

Week 4
1/23/13

James: Thank you! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to welcome you to what we call "*Wednesdays with Beth*" -- Beth Moore.

I want to remind you that *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights: Devotions to begin and end your day in God's presence*. These are some of the... I think probably, most high-impact teachings, and we obviously refer to them as devotions, that you're going to find leading you into a meditation in the Word of God, morning and evening. And it will be *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights* so we're offering that to those of you who will help us simply give, literally, a cup of clean water to those who do not have it. How sad that is.

Beth Moore is teaching on affliction. I want you to listen to her. We all face afflictions. What do we learn? Can we get some answers?

Here's Beth. I think she'll help you.

Begin video clip:

Beth: Genesis 16:11. And the context is Hagar, being mistreated by Sarah.

Now, listen, is that any wonder? But that is another story in another lesson entirely but like Sarah gets Hagar all into the situation, has her with her own husband, I ask you, what was she smoking?

[Laughter]

What was the woman smoking? But there it is. It is what is but what results is a whole lot of strain.

God himself, the angel of the Lord says to her,

Behold! You are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael because the Lord has listened to your affliction.

It's the first time it's used like that. Listen to your affliction. So, what category would that be in? Okay. Let's think it over. If it's Hagar being mistreated by Sarah.

Anybody being treated ugly? Maybe you don't even know why. I wonder, I've got a high school friend, a high school senior friend back in the Houston area that has spent most of this school year being bullied by a couple of girls in her school. Mmm! You know, when it's just everything you can do to keep from going to the school yourself and you're just a friend because everything you do going, "You know what? I'm just going to sit in class with her today." I have a word! I have a word! But, they aren't really interested in a word but I mean it just was like more than I could stand.

If Sarah and Hagar had lived in our present culture it may be that Sarah would have even cyber bullied Hagar. She might have even started up a phony facebook account to make fun of Hagar. It could happen all sorts of ways. She might blog about Hagar. But every part of that realm, when someone is just mistreating someone else, bullying them, that is a form of affliction. If it afflicts you!

Now some of you, I don't get it but I know this exists. Some of you, somebody could bully you all day long but you don't feel bullied. Me, I could make a bullying out of that you stepped in front of me in my coffee line. "Why did you do that? Is it like I'm invisible?" Do you know what I'm saying? I could go down, I could be in the bathroom at the airport and the water just won't come out of the faucet and I'll go, "What? You act like I'm not even here!" So I'm not a person to judge, because I can make an affliction out of nothing but for most people bullying would mean that they feel afflicted.

Then we get to Genesis 29. Genesis has a lot of affliction. That would not surprise you if you know anything about it. Genesis 29:32. Okay, this is when Leah is not loved by Jacob. I'm sorry to have to say this but he loved his other wife better. One too many wives. One too many wives! Again, that's a setup for disaster.

But what happens in this point is that the Bible refers to her particular plight, Leah, as the unloved one. The Bible refers to her plight as -- what would be the word? An affliction! If you're just tuning in with us we are in a series about affliction and I'm just thinking, if you'd hang around long enough, you're going to figure out that you have had one and might have one presently and we need to learn what to do with it. So if you feel like you have been unloved by the person you want to love you -- Anybody ever been that? I have. Or if you have been rejected. Maybe they never did. Or you've

been betrayed. That's all this Leah and Jacob form of affliction right here in Genesis 29:32.

Another one would be just a couple of pages over, it's almost like just deserts, this is very interesting to me as I looked up this word study. Genesis 31:42 Jacob now is getting his own affliction because now he's being afflicted by Laban. So, he's being mistreated and he's being tricked, and being treated with dishonesty and without fairness and I wonder if there's anybody that feels like that happens to them at work. Because, in many respects, it would translate into our culture as that he worked for this man, Laban, and he mistreated him over and over and made him start over and over and over again. So, he's mistreated at work and his daughters all manipulated up in the deal as well. So it was just a mess.

So I just wonder, anybody being treated dishonestly, unfairly, feel like an employer is scheming or never does give them the promotion that he promised or she promised. That would qualify, just in case you wonder if you're just a wimp actually, biblically, that would qualify as -- what would be our word? -- as an affliction.

