

2/20/13

Week 8

James: Hey, you're great! Thank all of you. Betty, what is today?

Betty: Wednesdays with Beth! A great day!

James: This is Betty and I'm James and we welcome you to *LIFE Today*. At the conclusion of the program, if you'd like to get Beth Moore's devotion titled *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*: Devotions to begin and end your day in God's presence. Beth is teaching on affliction. She is talking about really getting control of our mind; talking about programming our mind about the necessity of the Word of God, the washing in the word, the renewing of the mind and the word -- how important that is.

There really is no substitute for it. All the preaching, all the sermons, all the books we read and I read a lot of them and I hear great sermons because I've got a great pastor at our church, Gateway, where Robert Morris preaches, but there is no substitute for the word of God. So Beth is not only going to be teaching you the word but she is going to be encouraging you to deal with affliction and challenges in the word. Would you welcome Beth Moore? Here she is.

Begin video clip:

Beth: Now I'm going to tell you something, I have asked over and over. Now I told you I'm getting kind of a hint that I think maybe something revolutionary is about to happen. But I've prayed many, many, many years to be completely delivered from it. So what I've come to, I have felt like God's answer to me has been -- not out loud -- but his answer to me has been, "After a little while... after a little while." Well, I ask you, I just want to put this out on the table, what would be the use of it? Why would he let that happen? Why would he let that happen? What would be the use of giving the enemy that much leash?

Now mind you, he is not in me -- the Holy Spirit lives in me and I am sealed. This is just mental torment. It is just my thoughts messing with me -- just messing with me. But why God leaves this... I deal with something enough to where I can't go like, "Fix it and move on!" Because sometimes some of our afflictions just don't fix like that, and it is frustrating to us because we know he could do it. Like, "Lord, now! 30 seconds, I

could be done, relieved, never have to have it again. Why in the world do I go through this? Why? You can deliver me from this."

Well, one reason is because it is extremely humbling and it keeps me from coming to you and giving you A. B. C. of how to pull your life together because certain things just don't fix that easily.

The Apostle Paul was left a thorn in his flesh strictly so he would not have pride over what God had revealed to him. The more you and I let God reveal himself to us through his Word and through his ways the more he's going to make sure he has some humbling forces in our lives so that we don't just get all full of ourselves and gross ourselves out. It's going to happen.

[Laughter]

So it humbles me terribly. It puts me on my face. It puts me on my face because I don't know -- I've got to be desperate when it's going on. So it will just put me literally face down -- just flat to the floor. I want to tell you this one because this one is like way up high on the list as I think that dealing with pride would be to God, way high on the list. But this one, listen to me carefully here, this mental thing that I have a tendency to go through, the fact that my mind wants to spin out of control and be vulnerable to harassment and my own self torture and torment is my -- listen carefully -- number one motivator for memorizing scripture. Number one -- number one -- number one! In fact, it is number one, number two, number three, number four, number five -- I'm sure there is like then it gets to something else, it is six, seven, eight, nine, ten, but I can tell you that it is the number one driving force why I put so much scripture in my head so that when the enemy starts all of this or when my own thoughts -- he is not responsible for all of it. I've got my own thing going. I've got my own -- anybody else?

Can you say the devil is not the only problem you got. Look at one another and go, "The devil is not the only problem you got!"

[Audience repeats]

Amen! And it is not your husband either!

[Laughter]

Not your wife! It's just sometimes us. Amen? Sometimes us. What we find is that we've got to go to some measures to get our mind protected. The thing about it is,

memorizing scripture is one of the greatest joys and most satisfying things I ever get to do. So the very thing I hated has driven me to it and it's given me one of the things I love most in my entire life. Does that sound like maybe a legitimate reason why God would go, "You know what? For a time..." I want to go, "Look, do you kind of think 85 years is time or how long? Are you thinking like in your terms 1,000 days is like a day? What do you mean by short? Because this is looking long to me." But that's huge to me -- huge to me.

