hostess came and put him on the plane. She came back out and she was crying, I mean hard. She said, "What made you do that?" I said, "Jesus! He's the bossiest thing!" [Laughter]

She did need Christ, so I did get to talk to her. He knows what our need is. The man didn't need witnessing to, he needed his hair brushed! When we are filled to the measure with the fullness of Christ, [whispers] -- you sweet thing -- you cannot believe the needs we can meet. We can do what we know we can't. And while you're doing it, you're just thinking, "That ain't me! That really ain't me!" No -- it's God.

In the studio:

James: Wow! That's God. Beth, I sure love you! Lord, I sure love you making Beth that sensitive. I could tell you story after story very, very similar – some that are so amazing you'd say, "James, that knocks my shoes off!" Well, God wants you to live with that kind of blessing.

I want to ask you, if you would, and you'll hear Beth talking about something that missionaries have brought to our attention right now as we close the year and begin a New Year. Missionaries oftentimes say, "Here's something we really need some help in. We need some emergency feeding in malnutrition clinics. We need thousands and thousands of these emergency feedings to save children under five." The situation's almost unbearable to behold and look at. I want you to watch.

On the Mission Field:

Isak: This child is three years old and you can see all of the traditional signs of just a bad case of malnutrition. Their hair changes color. Their hair really thins out..

Dr. Samuels: What you see, this is the real Bombay. And children do not have anything. Whatever food that this child is holding right now that you see, whatever they get is whatever they pick up over here or something that is lying down; whatever they find or if somebody just throw something from the rickshaws.

Beth: It's an inconceivable sight! There is nothing that prepares you to see a child in this kind of condition. It is almost unbearable! I think how in the world does this happen?

Announcer: In many countries around the world, severe drought, famine and shrinking food supplies have left the youngest of the young feeling the harshest effects. Mortality rates are on the rise and it is the infants, toddlers, and those under the age of five that are most susceptible to disease and sickness.

James: This is a typical little -- poor little child's doll. This little baby closes its eyes and opens its eyes. This is some little child's toy.

You know one of the saddest things of all, Betty, is that many of the little children that play with this before they're five, they die and their little eyes close like this little doll. They close and never open again. We want to give them a future hope.

In the Studio:

James: Too many times a little baby's got his eyes closed. When they sit them up, try to wake them up, they can't ever open their eyes, they're gone. Every organization, every -- I don't care if it is the U.N. reports or world feeding and food program reports or missionary reports, most of the deaths with these are children under the age of five, many of them are just babies and infants... malnutrition.

The malnutrition clinics, it's a part of our mission feeding outreach but it is a very special highly focused part, very expensive even by our standards, we might not think so but it takes 50 cents for each one of those meals. And the missionaries tell us they need 400,000 emergency nutritious feedings made available to them right now.

So I want to ask you to dial the number and make the greatest gift you can. This is a great way to begin your New Year and say, "I want to do something really special, help these missionaries save these little children's lives." As Beth said, you heard Beth Moore say, "It is unbearable." You can't hardly stand to look at this, it is unimaginable! But it is correctible. It is not like some disease for which there is no cure -- you and I have the cure.

I want to ask you to make the greatest gift you can. Dial the number, use your bankcard and help us provide as many meals as you can. If you can give several thousand dollars to provide hundreds and hundreds of these meals, then do it! If there is any way you could give \$100 and enable us to provide a couple hundred meals do it!

Well, we want to send you a teaching series on *MORE than ENOUGH* because God literally says that he will give you more than enough. Listen to what his Word says and he's talking about giving, he's talking about when you share, when you give cheerfully, when you give to meet a need, God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. In this teaching series, we show you how putting God first, Robert Morris teaching on The Blessed Life and I heard him teach this at our church again recently and I said, Robert, that message needs to go around the world. Well, it is. It is in the process of going. You need to hear this. It was all I could do to contain myself.

He said, "It's so great not when people get it about getting, but when they get it about giving because when you get it about giving and releasing life you get it about living." Because real life is really a release of that which God not only has entrusted to our watch care but what he's put within us. That's his love and his compassion. And we release this toward others. The world is not only waiting to see it, they're longing to see it. When they see that release of love and compassion and they see people get it, concerning the management of their resources and the release of it, God pours out his blessings.

You don't get caught up in measuring yourselves among yourselves about who has how big a house or how big a car or what kind of -- you don't do that! It doesn't matter. All that matters is whatever you have, it never so possesses you or your possessions so control you that you can't see needs and meet those needs in others.

Let us send you the teaching. Jimmy Evans talks very directly to couples. What an anointing he has! Rabbi Lapin teaches in a book as a Jewish Rabbi the Old Testament truths that have enabled the Jewish people to have understandings that have enabled them to prosper in some of the most challenging times. These are biblical truths.

Give us an opportunity to share these resources with you. We'll send you the CD teachings. We'll send you the book that I've written on *True Prosperity*, it is so much more than money! It's about life. If you like to have the resource material and the books that I have found to be so inspiring and so challenging, make a gift of \$100 to help us provide a couple hundred of these emergency feedings and we'll send you those books also. They will become a part of a treasured library to help you manage the treasures God has entrusted to your watch care.

Dial the number. Use your bankcard like a check. Write a check and make it to LIFE or you can go to LifeToday.org and help us touch others and ask for these incredible resources. God has for you *more than enough!*

Begin Video clip:

Announcer: In recent weeks, we've seen more and more young children under the age of five coming to our *LIFE* Centers, clinics, and feeding stations -- most are severely malnourished, requiring special care to properly feed them. Mortality rates are quickly on the rise and it is a need that certainly cannot be ignored.

With your help we can provide an additional 400,000 emergency nutritional feedings that are specially formulated for children under five, including powdered milk and intravenous feedings. At a cost of 50 cents per meal your life-saving gift of \$25, \$50, or \$100 will help provide 50, 100, or 200 emergency nutritional feedings.

With your gift we'll send you *MORE than ENOUGH*, a new dynamic eight-part audio teaching series that will show you God's plan for your financial peace and provision.

Also included is James Robison's insightful book, "True Prosperity." With your gift of \$100 or more to help provide 200 emergency feedings, you may also request these dynamic books, *Thou Shalt Prosper* by Rabbi Daniel Lapin, *Money, Greed, and God* by author Jay Richards, and *Who Switched Off Your Brain?* by Dr. Caroline Leaf.

Finally, as a special challenge, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide 2,000 emergency feedings and you may also request the back by popular demand,

“As the Deer” bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your gift online today at LifeToday.org.

End of clip

In the Studio:

James: Many of our viewers have asked if they could get the bronze, “As the Deer Panteth for the Water so My Soul Panteth for You.” You make a gift to help us provide 2000 of those meals or more, make a gift of \$1,000 or more, some of you may say, you know what? I can do even more than that. But we’ll send you more than enough, send you the teaching series and material and the books that will bless you and this beautiful bronze. We need that kind of gift from those of you who can help. Thank you for doing it! He does have for all of us, more than enough because he is more than enough!

God bless you! Thank you for being a part joining us blessing others. Thank you so much.