

Week 11
3-13-13

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. It's Wednesdays with Beth; I always look forward to this time of the week. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: And she is talking about something that the Bible repeats over and over from cover to cover, so obviously it must be very important. Remember – remember – remember! I think when you stop and think about it and you look at what's going on in our nation, it's like we have forgotten. We have forgotten the birth of this nation. We have forgotten the foundational principles. We have forgotten the importance oftentimes of relationship and family and first-things first. And we need to go back and remember the blessings that come from getting the priorities in order.

Well, Beth wants us to understand the importance of remembering. I think you want to understand why it's so important as you listen to Beth. Here she is!

Begin video clip:

Beth: Turn with me to Deuteronomy chapter eight.

Oh, I was going to tell you something. If you are just tuning in I was telling a story about how I love women of all shapes, sizes, and all these looks. But what I forgot to tell you, it's so funny because when I write down my makeup artist's name, her name is Faith. So sometimes it gets lost in my notes because I think it is reminding me to talk about Faith. Well, this is a Faith that is a person and not a thing, although she is a person who does the thing. But she told me something and I just want somebody blessed and edified.

You know when I said, "I just love women." She said to me, she didn't even know I'd had that conversation in the car coming up. She said, "I love women's faces. I love women's faces!" Because that's what she does all the time. She said, "Beth," she said, "I just want to take them in my hands like this." She said, "I never see a woman that I do not think is beautiful." Mmhh! That's powerful: isn't it? She sees with the eyes of Jesus. And all of you, my brothers, if you are in Christ, you radiate with him and you are a work of art.

Now I'm going to read to you all of Deuteronomy, chapter eight. It is 19 verses and I kept trying to think how I could cut it back and zero it in and I can't do it. Not for the theme

that we have going today. So we're just going to have to let it be what it is and you're going to have to just hang with it. So whatever you may be doing, try to hang with the reading if you can.

Now my grandson Jackson who is six is an extremely active person. Now I don't know who he takes after but he is just very enthusiastic about a lot of things. It is hard for him to sit still. This has been his first year -- you know kindergarten back in my kids' day used to be a half day affair. Now it just goes on and on and on. These little bitty things are there all day long until 3:00 and it is just mind blowing to me.

But Amanda told me, we were walking out from our church service on Sunday and we were watching him walk because when he sat a long time, he has to do... he walks to the car. And the camera is going to need to get my legs on this because there's a lot of action that goes on with the legs. She said, "Mother." She walks to get him every single day, rain, sleet, snow, whatever it happens to be. She walks to get him with Anna Beth every single day to bring him home. And she says, "All the way home he jerks the limbs -- all the way home." She said she just has him in front of her so that she can just enjoy the ride.

So if at any point I'm reading you just kind of need to do it. You just go right ahead and we're going to get it done. Deuteronomy 8, verse one. The whole commandment that I command you today, you shall be careful to do that you may live and multiply and go in and possession the land that the Lord swore to give your fathers and you shall remember the whole way -- somebody say, "The whole way."

Audience: The whole way.

Beth: And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these 40 years in the wilderness that he might humble you, testing you to know what is in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your clothing did not wear out on you. That means that they came out of the wilderness in the same outfit they went in with. [Sighs]

[Laughter]

I don't know. I'd be willing but oh, I'm glad I don't have to. Amen? Oh, I'm so glad! It says: Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these 40 years. Okay, this has nothing to do with our lesson but I love a little bit of Bible trivia when it says, "Your feet did not swell." That word swell in the Hebrew also translates dough, as in

bread dough. So if any of you who have taken a baby full term know what that looks like where you look down at your feet and think, "Whose feet are those? I have never seen those in my entire -- I have no idea whose feet those belong to."

So even they -- those women who went full term and their feet did not swell. And it says in verse five, you're going, "Woman, we've got to get to verse 19, get with it!" Know that in your heart that as a man disciplines his son the Lord your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the Lord your God -- this is going to be a little bit important to us in a moment -- for the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land.

Now when I tell them to repeat something, I want you to too. The more you participate, the more you're going to get out of this on Wednesdays. Answer back when I invite you to.

Somebody say, "A good land." Look at one another and say, "He's bringing you into a good land."

Audience: He's bringing you into a good land.

Beth: And it says a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills. This will be important, verse eight, kind of let it ring in your head. We'll be back to it. A land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, and a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. And you shall eat and be full and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

Verse 11: Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land -- you can almost hear him going -- "Who saved your scrawny neck!" Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know that he may humble you and test you to do you good in the end.

