

Week 5
1/30/13

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*! I'm Betty and this is James and it is *Wednesdays with Beth*!

James: And she is talking about affliction. I think that's something everyone experiences sometimes unnecessarily. We heap it on one another in relationships where people get after one another and it seems like sometimes that can be fairly prevalent in churches and among people who profess faith in Christ, that we afflict one another. But afflictions do come. Trouble is bound to come and it does. How do you handle it? I think Beth Moore can help us with that.

I want to mention something that I think you'll find to be a tremendous help to you. If you'll go to LifeToday.org, there is a tremendous reference, or numerous references to resources that can bless you and be a help to you. We have also an estate planning service that we offer which will help you. Now think about what I'm saying. It will help you help those you love. As Betty and I get older and we'll be married soon 50 years, and as we have watched a lot of our friends go to be with the Lord, we have seen that many people did not make adequate preparation to take a lot of load and burden off of their family and children and even their grandchildren; and many did not make proper plans to take care of what God had entrusted to their watch care. We can really save you and your loved ones, and your family, not only a lot of trouble but show you some things to do that will make everything easier and better, but how you can take what God has given you and really bless a lot of people in ways that you would want to -- very, very much you would want to do it.

So go to the web site, go to the estate planning services. You'll find a place to click. Get information. We have some material to send you. We've also got someone who will be glad to help you if you'll give them that opportunity. So I hope you'll take advantage of it.

Here's Beth and she is talking about affliction. Let's welcome Beth Moore. Here she is.

Begin video clip:

Beth: But let's recap before we go to number three. Let's recap one and two for people who have joined us in our present series on affliction. Number one: we learned that an affliction is something that can make you feel -- you tell me!

Audience: Alone.

Beth: That can make you feel alone. The psalmist said,

Turn to me and be gracious to me for I am lonely and --

What's our key word? Afflicted! You can feel alone in it. We agree. We nodded heads in here, that yeah, yeah, yeah! When mine's flared up and that's - then I've had that sense of feeling isolated and alone.

And number three is going to be based on the definition I'm going to give you. Remember that the earlier definition said that it could be any kind of extreme discomfort or oppression. It could be physical. It could be mental. It could be spiritual. So, the same thing would be expressed in the theological word book of the Old Testament but it takes it to a place where now, I believe, you're going to be able to go in any situation, no matter whether we've named them, in any situation you would be able to go, "Yes! That's an affliction!" or "No! It is not."

This word, this Hebrew word that is translated *affliction* in the Old Testament, the primary meaning of it, according to the theological word book of the Old Testament is: *to force*. This is a really important part of it. *To try to force submission*. The primary meaning of it, if you were just trying to wrap your mind around it, give me in a nutshell, give me in a phrase, give me in half a sentence, what would you call an affliction? Something that is trying to get you -- I'm going to give it a persona for a moment as if it's a thing that's animated -- something that is trying to get you to submit to it, something that just wants to have mastery over you. Does anybody know what I'm talking about?

Like when something -- we talked about infertility with Hannah a little earlier. This would be a perfect example of something that's just like -- it can become something that you're just underneath, where it becomes almost an obsession. Anybody know what I'm talking about? It tries to force you into some kind of submission.

That brings us to number three so we can put it out in a point: Affliction always involves submission.

Here's where our wonderful news comes because God could use an affliction, girlfriend, guy-friend. God can use an affliction. And the whole purpose, so this is why good and bad, I always want you to think, when you think the word *affliction*, think *submission*. Affliction, submission. Affliction, submission. Every time you think the one, think the other. Get it so deeply in your thoughts that when one comes up the other comes up in your mind, where you can think, "Okay, the key way to remember what it means is that affliction always involves -- tell me the word.

Audience: Submission.

Beth: It is a thing that draws us to submit to it.

Unforgiveness! Oh! Because it's just begging you to submit to your bitterness, begging you to submit to your unforgiveness, where it's just like mastered you. That is a huge area of affliction.

