

3/26/13
Week 13

James: Thank you much! It is always a joy to share this time with you -- *LIFE Today*. Welcome! I'm James Robison. Betty and I have a very good friend, Margaret Feinberg and she's got a friend. Many of you... she has several friends but she brought one with her.

[Laughter]

The thing is that I wrote a book about a little dachshund, and there she is chasing a little bunny rabbit, a little cotton tail. She is having quite a fun time. I wrote *The God of All Creation: Life lessons from pets and wildlife*. You ought to get it; it is in the bookstores. But I want to show you what Margaret brought. Would you welcome Margaret Feinberg to *LIFE Today*? Now Margaret, we just had a meal with you and we did not know but you had a little purse, a little bag but it is not an ordinary bag.

Margaret: No, there are a lot of women who carry lipstick and pens and notepads in their purses but I like to keep something a little extra in my bag and this...

[Laughter]

...is little Hershey.

James: Who is that?

Margaret: This is Hershey.

James: Hershey, would you come over here and let me have just a little kiss? Is Hershey going to be friendly? You're a sweet puppy. Did you know I'm a dog person? I'm a dog person. There's momma right over there. That is the sweetest dog. That's a poodle.

Margaret: It is!

James: Now what kind of poodle cut would you call that?

Margaret: That's a puppy cut. Biggest compliment I get is when somebody says, "What kind of dog is that?" Thank you! Thank you!

James: It's so comfortable because it is close to you. Now we're going to let one of my staff take her.

But do you like pets? Don't you like them? Hey, get *The God of All Creation* and just see the life lessons that I learned from a little dachshund; and boy, has she been a blessing to us for going on 12 years, and she still looks as slick as a seal.

You know what? You're a blessing. And you have written a new book. You are a gifted writer. You are a gifted communicator.

She has written a book called *Wonderstruck*. And the thing that kind of struck me was that Margaret reached a point in her Christian life, while she was speaking and communicating -- and by the way, this is an amazing Bible study. You can get it in the bookstores. You can get it online. If you want Margaret to come, where would they go if they say, "We want you to come and speak to our church or to our women's group?" How would they contact you?

Margaret: The best place is through our web site at www.MargaretFeinberg.com.

James: There it is on the screen, so you can see it. You can always find, if you miss something by going to LifeToday.org, you can find the information about the guests as well as -- get this -- you can watch any program on *LIFE Today* online any time you want to, even going back and watch programs in the past. Margaret, I want you to tell me what led you to write this book? -- And then of all things, Lifeway want this to be a Bible study that has already just taken off. What happened to lead you on this journey to write such a book?

Margaret: *Wonderstruck* was actually born out of one of the most difficult years of my husband Leif's and my life. I don't know if you've ever had those years in life when everything is going wrong and you can't make it stop. You try to outrun it and go really, really fast and it chases you down. And then you try to stand still and shrink and it still finds you, but for us, that was 2010. And it started innocently enough. I remember my husband was doing some volunteer work and he was driving back and about two and a half hours from Denver our car broke down. We discovered the transmission went out, and that's our only car. There was no place around there to fix it so it had to be towed back. And the repairs that were supposed to take a week took

three. It cost more than expected. I remember about day before we went and picked up that car, I got a call -- or actually I went downstairs and I was making up a guest bed and as I did I noticed my socks were moist. I realized that our entire basement had flooded. And so then we have to bring in another repair crew and they start fixing up the basement, and those repairs are supposed to take a few weeks and they ended up taking six weeks and costing twice as much.

And just as we're about to get things fixed I get a call from our accountant and he announces that we've been embezzled. And now we're responsible to pay most of the previous years and then the year before that taxes plus penalties and interest all over again.

Just as we're trying to wrap our heads and our minds and our hearts around all that's happening, I get a call from the doctor and the doctor says, "Margaret, you need to come in for another round of tests."

I said, "Well, I was in what a year ago. What do you mean?"

