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Week 9

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are so grateful that we get to present God's truth, his love, and opportunities to express his love, not only experience it and receive the blessings of his love and teaching and inspiration through guests and insights that we share, but also through Beth Moore and her wonderful teaching. She is talking about affliction. We all have them.

Some of you know that we ended the year with the death of our daughter, three days after Christmas, and her funeral the day after New Year's. A girl that said when she found she had cancer seven years before, signing every e-mail, "I win! I win!" The last words that Robin spoke to me as I stood at the foot of her bed, "We win!" What she said to her son, her teenage son who spoke at her funeral, absolutely amazing. We want to share with you about Robin tomorrow.

As Beth talks about affliction, we all go through pressure, don't we? Be praying for us as we share tomorrow. You'll want to meet her. I can promise you, you will know more wonderfully than ever the one who heals the broken heart. That's what we do with the outreaches of Life because of you, otherwise we would just have a broken heart; couldn't do nothing about it. But we're able to alleviate suffering because of people like you.

Here's Beth. Be blessed.

Beth: Notice something with me. Psalm 25, remember our context: Turn to me and be gracious to me for I am lonely and afflicted. Verse 16: The troubles of my heart are enlarged. Bring me out of my distresses. Consider my affliction and my trouble. That's become our... we're considering our affliction through this series. That has become our theme. Notice this is what it says: Consider my affliction and my trouble and forgive all my sins. Consider how many are my foes -- you and I know what kind of foe that is to us and with what violent hatred they hate me.

Now stop right there and notice something. Consider my affliction and trouble. Now wait a minute -- and forgive all my sins. What does sin have to do with affliction and

trouble? That annoys me, in the flesh, so I'm trying to understand it in the spirit. What does that have to do with anything here? Because did my affliction come out of my past sin? It is a problem when you have my kind of past; you have to think, are all my problems associated with it? And I can always come up with yes! Yes! It's all because I was stupid. Anybody else besides me? Some of you are going, "We need a new teacher." Maybe you need to pray for the one you've got, maybe that would be good. But yes, because I have so much stuff in my past, almost always I can come with, "Yes, yes, it does. Yes, it does." But it may not!

Sometimes it doesn't have anything to do with it. I don't live in that pattern of defeat and sin that I used to and haven't for years and yet I still deal with this affliction of having these ongoing visits of a time, again I'm not saying a demon is visiting me, I'm saying it's just like here we go again and I'm going through this again. Then I go through the very same thing to be set free from it and it is always the word. But here's what I know. Whether or not my affliction came out of my past sin because I really don't think this one, in a lot of ways, is certainly not associated with it in the current. Does trouble and affliction -- notice the order -- consider my affliction and my trouble and forgive what?

Audience: My sin.

Beth: Forgive all my sins. What I have found is my affliction and my trouble makes it a whole lot easier to sin. Anybody? So whether or not my sin had anything to do with causing the affliction or the trouble, man, it makes it easier to sin. Doesn't it? Because my trouble makes me cranky, it makes me irritable, it makes me more carnal. Our affliction can be just like -- when we submit to it, it is sin! It is sin because it has no power to defeat us. It is supposed to bring us into submission to Christ not defeat us.

So here's what I love because instead of sitting back like my tendency would be to sit back and go, "Oh, woe is me! My sin caused all this. My sin caused all this. Oh, I bet all this was my sin!"

When the Psalmist goes, "You know what? Get a grip and no matter what your affliction or your trouble ask God to forgive all your sins, and mean it!" It's just like here's the remedy.

When you confess and you repent, you were forgiven. So I never have to go on worrying the next day too. No, no! That matter was settled. So no matter what, consider my affliction and my trouble. And Lord, because that is so, so tempting for an area of sin in my life, forgive me for all my sins.

Look at verse 11 in the same chapter: Psalm 25, verse 11. I want you to see this because this is going to be somebody's word. So do not turn it off right now. Stay with me. Verse 11, I mean all about how good God is to them, how he leads the humble, and what is right, all the paths of the Lord are steadfast and faithfulness for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

And then he says this: For your namesake, oh, Lord, pardon my guilt for it is great! Remember when he said earlier in the Psalm and go read it if you were not with us.