I want you to turn with me someplace. You're already in the Psalms. Stick something there because we're coming back. But go with me to Psalm 119. Now sometime, maybe even next time that I have this opportunity -- sometime you and I are going to study some things out of Psalm 119. It is powerful and the whole mammoth thing is about the power of God's Word in the life of a man or a woman. I want you to see Psalm 119:92. Can you believe we're saying verse 92? That's how long. Go with me to verse 92 and I want to show you something. Our keyword, if you're just now joining us, our keyword is... tell them.

Audience: Affliction.

Beth: And so we've been talking about an affliction is something that just afflicts; it is just something that wants to force us into submission and that it has our knees bowed to it that the only way we can deal with an affliction is to submit. We're either going to submit to the affliction or we're going to submit to God but we are going to submit to an affliction. It makes us do so. That's what we're camping on right now. Verse 92 uses the word in the NIV and the E.S.V. and some of your other translations: If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. If you made me say, "Give me five verses that most tell your testimony," I'd have to get to that one.

At some point in those top five, if your word had not been my delight. The word law there, you think that sounds like the 10 commandments. That's not what that word means. It is To-law -- Torah, it's the way we would say "To-law," is the way someone in Judaism might say it with the accent on the second syllable. It means the totality of God's instruction. It can mean the commandments in Exodus. It can mean scripture in its entirety or it can mean the way he instructs us; how he wants to lead us to go. All of that could be considered it's the way he transmits information is Torah. So when they use it, they are using it very, very broadly in many different contexts.

If the law -- if your instruction -- if your word had not been my delight I would have perished in my affliction. I'm certain of that! I'm certain of that! What I want to tell you because I think this is such a good point. I've told you before, I try to think what

question would you ask, what would I ask if I were sitting out with you? Well, okay, so like what if I don't -- it's not delightful to me -- it's not delightful to me. Then I'm going to tell you, girlfriend and guy friend, to pray for it to be. Because this, I believe that I can say to you with all of my heart and be right dead center in scripture to do it, you will not have victory over an ongoing affliction if you do not have a love for the Word of God. Because that's what offsets, especially mental torment, it's what is going to offset it because then we replace it. When the enemy starts it, then that's when I know, I'm going to pick up the scriptures and I'm going to say it over and over.

When I'm driving to work, if I'm feeling that way, I'm going to say it to work. I'm going to read it. I'm going to study it. If the word had not been my delight I would have perished in my affliction.

I want you to see verse 98 because I think this is so powerful and we're going to camp on this in just a moment; Psalm 119:98, so you're just dropping down a few verses. It says: Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies for it is ever with me.

Now as New Testament believers you and I have been told in Ephesians chapter six that our enemy is not flesh and blood but powers and principalities in unseen places. So when you see the enemy, when David, our Psalmist, the sons of Korah, Asaph, whoever it may be that are penning the Psalms, Moses penned a few, when you see them using that word enemy, very often they meant a physical enemy but to you and me, that is the princes and principalities of darkness; that's what we've been told is our enemy. Because we're told to love... our people enemies, we're told to love. So we don't get to go, "Oh, Lord, burn them to the ground and their houses with them."

[Laughter]

Those imprecatory psalms, and that really -- they did it some and he still got to go, "Not today, I don't want to. I'm just not in the mood to do it today." So even though the Psalmist might have asked him, he might not have done it. But in the New Testament, because of the power of the cross and the power of the life of Christ given in our behalf, he says, "I'm telling you love your enemies." So our enemy, our true enemy that we get to hate... we only get to hate one enemy and that is the devil and the principalities with him; so when you see that, when you go back as a New Testament believer, when you pick out the word *enemy* that's what you're talking about. So what this says is, if I'm in the word and the word is my delight, I've become smarter than him. I'm going to let y'all sit with that a minute. I become smarter than my enemies. I become wiser than my enemy.

Your word, delighting in your word, it makes me wiser than my enemies. So I can be on to it in a way that if I don't love the word, I cannot be. So what we're saying is, okay, Beth, it is not the most fun I ever have. I get that. I get that! For many, many years it was not all that fun to me either.