Genesis then gives way to Exodus and it starts from the very beginning with an affliction. We would get no further than Exodus 3. If you're taking any of this down it will be Exodus 3, verse 7 and verse 17. And the Lord says in verse 7:

I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their task masters. I know their sufferings and I have come down (the next verse says) to deliver them.

So any form of bondage, any yoke of slavery would be a qualification, a big one and one we will camp on for some time in our series, that would qualify as an affliction. Anything enslaving or oppressing can cause affliction. Don't lose sight of that one.

This next one, I thought about this, I think I am a student as much as anything. I love the classroom. I love to be on this side of the classroom and I'm blessed to be on this side of the classroom but I try to think, what would hit me if I were you and what would be tender to me if I were you. And I thought about this one because somebody is going to resonate with this and it is going to prick a place in her heart.

The next place we would see it, the next major place would be 1 Samuel 1:11. Jot down that address and I'm going to tell you the context. 1 Samuel 1:11 and it was Hannah in her childlessness. As she struggled through, desperately wanting to have a child and

being unable to conceive, her plight in that scripture is called an affliction. She asks God in prayer,

“O Lord of hosts! Indeed, look upon the affliction of your servant!”

An affliction. So I just wonder, has anybody ever known that kind? I wonder, right here, has anybody ever struggled through? Women all over this room and I can't imagine how many on the other side of that screen and I want to say to you, again, if you think, “I need to pull myself together.” And you know what? There's something to be said for that. There's strength and grace of God for that but maybe, for this moment, it's not bad to stop and take stock of the fact that actually it qualifies. It feels like an affliction. It's painful. And it doesn't just necessarily like come in a moment and go -- An affliction is something like, you feel afflicted by. 1 Samuel 1:11

That would bring us then to Job 10:15. There's a reason why I especially want to throw this one in here because the word *affliction* is used here by Job himself to categorize his intense suffering and it includes at this point intense physical suffering. The reason why I wanted to make sure we threw that one in is because some of you are truly, I mean you are going through sickness and going through chronic pain.

You may remember, if you have been part of Wednesdays for long, we talked about a season that I went through that lasted, I think, every bit of eighteen months, from beginning to end, where God just entrusted me with an area of physical pain. I don't think I'm out of turn to say that James has gone through some of that too, where you just, for a while, you get to know what it feels like when other people are dealing with a physical pain continually, that won't seem to let up. I can remember like it happened yesterday, the day that I said I'm in pain all the time. It was like I -- I felt like I'd been aware of it and then one moment it just hit me, no, this is not going away. It was in my back and it was like, I can't get rid of it. It's very demoralizing.

When you know that you are glancing at your watch to see when it's bedtime because of your physical pain, you've got an affliction, girlfriend! You've got an affliction, guy-friend! So, that qualifies. That qualifies. And Job is one of the places that we can hold onto that, biblically.

Psalm 9:13 I really want you to write this down. Psalm 9:13 The Psalmist here was afflicted specifically because people hated him. He was hated by some people and he called his plight, “affliction.” He says to the Lord,

Be gracious to me, oh Lord, see my affliction from those who hate me.

Has anybody just ever had someone just hate them? Just hate them! And if you're like me it's like confusing, just confusing. Because I'm a sanguine I just want to go, "I love you!" I mean I want to tell somebody in line, if they're behind me and we get to talking over our groceries and we're checking out, I am so southern, when I walk away I'm practically going, "Bless you! I love you!" Do you know what I'm saying? That's its own affliction.

[Laughter]

It's certainly her affliction. I do want you to know that I don't do it but it would almost be in me.

So, when someone -- every once in a while someone will say, "Have you gotten used to the criticism? No! Have you, Betty? No! No! It hurts! And one reason it does is because we are making a choice to keep our hearts in it. We could do -- I mean there are people that get over it. But what they've had to do that are out there getting criticized all the time, they have to get hard in their heart so that it will quit hurting so much.

So in that defense, so for those of us who are trying to stay soft hearted out there, it hurts! It hurts. And it's just like why? I mean, why? What in the world? I don't understand this kind of hatred. I understand respectful criticism. We get a lot of that and I get it. I get it. "Listen, I know you're really trying out there," they'll say, "but I'm having a struggle with this." I receive that, even if I don't agree with it, I'll receive it.