When he says, "Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, oh, Lord."

What is he saying? "Lord, I want you to remember me. But I want you to remember me free of my past sins." Anybody else? Isn't that beautiful? Isn't that just beautiful?

I want that. Every time I say it I go, "Lord, I want that to be me."

So the Psalmist then says, "Pardon my guilt for it is grave." I want to say to you today because this is a huge one for no telling how many people we've got gathered here and are on the other side of that screen, listen carefully, untreated guilt is the most fertile soil on planet earth for growing affliction. I promise you girlfriend and guy friend that that is the truth. I'm going to say it again. Untreated guilt is the most fertile soil on earth if you want to grow an affliction. Yes, ma'am, yes, sir it is! When you've got all of this untreated guilt, when you feel guilty, you have a kind of ongoing... I'm not saying every now and then but I'm saying you've got pretty persistent guilt, then I'm telling you, you're just an affliction waiting to happen because you're ongoing guilt is your manure and your affliction field. It's going to grow it up. It's just fertilizing it over and over and over and over again.

The question on the table for you over the next couples of minutes is what are a few reasons why Satan would want you to keep a messed up conscience? What is in it for the devil if you keep a messed-up conscience?

The Apostle Paul says: I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit. My conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit.

Okay, listen, for believers in Christ, when you and I receive Jesus Christ as our personal savior, his spirit comes to dwell in us instantly. It is not because we felt it, it is

not because we go, "Oh, I just felt that happen!" None of that! You can go on for years without feeling because we have not yet yielded to the Holy Spirit. But he moves in us, takes up residence immediately and what he does is, that the way the Holy Spirit will bear witness is to involve our conscience.

In fact, go with me to Romans 8:16. Now, Lord, give me clarity as I speak this so there is understanding. This is good, this is good, this is good!

The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. The Holy Spirit comes up and take residency in our spirit. The Spirit is involving the conscience in a lot of things to bear witness to us.

Listen, when we -- if I were a betting woman, I would bet you ten to one that if you have a really whacked out conscience and a very guilty conscience, I bet you spend untold amounts of time conflicted over whether or not you are in Christ. Am I telling the truth? Someone with a really -- they'll go back and forth, "I don't know if I'm saved or not. Yeah, I guess I am." Why? Because their conscience is so messed up that it is not bearing witness with the witness of the Holy Spirit. So we don't even know.

So all this, that would be revealed to us... so much, so much is not revealed but so much would be. But if we've got a whacked out conscience we cannot even hear or experience the bearing of the witness of the Holy Spirit because he's working with a conscience that is not cooperating.

So my conscience is always telling me something contrary to it. And I'm just so wrapped up in the guilt I can't get out from under it. Is that making sense to anybody? So here's what we've got. Listen to Hebrews 10:22. You can jot down the address and hear it with all of your heart. I'm going to read it to you out of the NIV because it doesn't get any better than this: Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience.

I'm going to say that again. Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and full assurance of faith having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience. Okay, do you have a guilty conscience? Draw near to God. See here's the trick the enemy plays, "I can't draw near to God, I've got a guilty conscience." Listen to the order. All we have -- we come with sincerity. This is how we come to him, "I sincerely have a guilty conscience." We come with sincerity before God. Here I'm coming with

this, I'm coming with this. The enemy knows I can make you feel guilty enough or I can help you, I can tempt you to feel guilty enough where you won't draw near.

Then we're not going to have any power at all, no assurance at all. So this is what he does. But when we just go, I'm going to believe the word over my guilty conscience. All I have to do is have a sincere heart. All I have to do and I'm sincere about it. I'm in pain here, Lord. I'm tormented by guilt. Your word says all I have to do is just draw near to you and with full assurance of faith your word says, what was the Savior for but to pardon my guilt?

