

2/13/13

Week 7

James: Thank you! Hey, you're great. I appreciate it. You're kind. And thank you for giving us this opportunity to share a few minutes with you. I'm James Robison; my wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. And a special program that we have every Wednesday, we call it "Wednesdays with Beth." We're talking about Beth Moore.

Let me mention this because I want you to get it. At the close of the program I hope you'll ask for it, *Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*: Devotions to begin and end your day in God's presence, which you can rest assured that means in his Word and getting his Word in you.

Also, I think you'll find this very interesting. Here is a beautiful praise tape of instrumental music that is the hymns. Fabulous music!

But one of the things I'm real excited about, I think you'll want to take advantage of, here is the story of how the hymns were inspired; who wrote them and why. What was the occasion that led to the great hymns that you love? We'll give you an opportunity to get these to be a blessing to you and others, and give you an opportunity to give water to someone who desperately needs a fresh drink of water.

Beth Moore is going to give us a drink of water. She is talking about affliction. We all go through it and she is going to give us some keen insight.

Welcome Beth Moore. Here she is.

Beth: Let's go back three points because we really settled on this word affliction. So far we've decided that number one is this: An affliction is something that makes you feel alone. When he says, "Turn to me and be gracious to me for I'm lonely and afflicted." An affliction, number two was this: Is anything that...

Audience: Afflicts.

Beth: This is going to be your keyword because we talked about that you can go through trouble. In fact, I asked them a question and they had this stellar answer to it. Maybe you could get on this with us and catch up with us. We talked about would you rather have trouble or an affliction? If you had to choose one or the other, which would you choose? All of them said --

Audience: Trouble!

Beth: Because no one wants a --

Audience: Affliction.

Beth: Because an affliction -- that's just it! See, a trouble is not necessarily troublesome. I can go through a trouble and I'm just strangely, supernaturally, through this spirit of God untroubled by it. But the nature of an affliction is it afflicts. So if it's not afflicting you, it's not an affliction it is a --

Audience: Trouble.

Beth: Oh, you're so smart! So that has us at number two: an affliction is anything that --

Audience: Afflicts.

Beth: Third one is so important and this will be a lot of where we're going in our present series.

Number three: Affliction always involves submission. So what I'm challenging all of you to do is that every time you think, now that we've defined it, if you've not seen the beginning of the series, go back and get it because you'll see that we name a lot of different things that are in the Word of God that constitute what the word calls in that sentence, in that scripture an affliction.

But here's what we learned that an affliction is anything that tries to make you submit to it. It tries to force you down below it. So here's what we talked about. That every

time we think affliction, think submission because an affliction always has our knees bent. We're either bowed down to the affliction or we're bowed down to God, but an affliction always has us bowed down. Everybody understand that?

So that's how you always know. It is something that forces some mastery over you. So the only way we get out from under the mastery of an affliction is to be under the mastery of God himself. That's the only way. There is no other way to live. I just want to be free from it all. I don't want to have any master. It's impossible when it comes to an affliction to choose that there will be no master there but you. You're not big enough; I'm not big enough to master an affliction. It's going to master us or Christ Jesus is going to master us and thereby set us free. He is the only one who will chain you to him to set you free. That is the beauty of Him. So an affliction always involves submission.

I've got to tell y'all something. I not only love God but I get a huge kick out of him. And I love that he knew I was coming to serve all of you and that he made what I'm about to tell you happen because he thought it was humorous and that maybe you would think it was humorous too. I just know it! I just know it! I may be putting words in his holy mouth but I don't think so because you just see if this sounds like something he would do to you.

Okay, I take a certain walk. We live out in the country and there is a certain way I can walk that never one single time have I ever run into another soul. Not ever! Not once! No one else on the walk because it is back there with the ticks and with snakes and it's adjacent to our property. There is a way that I can turn that takes you down by -- for lack of a better word I'm going to say a creek. It is one -- it really is one but you have to understand that a creek, like somebody could spit in a hole and go, "That's a creek."

[Laughter]

That's my area for you. So it's just -- but it still works for me. It is not a beautiful walk to anyone else but I like it. The birds are singing, the squirrels are running. My dogs are happy and so I'm on this walk and it takes me about 35 minutes to round the whole thing. So it's when I do a lot of my scripture memory. So I'll walk along and so

I'm just saying stuff to him. And I'll just -- I have my little cheat cards that I hold in my hand. I'll look at them when I need to, like I've done with you so I don't take my Bible out and get it in the creek. I just take my little sheet with me. Off I go, my spiral, off I go. And so I do a lot of scripture memory while I'm walking.