He said, "When you took those tests, they were inconclusive and you need to come back in." So I go back in and I go through a round of tests and I sit in the doctor's office and I go, "What's going on? What's the issue?"

He said, "I don't know."

I looked at him and I said, "Do I have cancer?"

And he says, "I don't know. You need to see a specialist."

So as you know getting into a specialist isn't something that happens overnight. So we're waiting another six to eight weeks to get into a specialist. We finally get into that doctor, go through another round of tests. Go into the doctor's office and I go, "So what's going on here?"

And he looks at me and he says, "I don't know."

I ask him, "Do I have cancer?"

He goes, "I don't know." I'm thinking, what do you mean you don't know. You are a doctor. You are not supposed to be practicing -- not now! And it takes several months to go in to the super specialist.

Meanwhile, we've got clients who aren't paying. We had a family member who died. We've got relationships that are turning sour that we can't explain. And everything is going wrong and we can't make it stop. And the desire out of my heart at that time, it wasn't a prayer for more faith or a prayer for more trust; it was a prayer for wonder. It was this desire saying, "God, I want to know you even in the midst of this as wonderful. You say in the book of Isaiah that your name is wonderful. God, show me your wonder."

And my husband Leif and I, we just began praying day in and day out, "God show us your wonder. Show us your wonder. Show us your wonder." What we began to see is that even in the midst of loss and pain that God wanted to reveal his goodness and his faithfulness and his love and his presence.

I remember that there was this moment that I was in the kitchen and I was slicing vegetables. And after all this happened -- it just kept on -- I just broke. I don't know if you know what it is like to be at the point where you can't take it anymore. It is like life has just sucker punched you and you can't make it stop. All of the sudden I was in there and I was just slicing those vegetables and those tears they just started to run and I couldn't pack them away anymore. I just started sobbing to the point that I fell down on that kitchen floor just weeping. Finally, I remember I rolled over on to my back and I began lifting my arms above my head. It was like I was making snow angels on the kitchen floor.

I don't know about your kitchen floor but mine feels a lot like a beach, it's all grimy and kind of dirty down there. And I'm sitting there making this motion, and as I did, there was this prayer that began to emerge, in the even in the deepest recesses of my soul. And for the first time in my life I started to get a glimpse of what the scripture means in Romans 8:26 when it describes that there are times in life when we don't know what to pray and the Holy Spirit prays on our behalf. And the prayer that emerged was simply this: God is good. God is on the throne. Breathe in. Breathe out. God is good! God is on the throne. Breathe in. Breathe out! And as I began praying this again and again, eventually, I was able to pull myself up off of that kitchen floor.

But for the next few weeks it was all I could pray. It was all I had to offer to God. I just kept over and over -- then I would think, "God, what is this prayer? What is this prayer that you have planted, that you have seeded in me through the power of the Holy Spirit?" I started to look at it and it is that basic foundational declaration: God is good! And no matter what bad happens in this life, no matter what trials and adversity and difficulties that we face, that our God remains good. And sometimes as

believers we just have to keep making that declaration, that bold proclamation that God is good even in the face of what seems so bad. And not just that God is good but that God is on the throne. That he is sovereign, he is all powerful, he is in control; that when we are so out of control he is still on that throne. And that we breathe in, and we breathe out. And we choose to keep breathing. We choose to keep living. We choose to keep moving forward. And sometimes that very breath, that is a prayer in its own.

So going through this difficult time, I began to encounter and start to see God in ways I hadn't expected. And even when that storm finally started to abate, even after we got the transmission in the car fixed and we got the basement redone and we finally managed to start paying back the I.R.S. and I finally got into that super specialist doctor and I found out that I didn't have cancer; I remember there was this day that I was driving down the road, it was 6th Avenue in Denver and as I did, I had a thought pop into my mind that was not my own. It was like the Holy Spirit was speaking and he said, "I am with you even in this."