But meanness, unkindness -- No, that hurts. It's just like, "They hate me! They hate me." So the psalmist calls that an affliction.

This one is going to be very, very important to us in the second half of our series on affliction. Our first half, these weeks, are about, "Consider My Affliction." Not only are we asking God to consider it, we're considering it. What qualifies as one? How would we define it? How would we know if we're having one? That's what this one's all about.

The next part of the series, in part, we'll really build right here, but I do want you to hear this one for now. Jot down, if you're taking notes, Isaiah 48:10. This is God talking through the prophet Isaiah to the people of Israel when he says this:

Behold, I have refined you but not as silver. I have tried you in the furnace of --

Guess what that word is going to be. Affliction.

I have refined you, but not as silver. I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.

Okay, we're going to learn something wonderful about this in the next half of our series so we're even going to feel better about this because even then we're going to learn that God is for us and not against us. But understand with me, for our purposes, if we don't camp on this one then we're going to miss an important one, all of them are. We don't want to miss any of them.

But an affliction can be something that can characterize us going through a disciplinary process with God. Now, whom God loves he chastens. So, when God says to me without audible words but just heart-to-heart, well, we need to work through this right here, it's out of his love. You don't correct, I don't correct other people's children. I want to

[Laughter]

sometimes but I don't, but I do correct my own. And when it would frustrate them, like you know, everybody else, you know what? They're not my children. They're not my children. Lucky you. I'm not putting up with it. Anybody? Because you're mine.

That's God with us. Whom he loves, he chastens. So, a time of disciplinary measures with God, which is always out of love and always for us, I can't wait for us to see that part together. That qualifies as a time, it can be a time of affliction.

So, I mean, we're all we've got so far. We've got some good stuff. We've got, okay, you could be bullied, you could be rejected, unloved, jealousy could be involved, you could have an unfair scheming employer or supervisor, you could be feeling enslaved or oppressed, you could be going through infertility, you could be afflicted by all manner of physical ailment, you could be afflicted because people hate you, you could be afflicted because you're going through a disciplinary time with God. Now, those are just the ones we're mentioning for now in scripture but you can see how broad it is.

With all of that said, how many of you -- I'm going to see right here but I hope you're going to be talking to us too. How many of you have ever been through an affliction? Oh yes! Oh yes!

Would you be willing to say today, if nothing was like, there wasn't going to be any kind of reprisal, I'm not going to walk over to you with a microphone, I want you to know in advance I'm going to hold my hand up too, because that's part of the reason we're studying together. Very rarely am I every going to bring you anything, that's just like a waste of time on me. I'm a needy woman for the word of God. I'm a needy woman for the word of God. So I need this word! I need this word. So, if it's not doing anything for you, girl, I'm here for my word. I'm here for my word.

How many of you would say, "No, I'm presently dealing (there's no shame in it, whatsoever; it's common to man) I'm presently dealing with an area of affliction." Anybody? Okay, that puts us in a really, really prime place to receive a word.

Let me tell you, if you need him he will never, ever just put you away. Never! When you need a word you're going to get one. You're going to get one. Just never send you away in shame. It's just not going to happen.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: And he never will. I think the enemy continually lays the blame and the shame on us. And we can find all the reasons to agree with the enemy, the accuser, and say, "Yeah, you're right." But the Lord wants to take that and he really wants to lift the load. If you can learn what it is to get in the yoke with him and let him carry it, let him lift it, it becomes light. I pray you learn that. You're going to see something right now that I can promise you God will use to lighten your load.

You talk about some affliction -- when people are watching their children die, when they're watching the greatest source of joy they have... because in the third-world countries, they don't have all the entertainment so family and children, that's the highest source of joy they've got. And of course if we're honest about it, it's our highest. But they have nothing else. And when they lose the one and only, that precious life, and they do continually, and they lose those lives to something that could be instantly cured -- you can do it. You can literally offer the answer, the total complete solution to the challenges they face.