So this particular day I was on Psalm -- this was just a few days ago -- I know I've got you coming. I'm wanting to get in the mindset of Psalm 25. It's been a lifesaver to me in a lot of ways. So here I am saying it to him. And I get to the part, I've just been in the part that says the friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him and he makes known to them his covenant. And it's that wonderful part that we've studied before, "My eyes are ever toward the Lord for he will pluck my feet out of the net."

Now when I'm walking, because no one is there, remember? No one is there so I get like -- I mean I do it just that loud but I put more feeling into it because I don't have y'all going whoa! That's a lot. It's just me and Jesus. I think He likes it.

[Laughter]

I just say it. Sometimes it's like he acts like he's heard it all before. So I just was into and I get really -- I get a lot of feeling. "To you, oh, God, I lift up my soul! Oh, my God, in you I trust." All this comes out.

So I start rounding this corner and I'm right at the part that goes, "Turn to me!" This loud -- "Turn to me, and be gracious to me for I am lonely and aff...licted."

[Laughter]

And I'm looking this -- as I live and breathe -- this close to two people. It's a young couple, holding cane poles in that ditch somebody spit in that someone's got gall enough to call a creek and they're just both staring -- I'm going which of us is the craziest right now. But they were sure it was me and because I didn't have a Bible it just looked like I'm going, "I'm lonely and afflicted!"

[Laughter]

"Lonely and afflicted!" They're like --

[Laughter]

The woman never said a word. She was -- she looked stunned. I bet he picked her up. They were in two four wheelers. I bet he just picked her up and set her still frozen like this. She never said a word. He looked at me and went, "We're catching fish."

[Laughter]

And I don't -- I didn't know what to say. How do you explain because there was nowhere for it to go good. Well, I was saying that to God. Well, clearly! Clearly! But you know what? They have -- I tried to get Keith. I said, "Walk down with me because we've got a couple --," this was the next day, "We've got a couple that are fishing in the creek. Walk down, we're going to go say 'hi' to them."

He said, "Elizabeth, they're not ever coming back."

[Laughter]

He said, "There is no need for me to ever put out a 'No Trespassing Sign' because all we need is for you to walk around going, 'I'm lonely and afflicted!'"

[Laughter]

Ohhhh! So then... okay. I've come to tell you this, that God can deliver us from our affliction. Oh, we want that one! That's why I'm giving you a couple of different multiple choice it can be before God and that is one of them and everybody say "amen" to that, because here's the thing we already talked about in the first half of our series. None of us just want to own up to being a glutton for punishment. For crying out loud, if you're afflicted, ask to be delivered from it so he can deliver us from it.

He can also deliver us in it because I'm going to prove to you today scripturally that sometimes he has something to gain because we have something to gain. We can't make him more God than he is but he is blessed when he is able to raise up his child in some maturity and in some growth and in some completion in an area that is lacking. He knows we've got something to gain by leaving it at least for a season, so he can deliver us in it.

But you and I have discussed already in the first half of our series no matter what our affliction, we can be victorious in it. Not one time does it get to be an excuse for our defeat. But here is my newsflash. This was the first time here recently as I memorized this Psalm, this was the first time I really began to think this through. We've talked about God can deliver us from our affliction, God can deliver in our affliction, but the part that has gotten my attention here just lately, I think maybe it's also possible for God to deliver us -- are you ready? -- by our affliction -- by it! Because I think that that's part of what has happened to me -- by it. And I don't mean buy it, B-U-Y. I mean B-Y, I mean I hope to prove to you that he can actually use the affliction to bring us an area of great need or great deliverance because it happened to me.

Now I told you I baited you in the first half of the series and I said I'm going to tell you what my affliction is, my ongoing, by that I mean it visits me a lot. I'm not meaning a demon visits me. I do know that the enemy is all wound up in it because he loves it -- he just loves it because he wants us to submit to it. But I do mean that it is something that is just not just rare. It is not all the time, it's not every day but I wish I could say it is rare and it is not.