And I ask your forgiveness and I never -- I never want to drop back in that hole again. Lord, I never want to turn back to that which has caused me so much pain and so much guilt for so many years. Forgive me! By the blood of Jesus, sprinkled on my heart of flesh, forgive me! And he does.

Then you don't get up and go the next day and, "Oh, pardon my guilt!" He did that yesterday. You do when you feel guilty again but you don't just keep doing it because why? Because he already do it. Then the next day we'll be tempted to do it again but we go, you know what? No, this time I'm going to thank him for it. I thank you, Lord! I thank you, Lord! You have cleansed me from my guilty conscience.

Genesis 41; I want to show you something, 50 through 52 -- Genesis 41:50-52. Our last point we made together was: The love of scripture APPLIED separates affliction from destruction. Then we're going to land on five in just a moment and we're going to find it at Genesis 41:50-52. It says this: Before the year of famine came -- it is very important that you see it is before the famine came because the famine is what is going to lead to his family being restored.

Before it ever came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath the daughter of Potiphara, priest of On, bore them to him. Joseph called the name of the first born Manasseh for he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." Manessah roughly means God has made me forget. That can be a beautiful thing. Many of us need a Manessah. I could use a Manessah so many times.

Verse 52: The name of the second he called Ephraim, for the Lord has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction. Listen, he was going to deliver Joseph but he was not going to deliver him yet. He was going to let him be used of God to be fruitful right there in the land of his afflictions. Then he was going to bring him out, and I believe that has been a test that God has put before me. "Beth, I'm not going to deliver you from it until you get consistently victorious in it. Until you just want to go, oh, really?

Do you want to toy with me again about this? Because I already know what to do. I'm going to -- because I'm going to be wiser than you. Know it, do it, then when you get where that is your practice and we don't have to keep beating on that one, then we're going to move on.

But really, Beth, what I want before I just move you out of your affliction and then you get to be all victorious." What about being victorious in the affliction? Because girlfriend, there ain't no high like that. Guy friend, it doesn't get more powerful than that because you know something should be taking you down and all it is doing is taking you down on your knees and it doesn't get better than that -- right there -- right there.

Five and last point we'll make together in our series: Until we're delivered, may God make the land of our affliction fruitful -- fruitful. Say it back to me. Number five is: Until we are delivered, may God make the land of our affliction fruitful. You've got an affliction? You are on fertile ground. It is up to you what you're going to grow there. You can either grow the fruit of the spirit and the fruit of faithfulness and love of the word and the true discipline of the spirit, ministry, compassion, humility or you can grow the most frightful harvest of your life. Bend the knee -- get some of that fertile soil right on those knees; submit and bear fruit.

James: Wow! I tell you what, I want to grow the best fruit. I'm going to read something that our grandson wrote, Randy's son, (we have six grandsons) about Robin, our daughter. We're going to talk about her tomorrow. We lost her at the end of the year, seven-year battle with cancer. That was a heavy load. Thanks for praying for us.

Alek wrote, and this is available online, LifeToday.org, in memory of Robin Turner, talking about her being a beautiful flower. Talked about her going to be with the Lord in God's greenhouse.

"He will bring us to his greenhouse and preserve us too. We will reunite with her and we will grow close to our gardener who blessed us with her presence" (referring to Robin) "...in his earth garden. For now though, we must grow. For her."

That's a nephew writing about his aunt. That's the proper response you would want a teenager to have. That's the response her teenage children had. She was a light. She

was an inspiration. We're going to grow because she inspired us but also for God. We're going to do the works of our wonderful Lord.

And there may not be a greater expression of sharing his love than to do what he just said, if you'll just give a cup of water in my name you won't lose the reward God has for you, which is the blessing of his presence and his care and his love. Would you give a cup of water? You must wonder, what does it mean if you gave many cups? What if you gave a well of water to a whole community? We have that opportunity. I want you to take a journey but I want you to be the answer to the heartfelt concern you hear.