I want you to watch, I want you to prayerfully focus, and then I want you to ask God, "How can I be a clear expression of your love and your heart and literally, extend your hands and meet a need?" Watch this.

Begin Video Clip:

Water means life to the world. But diseased water... causes waterborne illness that takes the life of a child every 20 seconds. They have no other choice... you can change that. Help drill a water well. Mission: Water for Life.

[Cheering & Laughing]

End of clip**In the studio:**

James: I will never reach a point in my life... I would think life had ended when I would look and see a need like I see with those children. The images just flash back from what I saw the little children getting the only water they had access to and it's contaminated, it's death. Seeing that mother that was in the images there from overseas with a little baby strapped on her back, knowing her whole world is wrapped up in that little bundle and knowing it's very likely she had already lost a child several years old, to contaminated water.

I look out here in the audience and we've got a lot of young people here. And every one of the young people in this audience, I watched their eyes and I watched their faces while they were watching, and in every one of these children I could see concern, thinking about that's what they got. It's like drinking poison. It's all they've got.

That's why so many people bring their grandchild or their children when they're little to me and to Betty and they want us to meet them because they say, "My grandchild... or my daughter... or my son, watch y'all on the television and saw the children with the need for water. And this six year old or this eight year old, they've drilled a water well. They drilled a water well, a whole \$4800. They raised it." And then they begin to tell me how they did it, all the different ways that they do it. It's amazing to me.

I don't think there is a kid sitting here or a person in this studio that wasn't saying, "I want to find some way that I could do that." Well, we can. There's a way we can. I don't want to -- when you think about \$4800, that's a tremendous sum of money but a child does it. We've had children that would work the whole year and drill two water wells. It's amazing to me. It's because the desire to do it is in their heart because of love, the love of God, and then we become the expression of that heart so we can do it. We can meet the need.

But I want you to understand something. When you give a cup of water, Jesus said, you won't lose your reward. Let him determine what that reward is; don't start guessing at it. Another will make you some silly promise: You give us money and all

of your bills are going to be paid. You may need to learn a lot about money management. So let's learn that. Let's don't play a spiritual lottery game with God. Don't get me into that stuff!

We're talking about doing something that blesses God and blesses others. You say you give a cup of water; I'm going to bless you. Let me just tell you something, if you can't give \$4800 or work this year to do it, I'm asking you to pray about it. God, this year, let me give a well. Go ahead and make it a prayer. But right now we've got a goal to drill 500 wells; that's the most we've ever drilled in a single emphasis -- 500 of them in 12 countries. \$48 -- stop right there a minute -- ten people water for the rest of their life, that's how it breaks out -- \$144, 30.

There's a level at which you can do something now. You can start with the cup of water for ten people for the rest of their life. Would you do it? Dial the telephone number there. Use your bankcard like a check, that's how you should always use it. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*; call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. If you want to go online, LifeToday.org and make the gift God put on your heart. If there's any way you can give a well, and Betty, we've got people that give \$1200 and three people join them, \$2400 and another person joins, at whatever level you can come in, come on in now and then start praying, God, before the year's out, I'm going to drill a well. Ask God to help you. Betty and I did that. He answered our prayer and we've been able to do it, and as far as we're concerned it's a supernatural thing that God has allowed us to enjoy. We asked him and he let us do it. You ask.

Would you dial the number? Use that bankcard like a check. Please do it. We want to send you Beth Moore's book. It will bless you so much: *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*. What a way to start the day and end the day.

The hymns, the origin, how they were written, the instrumental music will bless you.

The 50th anniversary of Robert Summers' bronze -- this beautiful bronze, "Giving the Living Water." -- That's what you're doing. We're sending that to those of you who help us drill a well with a gift of \$1200 or more.

Thank you so much for going to the phone or going online. Thank you for sharing a cup of water or a well in Jesus' name.

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!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Thank you from the bottom of our heart for what God has led you to do. And I'm anxious to send you the great way to begin to your day, *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*. And then I promise you, when you hear the instrumental music of the hymns you love, and then read the story of how they came to be, you are going to be inspired.

Thank you for sharing life. Thank you for watching *Wednesdays with Beth*. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*, hopefully every day and tell them about Beth Moore.

God bless all of you. Thank you for being with us.