Verse 17: Beware lest you say in your heart, my power and the might of my own hand gave me this wealth. You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant this he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

I want to pause just long enough to tell you, from a New Testament point of view, in the Old Testament much of the word wealth was about wealth. For us, we have spiritual wealth, that's what we are promised; riches in Christ Jesus. The covenantal promises are a little bit different. He can do whatever he wants. He can bless us physically; he can do whatever He wants if he can be glorified; if he can do it to the good of man and to the glory of his own name. He can do anything He wants but I'm saying the promise for us is spiritual wealth; our wealth in Christ, every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians one would be a place that you would want to look into that. So keep that in mind because we can misuse that wealth as well, and that will be huge to us.

Verse 18: You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you that today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the Lord your God.

Now read that again in verse 20: Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God. Now take a little perusal down that chapter just for a moment. I just want you to let your eyes jump and for those of you who are watching, I'm going to let it jump to you while I say it. But you see in verse two it says: And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord has led you.

Then verse 11, if you like to put stars out by your Bible, you might star these places or highlight it on your iPad. Verse two: You shall remember -- everybody say, "You shall remember."

Audience: You shall remember.

Beth: Then verse 11 says: Take care lest you forget the Lord your God. Say, "Don't forget."

Audience: Don't forget.

Beth: This is all in one chapter. Lest when you have eaten and are full and build good

houses and live in them and then your heart be lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Going down to verse 18: You shall remember the Lord your God.

Then go to verse 19: And if you forget the Lord your God, I solemnly warn you today that you will surely perish. I want you to look back to verse two because this is going to be exactly where we're going to settle for this present series when it says: And you shall remember. I want to tell you today that spiritually speaking amnesia can kill you. It can flat out murder you. All it takes for us to perish for all practical purposes in our calling and what God has placed before us as a destiny before the foundation of the world was put into place by his voice everything we were meant to be about honestly can flat out perish if we forget what the Lord our God has done and is doing for us. Lest we forget -- lest we forget.

I love the wording in verse 11 because it says this: it says this in the version I'm reading from. It says in verse 11: Take care -- take care! You know how often we say to one another, "Well, take care of yourself!" "Have a great day! Take care. Be sure and take care." Everybody say, "Take care."

Audience: Take care.

Beth: We say it over and over again. Wouldn't it be something? I mean it would be almost revolutionary to us if those two words came to us when somebody said them, they're just the same thing that we always say, "Now take care!" They sign a letter, "Take care!" Sign an e-mail, "Take care of yourself! Be sure you take care of yourself!" If we begin to associate it with this chapter -- because to take care of ourselves would be not to forget. You really want to take good care of yourself? Do not forget what the Lord your God has done for you. "Lest you forget" because spiritually speaking amnesia can kill you. It is deadly. It kills ministries because people forget -- they forget.

He said to Saul, "When you were small in your own eyes, I could powerfully use you but now you think you're a big shot and you know what?" I'm obviously paraphrasing, "Now I'm going to set you to the side because you forgot. You got spiritual amnesia and it's going to kill you." It kills churches. When churches forget their heritage of faith, it kills it! I mean it still may exist but I mean the cloudy pillar of God's glory may have moved on. The anointing may have left years ago but they're so talented that it just keeps going on. Who noticed that he was gone? Who noticed? They forgot. It kills passion. When we just get like routine and rote in our faith, somewhere we've let ourselves forget where we've been with God, what he's done for us. It kills effectiveness. It just kills -- it kills -- it kills!

I hope so much at some point James and I have talked about it, I think at some point my sister Gay and I will come on here together and sit down with James and Betty. I almost cannot wait. In one way, I just keep -- I don't want the enemy to just slam her because she just got so much exposure because she is still growing. Her maturity is still growing to match her testimony. When we get out there and give our testimony too fast, the enemy can come for us and not because our testimony wasn't true and real but we didn't know the enemy was going to come for us. We didn't know what it was going to take to sustain long term and to fight the good fight. So I want there to be time for that. But you cannot fathom her story, and really, both of our stories because we come -- we both come from a very, very difficult background where childhood trauma was into play, a lot of insecurity.

She comes from a background of severe addiction and alcoholism that led to homelessness. That is just enough of her story to tell you that when I'm able to share with you that three years later, the woman has not had one single drop of alcohol -- not one drop!

[Cheers & Applause]

Not one drop after a 35-plus year addiction that took everything she had.