But listen to me carefully, you won't sustain a steady diet in the scriptures on discipline alone. It ain't happening. It ain't happening. Anything you're going to sustain for very long it's going to be because you want it whether that's marriage, whether it's freedom, whether it's Jesus, whether it's fidelity -- whatever it may be. After a while, a discipline is a great place to start. Sometimes we just have to go, "Stop it! Stop it!" That's a beautiful place to start. Sometimes we just like do the right thing when we feel the wrong thing.

My point to you is we can't sustain it in the long term that way. It will have to be something that we want. Something that our heart is wrapped up in. And that could be true of the scriptures. Any man or woman, any one of us has the capacity if the spirit of Christ lives within us, he loves his own word -- he loves his Word. So when he's filling us, he is activating that part of himself in us where we have the ability, through him, to begin to love it. And listen, there is nothing to make you love it like the fact that it gets you out of one mess after another. I love it because it is my freedom. I love it because I would live in a hole, a ditch, a ditch, a ditch. I would waller -- not wallow -- where I come from, you waller.

[Laughter]

I would waller in a pit if not for the love of scripture. Pray to! Pray to!

That brings us to number four. We've been building some points together. So far we've got one: An affliction is something that can make you feel alone. Number two: An affliction is anything that afflicts. There you go! Number three: Affliction always involves submission. But number four is this, and I messed with this sentence trying to get it shorter and shorter but I cannot drop one of the words in it: The love of scripture APPLIED -- and I want you to put the word applied in all capital letters because it is crucial. The love of scripture applied separates affliction from destruction. The love of scripture APPLIED separates affliction from destruction.

We can just love -- we can have a student mind. You can be just scholarly and just like enjoy the study of the scripture and we can do exactly what James one says, we can just go out and live the same old way we ever did. But he who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes his attention there and does not become a forgetful hearer but

one who lives it out, he will be blessed in what he does. He will be blessed in what he does. He will be blessed! Do you hear what I'm saying? We're thinking, "Oh, God just always wants to make me love the scriptures." It doesn't make God feel any better.

He's going, "I can bless you if you love the scriptures. I could bless you if you love the scriptures." Not just to study it, but you like to apply it. I've told you guys this before at some point or another but sometimes someone will come to me and say, "I have done Breaking Free three times and I'm still in bondage."

[Laughter]

And I want to go, "Well, you're in bondage to Breaking Free and you need to break free from it -- actually!" But you know what? I really have to say... and I try to find a good way to say it, it depends on what mode I'm in how well I can say it. I try to say it very tenderly. "But did you do what it said? I'm not asking you if you did the study, I'm asking you did you do what it said?" You have to do what scripture says. Not just like, "I read it. It was a good word! I'm just going to be the same old way." But scripture APPLIED -- do we love scripture applied? Have we said, "Lord, you've saved my neck through this thing."

Listen, Psalm 19 is also on Torah, it uses that word a lot of times, instruction. And he says, "By your precepts are your servants warned. One reason I love the scripture is because I've been warned by it. I've had a sense about something; I have thought I was going to go handle a situation a certain way. I'm an employer, I didn't mean to be! Good heavens! What happened here? But I am one and I've got about 15 people whose paychecks we sign and it is the scariest thing. But I can think I'm going to handle a situation a certain way and I get in the scriptures that morning before I go and suddenly God is like, "Shh!" Through his Word, not out loud, "I'm going to do something different." And by his Word his servant is warned.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Boy, that's powerful. I think God does put a holy hush on us oftentimes. Be still. Be quiet.

And it is interesting, Betty, I don't know if it has to do with old age or what we call maturity... I don't know if all maturity comes or most of it when we get older and maybe we're too tired or weak to resist the patience and the quietness that we need, but what I have found when I get in the presence of God and when I pray, I find

myself listening more than I'm talking, which is one of the rare times for me -- not to be talking. Do you agree?

Betty: That is a good deal.

James: Well, it is a miracle! Would you agree? It is a miracle?

Betty: Yes, it is.

James: And don't I listen to you pretty well too, now?

Betty: You do. You've become a great listener.

James: I really want to be.

Betty: And what you're talking about... and those are some of the most special and precious times for me too is just when I get with God and sit at his feet, so to speak, and just let him talk to me.