But God's purpose for it, if he ever leaves it -- we're going to talk about being delivered from it, but if he chooses, for a time, or maybe permanently, not to remove it -- Now, it will never be a matter of sin he won't remove. Like, if it's unforgiveness then we're -- it's removed from us by forgiving.

But when it's a different kind of matter like some of the others that we've mentioned, when it comes to this matter what God's intention always is, and this is how we would also learn to forgive. He is using the affliction to get us to submit to him every single time. The only reason it's been left any length of time in your life, especially after you've asked to be delivered from it, is because God wants to use it to get you to submit to him. It's asking us, and again, I'm giving it its own persona as if it is animated, it's begging us to submit to it. That every time we get that sense that it's trying to get me to bow the knee to it, we turn around and we bow our knees before the throne because every time we think affliction we must think -- tell me the word.

Audience: Submission.

Beth: Submission! Okay, I'm going to tell you, in the future part of our series, one of my ongoing areas of affliction but mine used to -- I have been delivered from the big one of my past. It was what I will call a victim affliction. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Just a victim affliction and it followed me well into adulthood, where I would just put myself in the position over and over and over again to be victimized. And it wasn't always one way, it could be all sorts of ways. Early on in my life it

started as sexual victimization, but as I grew older it just becomes a pattern in your life and then you're in a situation constantly.

I didn't always, I had so many great friends! I'm so glad that the Lord let me correct what I was about to say. I've been so blessed by so many relationships but I had a pattern of just attracting bully type people. Anybody else? They were just really, were really, really strong willed and that I would feel like I couldn't have an opinion with. You're thinking, "Well, you seem strong-willed to me!" Thank you, Jesus! I hand you exhibit A, Jesus Christ who makes us a different person.

But I repeated that pattern over and over again. And God, in one of the biggest, if not, I'm going to go ahead and say the biggest, next to my salvation, the biggest thing he ever delivered me from was my own victimization, my own victim affliction; that I would find myself in a situation where I just didn't feel the freedom to go -- I didn't even feel like I had the freedom to breakup with someone. I didn't feel like I had the freedom to go, "Do you know what? The thing of it is I don't like you." Do you know what I'm saying? When we realize that we've had a friend for many, many years that we can't stand! We want to love them in the Lord. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? But it's like, you know what? This is not a nice person. This is not a nice person. I'm oppressed every time I'm with her. I mean, pray for her, but I'm just saying, honestly, do you have to be her best friend when she mistreats you over and over again? Is anybody listening? So, you just have to ask yourself --

Well, I put myself in that position over, and over, and over, and God delivered me. God delivered me! And I attract a different kind of friend now, because I am a different kind of person. And then, if I realize, okay, this is a little odd, then I know I don't have to dump the friend, I can have a good healthy boundary. Actually, Jesus tells me what to do and, you know, I've got my man who I trust. But, you don't get to be my God. I have one already! Anybody? It was huge. There's no way I could put it in a big enough font, bold enough, red enough, italicized enough. Huge! That was my big deliverance and it marked everything about my life, everything. It is my freedom. It is my freedom.

So what I want you to understand as we begin to draw this first half of our series on affliction to a close, I want you to be thinking with me that we want to pray to be delivered. I want you to hear the psalmist as he cries out, we've been in Psalm 25, really centered on verse 18:

Consider my affliction and my trouble and forgive all my sins.

This next verse is going to become so important to us next half.

Consider how many are my foes and with what violent hatred they hate me. Oh, guard my soul and deliver me!

You and I want to pray to be delivered from our affliction. We want to! Listen, don't just be a glutton for punishment. For crying out loud, in a New Testament concept, if we were to, say, what would be the New Testament concept of this Old Testament affliction? Probably Paul's thorn in the flesh in 2 Corinthians chapter 12. Remember, he asked numerous times to be delivered from it. We want to have that same pattern, that until we get a flat out repeated, "No! No! And I don't want to hear about it again 'No,'" -- do you understand what I'm saying? Not out loud but just in our -- where over, and over we ask and then God --

Then there's some reason why it's left and that's going to be the next part of our series, "Why?" And what do we do with it? But by all means, your first response to it is, "Lord, deliver me! Deliver me!" Now, until then what do we do? We submit because we remember that every time I think affliction I'm going to think submission. I'm either submitting at all -- Mmm! Thank you, Lord!