One reason why people -- Lord, I'm just going to trust this in the lesson and watch my time. One reason why people have a hard time sobering up after years like that is because when they sober up they see the mess that was made and they can't bear it. They've got to be and I want to say to you, "Oh, yes, you can. In Christ you can!" Because it's only temporary. Then he starts bringing redemption but we've got to sober enough to see, whoa! This is what happened in all my wiggled outedness. I got the piper to pay.

And then God says, "You know what? Redemption means I paid. So we're going to raise you back up but it is important that you know where you've been." So she had to sober up long enough to look at every -- lost everything: Job, marriage, children, home, family... finally couldn't deal with it anymore after years and years. If you could think of the worst case scenario that you could ever actually live through that your body would survive it and many times she did not think it would, that would be my sister.

I come also from a tremendous bondage. We lived it out in two different ways. What I want you to know is just here recently she's had some people tell her along the way because she tells her story that one day she will forget. She said, "The day I do is probably the next day I pick up a drink." Because she said, "My protection is this is where I've been -- this is where I've been." And she and I, and I'm sure we'll tell this to James and Betty, if

we ever get to come on together, I say that by faith, if that ever comes to pass, but she and I since we were little girls have called each other Skizzy, instead of Sissy, it was just Skizzy. I'm Skizzy and she's Skizzy. When we call one another we go, "Skizzy, this is Skizzy." This is what we do all the time -- all the time! It still makes us laugh all these years later because we even get the humor of it because we'll be together and we will want to introduce, "Well, this is Skizzy" and she'll go, "And this is Skizzy."

[Laughter]

So that's how we do. So she says -- we use it in very serious context because it is just our names to one another. It is a pet name between sisters. And she said to me, "Skizzy, let's never forget! Let's you and I never forget!"

I said, "Girl, deal! Let's never forget." Let's not stay there, let's move on but let's never forget because sometimes we do and this is what this lesson is on, never forgetting and always remembering because sometimes we do.

And here's what happens. When we do, stay with me here, the line between taking for granted and taking the credit becomes almost indiscernible. About the time you realize that you've begun to take God for granted, it's not near as big a deal as it was, I've lived on since then, grown up -- said, "Oh, that's a different me." Praise God, it is but I get to tell the story of the different me. That's part of my testimony. I'm protected. The enemy is overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of my testimony. And when I start taking him for granted and the whole thing for granted, my deliverance, the past work God has done, then taking credit, whoa! Comes right in on top of it. Then you don't know the exact moment it crosses over -- you just don't know. But I tell you, by the time you realize you're taking God for granted you probably also have taken some ownership over the credit.

Well, here's what I did. Here's what I did and I just was stronger than some people that I know that just won't do it. So by the time you're taking him for granted you're probably also beginning to take his credit and that's called taking his glory and I wrote down an instruction of four words if that happens: Stop, drop, and roll. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Because girlfriend, there is pain coming. Guy friend, you start taking his credit and that means you're taking his glory; that's another word for taking his glory. And you start doing that and listen, he's going to come for you, and I don't mean that he doesn't come in love but I'm just going to say, he's not going to let you have his glory. No, he's not. He's just not going to.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Oh, boy! Don't forget, let me just say again how much we appreciate the love, the prayers, the support that you have really extended to God on our behalf.

Betty, I feel like love really has lifted us during this trying time.

And you have been the arms of love and prayer. We do thank you! And we don't forget it. And we don't forget the grace of God, nor do we forget the testimony of the consistent life of our own daughter Robin. Thank you for letting us know that what we've shared about her has blessed you and we remember the grace of God and also the witness.

This is, and I really would like for you to just kind of focus on what I'm saying, this is the last week right now for Water for Life emphasis. Our goal this year is five hundred wells. We come to you and we ask you to help a couple of times a year. We'll come with various feeding, we'll emphasis the feeding outreach to nearly a half million children that depend upon us twice a year. This is the last week in this emphasis of Water for Life. There are so many, so close, not only to find in what they need, but I think there are so many like yourself who are so close to saying, "You know, I'm going to give a well or I'm going to give a portion of a well. I'm definitely going to do something." This is the last week now. I want you to listen closely and I pray you'll not be *almost* persuaded, but fully persuaded to do what God puts on your heart!

On the mission field:

Kyle: This is Dauphine. She lives in Madagascar and doesn't have access to clean water. Last year a stay-at-home Mom in Texas almost picked up the phone to help support a new water well in Dauphine's village.

This is Rosa. She lives in a tiny village in Central America. Rosa and her children drink water that looks like this. A couple of months ago, a small business owner in the Midwest almost mailed in a check to drill a clean water well near Rosa's house.