I told you in the first half of the series that my big one that I've been completely delivered from is that I used to have victim affliction. I would set myself up, sort of, to be bullied or oppressed somehow or pressed down. I did it over and over and over again. I'm no longer... that person is dead in me. He killed that person. It was bloody and ugly and violent.

I'm talking about scripturally, it was just violent. It was a radical process. That was my own breaking free process. I've been delivered from that. That has not come back up in many years. So I praise him for that.

But I have one that is more current. The thing of it is I think maybe -- I think maybe I am going to -- I think I'm getting a sense from God that I am on my way out of it and it will be on my way out of it after decades, is what I'm going to tell you. But I think it's been of great use to him. I don't know that for sure. I'll tell you next time what happened with it.

But my area of affliction that I deal with in this present season of my life, in these years, these last ten years is that I go through times of complete -- I know I'm dramatic with my words anyway but just go there with me, mental torture -- just mental torture -- just torment. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Where it will be an assault over my mind, flooded with self condemnation, flooded with self doubt, flooded with all manner of question. I've gotten delivered from a lot of the insecurity but it used to really be that but now it's just like this -- it's like harassment. I will have it in my dreams. I will just go through a season where I'm sorry, I don't want this to be disturbing to you but I mean can I just be -- can we just be real with one another where you just somehow just want to go, stop it! I don't mean voices talking to me. I just mean I picture things in my life and in my past and failures and replays and it will be like I'll go along with life and life is just going fine and then boom! Here it will come. Boom! Here it will come. I always know it is lurking because it is my thing.

I've told y'all before, I have a very, very obsessive mind. I have to get it in my head; I'm very deliberate over my thoughts because this is where I go down right here. This is where my defeat is going to come and it is -- our battlefield is right there in our heads. We know that; so that's true of all of us.

But for me, I just have to really -- I don't get to just let my mind go anywhere, see anything, and do anything. I can't. I can't! Unfortunately it's seen enough and it loves to replay all of that. So, and not the victim part but then it's all about my stupidity and it will be all of this. When I'm on to the enemy, can anybody -- I just want to know if I've got anybody at least know what I'm talking about? Like your friend has the same thing. Anybody? Your friend. Yes, I have a friend and she looks so much like me but you almost wouldn't be able to tell us apart, but I have a friend like that. Well, that would be me.

But how I know when the devil is on to it, when he overplays his hand because it's just like uh -- when he overplays his hand. When I hear myself say to the Lord and this does have -- I want to say, if you just want to know, just so you can relax a little bit about how often I would be at this point.

Now this torment probably happens a number of times a year but probably only once or twice a year do I honestly utter the words, "Lord, I don't know how much longer I can stand this." But the second I do, I know it is the devil. I know it is.

If by any chance you're 54 and life is looking long, it's the devil -- it's the devil. You know what I'm saying to you? Any time you're thinking, maybe it would be easier to just lay down and go to sleep than to get up and do the thing, that's harassment. By that time, the enemy wants us to quit. Be on to him! That's about when I start breaking out, "Don't you mess with me! Don't you mess with me!"

I have a darling, darling makeup artist here that works with *LIFE Today* for this program. I just love her so much. Her name is Faith. I was telling her while she was putting my eyeliner on today that honestly, if God did not remind me over and over that I was called, I would quit. I just would. It would be too hard. But God's so gracious to tell me that he loves me and to remind me that I'm called.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You know we have to have that reminder. I think sometimes we ask God why... why did you ever use me in any way and sometimes we ask can you? But he can and in spite of what we've been through he wants to walk through all of our challenges with us, he wants to lift us up out of the miry clay, up out of a pit that we may have dug or been cast into by circumstances or unkind people, but he will lift us up. He'll hold our head up, enable us to look to him.

I want you to look with not only your eyes but his eyes, the Lord's, and I want you to see what I believe God wants us to notice and not turn away from. We can with no

exaggeration be the answer to the need you see. And with all my heart, I think you're going to want to be. Watch closely.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Every day millions of women set out to collect drinking water for themselves and their families only to find dirty diseased water sources available to them.

Our mission teams have traveled to numerous countries around the world and seen the reality of families' desperate need for clean water.

Jeanne: Stagnant water -- contaminated by feces and chemicals. If your child scooped this water up, how fast would you knock it from their hand? You see, water like this, the only source for areas around here is killing moms and dads and children. We can stop that. Will you help us dig a well right here so we can bring these people clean water?