-- at all times we are in an affliction. We are submitted either to the affliction or to Jesus Christ, always. So it's just where you want, your knees are down, the legs are buckled. So it's just who are you kneeling in front of? Because it's either going to be the affliction or it's going to be your deliverer.

Either way, what we're going to learn is affliction never gets to be our excuse for defeat. Never! Never! Never!

You might have an addiction affliction and it may be that God removes the yearning and you never have it again. Or it may be that you have it every day for the rest of your life. It depends on what God's point is. Very often, if his point is supremacy, he just wants you to see he is a huge God, capable of anything, you might get delivered from it. But there are other times when he leaves the thorn because his point is not necessarily supremacy, it is sufficiency. My grace is sufficient. And every day, with that craving, you'll get up and hit your knees and go, "I'm going to tell you something, Lord, I cannot make it till noon without you. If you're not on me and in me I will not make it till noon." So you know what you do? You make it till noon on Jesus Christ and then you make it to supper, and then you make it to midnight, and then you make it through the dark night, and the reason why I can talk to this is because I come from a very addictive, addictive family with a whole lot of addiction problems and a whole

lot of addictive kinds of traits of my own. I get this one. I get this one. And if that's you, pray to be delivered. And if you're not, his point is, "You will live on me as surely as you snorted, as surely as you drank, as surely as you turned to that obsessive behavior, you will live on me! You will have to think about me all the time to make it.

Do you know what happened out of that with me? See, I didn't get to do grey. I did not get to. If I'm near grey, this is just the pull of my flesh, if I am in the grey I fall back into the black hole. I have to live over here. Other people get to go days sometimes without really getting in the scriptures. Not me. Not me. I've been too many places. I've been down too deep. I've been too broken. I have been too caught in bondage in my past. I can't get away with that. I can't get away with that.

I've said so many times, I'm about three weeks away from the next big pit, should you take my bible from me today. About three weeks I'd give myself. That's been a beautiful thing to me because desperation can be a gift. Sufficiency. You will live off of me, and when you die you will get to look at my face and go, "Huh! I lived off of you! I lived off of you!"

I said to the Lord this morning, and I meant it, these were not pious words, "You're my whole life! You're my whole life! I've got nothing without you! I've got nothing without you."

You're going, "Beth, you've got a man that loves you. You've got kids. You've got grandkids."

I'm going to tell you something, I would have run all of them off had Jesus not delivered me. I wouldn't have wanted to. I would have destroyed my marriage. I would have raised the weirdest children in the whole state of Texas. "You're my whole life. You're my whole life."

Till then, I want you to know that God sees. The Lord sees your afflictions, the scripture says. What I also love is it says, "He hears and he heard Hagar's affliction." He hears an affliction in the moans and groans, even when you don't make a sound, in the silence. Affliction makes a noise and God sees, he responds and you bow, you bow because girlfriend, guy-friend, you're bowing anyway. Choose where you'll bow.

Beth: Let's recap before we go to number three, let's recap one and two for people who have joined us in our present series on affliction. Number one: we learned that an affliction is something that can make you feel --

End with: and God sees, he responds, and you bow -- you bow because girlfriend and guy friend, you're bowing any way. Choose where you'll bow.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Beth is so right. It's a fact that what we hear and we say, the sounds we make we may recognize but God is looking at what's going on under the surface. And he really sees -- he not only sees the challenge or the pain or the problem or the failure or the hurt, disappointment, whatever it might be, but he also sees the source, the true source. He also knows about the response, and he knows the correct way to respond.

Father, I pray that you will help everyone who is listening today to be able to know how to properly deal with affliction and challenges that come, and really receive your direction. Guide them; in Jesus' name.