On the mission field:

Jeanne: I've been going on mission trips for many years now. It's been such a blessing in my life. Recently though, I just returned from Madagascar and honestly, I have to say it was the most devastating thing I've ever experienced. These villages have this horrible contaminated water and it works all in and around their villages; it surrounds them.

And you know what? It is smothering the life out of them. It is water that brings death, and I am so brokenhearted over what I saw; what I saw happening to the children. Family after family that has lost little children, and they're so upset because they have no way to change anything. It's in their water, and water is necessary for life, and they have such adversity, such a hard, hard life, mainly because of the water.

There are so many things that would just mushroom and grow out of having a well right there that that's just the beginning. I want us to begin with the most basic thing, giving them clean water. That's the best place to start right now. Let's do it together.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: As I listen to Jeanne, a mother and a grandmother, and someone who came to Christ as I was preaching and we've worked together to win people to Christ, as I listen to her and know her heart, I think about the mothers that she is referencing and appealing in many ways in behalf of, Betty and I can't help but think about how precious our youngest daughter will always be to us. And how when we watched her

fight the battle, until in her final moments she ultimately went to be with the Lord, I know what it would have meant to us if someone could have walked in and said, "We can change everything." Because we love our family.

Listen to me. Those mothers and those parents feel the same way about their children, and many of them don't get to enjoy their child until they're 25 or 30 or 40. They lose them but at five or six or even younger.

But the difference in their battle is that we have the absolute perfect solution. And yes, of course it is love but it is an expression of love. It is one thing to talk about love; it is another thing to give them clean water.

Betty, we can give those mothers what their heart desires, and those children what they need.

Betty: We absolutely can! All these years, when we've appealed to you about the heartache of a mother losing a child, I would weep. I would try my best to sense the hurt and feel the hurt that they felt.

I know firsthand now. It hurts when you see your child laying there and you have nothing that you can do for them. It's different in this situation though. They have a hope that is through the water wells and through helping these precious children simply by giving them fresh, pure, clean water. We can do that with your help.

James: We ask you to do just what Betty said, be the answer to their prayer, the solution to their hurt, heartache, and their potential loss by being part of a miracle. We have targeted 500 areas in more than 12 countries where we want to drill wells. It will touch hundreds and hundreds and transform thousands of lives and give them a chance all because of love.

Would you right now reach out, dial the number, or go online LifeToday.org or get up and go and get a check and make it to *LIFE*; put it in an envelope addressed to *LIFE* or call the number.

Regardless what of you do, if you mail it, or you want to put it on a bankcard, call us now and say, "Here's my gift." The wells cost \$4800. No greater impact than giving people water -- a cup of water, a well of water in Jesus' name.

Can you give a well? Could you give part of a well? \$1200 and pray three join you. Listen to me. \$144 gives 30 people water the rest of their life. \$48 -- and don't think that's small because it gives ten people a chance at life; it will give them water. Would you please dial the number, go online and make the best gift you can to give the greatest gift, life?

We have some beautiful gifts to give you to bless you in your spiritual journey and to encourage you. Thank you so much for making that call. Thank you for making the gift of love and sharing 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: Well, Betty and I thank you for calling that number.

Remember if you ever get a busy, sometimes people are calling because they have a broken heart; they need prayer and the call is paid for by love. Others may be calling saying, "We want to provide water" but press on, and ask for *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights* devotions; a great way to start the day and end the day with Beth Moore. Hymns, the great hymns and the inspiration for them -- how and what inspired them to be written, and the CD, instrumental.

The beautiful bronze, the commemorative celebration of our 50 years of ministry and marriage! And I'm glad. We want you to share it with us. Mark down and plan to come to the Dallas/Fort Worth area just west of the airport in Dallas, the international airport in Southlake, Gateway Church, where Robert Morris is pastor where Betty and I go. We're going to have a conference there, hosted at Gateway that will really be the beginning of a great awakening and renewal for many of you. So plan to come and be with us.

Thank you so much for your help. Tomorrow we will talk about our beautiful daughter Robin and you'll meet her and you'll be blessed.