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I'm moved by what I see. I saw that little tiny plastic container that little child was drinking that obviously filthy water from. I thought what Jesus said, "If you give them just a cup of water in my name, you won't lose your reward." I've said this numerous times and I repeat it, I never stop and think, "What's in it for me if I give them a drink of water?" In other words, why did Jesus mention the reward? It must have been important to him and to God or he wouldn't have mentioned it.

But I think it is really important that that not be the reason we do it. I believe the reason we give it is because we love them. And I believe if you love them, I believe it is reward enough just to know you've done it. And that you gave that little child clean water so he has a chance at life.

And then you give the missionaries the opportunity of telling them why someone gave them water, and it is the love of God that leads us to meet that need, and that love is expressed through our viewers.

Betty: It is, James. As I was watching that, along with you, I thought about now, if I had one of my children with me and I saw them run out into the middle of the street, and I saw a car coming, I'd run grab them and say, "No, no! Stop, stop!" That's the way we feel as we watch these children drink this diseased water.

But their mothers aren't going to stop them from drinking it. Why? Because they know that they have to have water to at least survive that day. They know that they would die more quickly without any water. They have to have some kind so they let them drink that diseased water.

What we want to do is give them a choice. Let them choose the clean water -- or the diseased water. They're going to choose the clean water. So please help us be able to do that.

James: If you understand that Jesus is the source of life, abundant, meaningful life now and eternal life and he said, "I am the water of life." The only way to have that life is through him. The only way we can have a healthy life is to have clean non-disease ridden water. We can give them water. It is there.

You say, "Well, I see the water there that's filthy." There are ways to purify it, but inland, we can drill a well. And viewers like you have provided the drilling equipment. And the missionaries and the workers have found the places where the need is. We're targeting, this year, 500 areas to drill a well. That's the largest number we've ever set out to do. We believe if we can give people Water for Life they want to hear about the water of life. We believe it opens their hearts when they see the love of God demonstrated before we declare it to them.

I'm asking you today to reach out and touch someone with love. Would you dial the telephone number please? Right now would you just move to the phone? Would you get your bankcard and use it like a check? The best way you'll ever use it, when you're giving life to someone. You're going to give them not just a cup of water but you're going to join to give them a well of water -- basically water the rest of their life so they can have a healthy life. Would you make that gift?

The wells cost \$4800. If you break it down, and it gives an average of 1,000 people water the rest of their life, \$48 will give ten people water. Can you give that? \$144 -- 30 people water. You may say, "James, I would like to give the whole well." "I can give a part of it." Many people give \$1200 and pray for three to join them or \$2400 and pray for one to join them. Whatever you can do, we're asking you to make the call today.

We have some gifts to share with you. A beautiful commemorative bronze for our 50th anniversary celebration; we'd like to give that to you as you make that special gift we've asked for.

Then we've got the other gifts, Beth Moore's devotional book, the beautiful hymns and the story of how they were birthed, and how they were inspired.

Would you right now please, go to LifeToday.org online or dial that number and make the gift? If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Thank you so much 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!

End of clip

On the mission field:

Beth: This is just exactly what we're after. We're drilling wells so that people can know that they are drinking life and not death. You want to talk about a worthy investment -- seeing our dollars put into a cup of cool fresh water that's not going to be diseased when this child puts it to her lips.

If you possibly can, please go to the phone. Do whatever you can and partner with us for Water for Life.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Beth, I just thank you not only for what you teach but what you demonstrate with your life. Keith, Beth's husband, the two of them have been supporters of our outreaches for a long time. This is...

And by the way, Beth will be part of our anniversary conference, along with other speakers you're going to want to hear. Mark the date. There it is on the screen. Plan to be with us -- don't miss it!

But Beth and Keith have helped us drill water wells and provide help for the hungry, as well as those that have been trafficked. The Living Water limited edition celebrating 50 years bronze, this is a Robert Summers bronze. He did the Byron Nelson, the Ben

Hogan, the John Wayne, the incredible cattle and horses in Dallas; he's done many of the great bronzes in the world. He did this for us. It is a special occasion.

You help us by making a very special gift to drill water and we will send it to you, along with the other gifts that I know will be a blessing to you.

Betty and I say thank you so much for your help and thanks for watching *LIFE Today*. Tell your friends about Beth. Would you do that? Thank all of you for being with us.