We want to show you some of the... I would say most serious forms of challenge or what we might even classify as a form of affliction and that is the challenges that people face when they cannot get access to clean water. You're going to hear a heart cry that really can be answered. You're going to hear what you could easily interpret as a prayer, someone crying out. You not only have the answer, you really are the answer to this heart cry, to this problem, this challenge. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

>> My name is Beta. I am 49 years old. This is my granddaughter, Julianne. I'm the only one to care for my granddaughter. My son died and my husband left us. My son died because he was drinking dirty water and it's the only water we have. This is where we wash ourselves, use the bathroom, and collect our water. I pray every day that Julianne could get clean water. I would even give my own life... so she wouldn't have to drink this dirty water anymore.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: It's absolutely incredible that she would say, "I would give my life" but she doesn't have to. We can give her clean water. Betty, we can give that community

where she lives a freshwater well. You and I have already committed to drill a well in that area. There are areas right there of similar circumstances where we need wells.

Listen, we've committed to drill -- with your help and that's the only way we can do it, just like Betty and I can do something -- but to drill 500 water wells. That's how you solve the problem she's concerned about. We are the answer. We hold the answer to their future.

Betty: James, as I sit there, because we're grandparents, I'm a grandmother of 11 grandchildren. And she was praying the prayer that a grandmother would pray for her granddaughter, for her health, for her to have a long life and to be safe. But she doesn't have a choice in the water that she gives her granddaughter. So that's the problem. We can help solve that problem. She can't. That's why they're crying out for help. Let's do join together and drill these water wells so that we can be part of the answered prayer for that grandmother for her granddaughter.

James: We really are the answer and the hope for the whole community if we'll just do our part expressing God's heart. Now Betty and I said that we asked God years ago to give us the ability to give a well, and that was when we were drilling a well with an emphasis once a year.

Then we found the need was so great and the effect was so great we began to emphasize it twice a year, and began to drill more wells. And we said, "God, every time we have the call from the missionaries, we want to be an answer to the prayer." And God enabled us to do that. And we're asking God to enable everybody to do that that he puts it on their heart.

But here's what really works because if everybody will just do their part -- and this is the thing I want you to see because it is very significant -- \$48 of that \$4800, if you'll give \$48, that's going to give water to ten people because each well services at least 1,000 people. When you break that down, it's \$4.80 for every person. Now that's a very small amount but it's a huge, huge blessing!

Would you dial that number and say, "James, I can do something." \$144 -- 30 people water the rest of their life. \$1200 and say, "Lord, raise up three more to give \$1200." Ask God to raise up others to join you, we've got a well. \$2400, somebody matches you.

But there is some of you as a couple, as an individual, as a small business, as a church group, prayer group, we have children who spend time to raise the funds to drill a

well -- very young children. So when it is in your heart to do it, you can do it. And there is some of you right now saying, "God's blessed me. I can give a well."

I want to ask you to take your bankcard and use it like a check. Would you? -- That's how you use them. And make the gift God put on your heart. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but we need you to call and tell us you're putting it in the mail. We need to know it is coming. We can let the missionaries and those that are drilling the wells know, "You can count on us; we're going to be able to fund it."

Would you make that call? If you want to go online, LifeToday.org, you can go there and make the gift. We've got some blessed gifts for you to be an inspiration of blessing in your life. We want to send them to you to say thank you so much. Please go to the phone or go online and make that gift and thank you for doing it.

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: Ask God to enable you to drill a well. Would you just ask him? Children are doing it. In other words, there is a way to get it done if we'll seek God's guidance. And God's put it on our heart to give water to every person on this earth that has no access to clean water. We're not talking about water to play in, we're not talking about water parks, we're not even talking about water that you always have enough to bathe in, we're talking about access to clean water that's not contaminated so you can drink it; in whatever circumstances you're in, live a healthy life and have a chance at life and tell everyone about the water of life.

If you can make a gift and ask for that anniversary bronze, please do so. We're sending Beth Moore's *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*. You know what a blessing she is. These devotionals in the morning and at night will really, really -- I believe lighten your load, brighten your day and your life.

Thank you so much for watching. From the bottom of our heart, thank you for helping us share water.