James: And that really is the calming effect, hearing him say, as Beth said, "Shh! Just listen."

Father, I pray for people to have peace of mind that only you can give and that your word will give them. I pray you'll give them a hunger for your word and transform thinking and take us through challenges and afflictions; in Jesus' name. And I thank you, Father.

I hope you'll get Beth's devotional book, *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*. Let me tell you what we're asking you to do. We're asking you to help be a part of a miracle. We're asking you to be the answer to a heart cry, to a need that you can be the answer to. This is not like okay, we're go to pray about that. No wait a minute, somebody is praying about it and crying out for it and we're going to be the answer to it. We're going to be the solution.

I want you to watch closely because you're going to see very clearly the difference you can make and love will make. Watch.

James: And there really is... and it's so simple, it's as simple as not just a cup of water because there is no way, Betty, that Jesus would say, if you will give just a cup of dirty contaminated, diseased-ridden water in my name, there is no way.

He was saying what we have here, in our blessed nation, and in the advanced countries, non-contaminated water, and it is a big concern to us. Those precious children and those parents and grandparents and people you looked at, were thinking about children that had died drinking water, disease-ridden water. We can change that this year with God's help.

And, Betty, this is a big -- I'd say it's a step of faith but it's listening not only to the missionaries but I believe to God. The missionaries have shown us 500 areas where there is water that we can get if we just drill, in 12 nations, and it will change everything. We want to give them Water for Life -- yes, we will tell them about the water of life.

I want to tell you something, until you demonstrate the power of love, and God's love, people aren't nearly as prone or anxious to listen to it. We need to show them the love of God. Betty, I believe every viewer watching can help us drill a well. Do something to help us drill these 500 wells.

Betty: Me too, James. As a mother, when I watched the mothers weeping because either their child is dying or they have just died, James, that breaks my heart. The simple solution is that we drill these water wells so that they don't have to watch their babies die because of the contaminated water.

James: Well, I've been praying that every viewer of Life Today all over the world -- and I want to say to all of you in the Canadian provinces, all of you in the United Kingdom, all of you in Australia, all of you in the United States, I've been praying that God would put it on the heart of every person who can to find a way to drill a well during the course of this year; \$4800 -- that may be for some -- you say, "Boy, that's quite a stretch!" God can do it. We see children get it on their heart and they do it. They find ways to raise the money.

But here's what I know, and Betty, this is the key, everybody does what they can, and this is important -- \$48 towards a \$4800 well will give ten people water, basically, the rest of their lives; \$144 will give 30 people water the rest of their life. There is a level at which you could participate. If you can give \$4800, I believe you'll do it. I believe there are children that are thinking right now, how can I do it? They're going to find ways to do it. There are couples, there are companies, there are churches, there are prayer groups and there are individuals who will say, "I'm going to do it."

But at whatever level you can participate, it is important to those ten, if you give \$48 -- if you can give a portion of a well, \$2400 and pray, "God, let somebody join me," another \$2400, we've got a well -- give the \$1200 -- whatever you can do, we're asking you to make that gift.

We have some gifts to bless you, to encourage you, and to inspire you, but you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving the gift of life. Call the number. Use your bankcard like a check or if you write a check, call us and tell us what you're sending in the mail; would you? Or you can go online at LifeToday.org and make the gift right now. Please do 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!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Betty and I just want to say thank you for your gift. I do want to mention that the 50th anniversary Robert Summers' bronze, *Living Water*, this is a special edition celebrating our 50 years of marriage. Isn't that a miracle? Miracles still happen. This girl has stayed with me all this time. You say, "That's a miracle!" And also, 50 years of ministry. But we're sending that for those of you who will give a gift of \$1200 or more... or a well.

Whatever you do, ask for *Blessed Mornings and Restful Nights*. If you can make the gift of over \$100, ask for Morning and Evening Praise, and the hymns, how they were inspired and written; an incredible instrumental praise. You'll like this.

Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*. Tell your friends about Wednesdays with Beth and encourage them to watch us every day! You're going to enjoy our guests and the messages. You'll be inspired.