This is Vaughn. He's from Cambodia and he's watched his grandchildren suffer from the affects of a waterborne illness. Last week, a Sunday school class in a large church talked about doing a fundraiser to help ease the pain in Vaughn's family.

Dauphine's son almost made it to his 5th birthday. Rosa's baby almost made it through the night. Vaughn's grandchild was almost well enough to leave the clinic. We can do

better than almost. Clean water changes everything.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Yes, it does!

Father, Betty and I join our hearts right now with missionaries and I think mothers, family members, asking you to give them what they need so desperately, fresh, clean water. In Jesus name!

I don't think you're going to sit here and watch this program, and I want to just thank you for not only watching the part that I think brightened your day, because you could smile, you could rejoice, what you heard, the truth and the things that gave you peace and direction. But I think that you're really wondering, can I make a difference in someone's life.

Betty, there's not a person watching that can't give a cup of water. \$48 gives ten people water for the rest of their lives, everyone can do something.

Betty: All of us can do something. You know, I think about it, our bodies can't survive at all without water. Yet, the water that these precious people, these children, are drinking is slowly taking their life, because it's so contaminated, so diseased. Let's make a difference in their lives. Let's give them life by drilling water wells and giving them fresh, pure water and a chance in life. Please join with us. We can all do it!

James: It's really sad that as you watch people going to get the water, like Betty says, they have to have it. They go to get life, and they get disease and oftentimes a very slow, painful progression toward death. In other words, it's what they go to get life, it ends their life because it's not suitable to drink. It's not really suitable for animals and they're in there wading and defecating in it; just filthy!

We can solve it. We cannot immediately give clean water to the whole world. We have to do it, like Jesus said, basically at one cup at a time, one expression of love at a time, one person expressing the love of God.

I know you want to help. I'm praying that you will simply do what you can. We do ask you, if you can possibly do it during this last week that we're asking you to help in this

water for life emphasis, Betty, if you can you'll give an entire well. That's \$4800. Now that's just in these remote village areas where we can access it. If you went in to a great big population center of 50 or 100,000 people there's no way you could provide it for that. What we're doing is where the missionaries are hands-on working with the precious people in those third world impoverished countries, they begin to tell them about God's love and they see the greatest need is water and we can do it. It's something a couple can do, or an individual can do, even children are doing it. You can drill a well.

We're going to send you the beautiful commemorative bronze by Robert Summers, the world's greatest sculptor. This is the fifty year anniversary bronze, it's a special edition. We're sending it to those of you who will drill a well, or give \$1200; \$2400, pray three people or one person joins and we have a well. We're sending that along with Beth Moore's Restful Mornings and Incredibly Peaceful Evenings. You know, the blessed days. These devotions from Beth. The beautiful book telling the story of the hymns and the incredible instrumental music of the hymns, you're going to love it! How they were birthed.

We want to bless you. We never give you something trying to get you to give something. We give to you because just as we're giving water to them to bless them, we're giving to you to bless you. So, I hope you'll ask for the bronze. If you can drill a well, do it! But if you can give \$48 or \$144 you'll give ten people or thirty people water the rest of their lives. So there is a level at which you can participate.

Would you dial the number, take your bankcard and use it like it's a check. That's how you use them. Or you can go online, lifetoday.org, and say here's my gift. If you do write a check make it to *LIFE* but call the number and be persistent until you get through and tell us you put it in the mail, because we have to let those who are drilling the wells and working along with the missionaries, we have to let them know water is coming to your area. Do what you can today.

This last week's important we hear from you. Please make that call!

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.

This is the last week! Call, write, or make your secure gift online!

In the studio:

James: As you remember this is the last week now for the emphasis and there is the Living Water limited edition Robert Summer's bronze. Fifty year celebration of the blessings of God on not only the ministry but on our marriage!

Thank you, honey!

[Laughing]

I love you!

Please, if you can give \$1200 and pray three join you or \$2400 and pray someone does of the entire well, ask for the limited edition bronze and you'll also be getting the other material that'll be inspirational and a blessing to you. Thank you so much for helping us all the time, but also remembering this is the last week of Water for Life. Thank you!

Announcer: Join James and Betty Robison July 18th through the 20th for the Awaken Now Conference at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas featuring inspiring speakers such as governor Mike Huckabee, pastor Tony Evans, international Bible teacher and author Beth

Moore, New York Times best-selling author and speaker Andy Andrews, and many more including musical guests such as Big Daddy Weave! Register today for this once in a lifetime event celebrating 50 years of ministry with James and Betty Robison! Go to lifetoday.org.