And I remember driving down that road and I was going, "God, wait a second, even in what?" Like have we not been through enough? Have we not faced enough heartache and challenges and difficulty and this just hasn't stopped? What do you mean -- is my house on fire? Is my husband okay? Where is the dog? You know?

[Laughter]

So I remember I drove in -- I got in that slow lane, like Mac trucks are going by -- Beep! Beep! And I'm like, I'm just trying to get home safely. I get home and there is no smoke. I go downstairs and I'm like, "Leif, is everything okay?"

And he's like, "Yeah. Why?"

I go, "Where's the dog?" Hershey is asleep on the couch. And I remember for a few weeks, I was living just almost in a fearful sense of -- before I'd leave the house, I go back in and I'd make sure that stove was off like four times, the iron was unplugged. I didn't want anything bad to happen. And eventually, life returned to normal. I'd go to light the barbecue and I'd go, psheww -- normal life.

And I remember some time later I asked the Lord, "What was that? What was that? I believe that was from you. You said, 'I am with you even in this.' I know those I am statements in Exodus three echo throughout the gospels. Jesus makes those I am statements again and again. I believe you had spoken, 'I am with you, but even in this,' what do you mean?"

And I sensed the Holy Spirit say, "Margaret, I'm with you even in the aftermath, even after the storm has passed and you're in that process of rebuilding and restoring. When you're still struggling over all the questions of why this has happened and you're seeking your restoration from me, I am with you even in this."

James: Wow! Well, we're finding that out. Betty and I -- of course, our viewers know and I know you know, the toughest challenge in our life was losing our youngest daughter. And I went through those processes of wondering where is God? How could our daughter who never doubted -- how could a daughter that lived the perfect exemplary Christian life, before everyone who knew her for the 40 years she was on this earth, how could she who believed I win! And of course, she did. How could she be gone? And I'm watching God bind it up. But it hurt so bad, and you going through your frustration. Betty and I hurt so bad. I told Betty, "If I didn't know God so well -- if I didn't love him so much and know he loves me, I would not like God. I don't think I would even believe in God." That's how bad we hurt.

Betty: But I think the wonder that you're talking about is that he is there. He never leaves us. And his love is sufficient -- and his grace is sufficient -- and his comfort is awesome!

Margaret: It is! During this time I long tried to avoid Job in the Bible. I always kind of imagined him like Pigpen from the Charlie Brown comic strip series. Like you don't want to get too close to him lest that wear off on you.

And yet as I began looking at Job's story and all the difficulties and the pain and the loss which makes mine look about this big, but as I read that I began to see that throughout those first 37 chapters of Job time and time again, Job and the people that he were surrounded by are asking these questions of why? Why has this happened? Why has this happened?

But in chapter 38 when God finally breaks the silence, he raises such a different question. In Job chapter 38 it says: Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. And he said, "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man! I will question you and you shall answer me. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundations? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimension? Surely you know. Who stretched a measuring line across it?"

You see, Job and those who have surrounded him have been wrestling with the questions we wrestle with and that is the question of why and how and what. And yet

God meets them in the who. And there is that holy who of God's presence that even if we get an answer to all of our why and our how and our what questions that that one holy remains, and it is the holy who of God's presence. And we encounter it, we can cry out, whoo! Even in the midst of the pain and the loss and the adversity.

James: He can handle our questions; he's anxious to heal our hurt. I think when someone has been through this process -- I know that what Betty and I are convinced of, Margaret is that we're going to spend the rest of our lives seeking to touch the suffering, point people to Christ, win them to the Lord Jesus.

We want everyone to go where our daughter is, in heaven. We want everyone to have what God offers through his son Jesus. But we also want to spend our lives being a part of binding up broken hearts.

You may wonder why am I watching today? Why did I just happen to turn here? To be *Wonderstruck*. To be able to identify with someone who identifies with you, and maybe to hear me talk about the unbearable pain without God that we've experienced as parents with the loss of a child, a wonderful mother; to go through that and to see God heal, the process of healing, the binding of the broken heart. We're here for you. Jesus was sent for you. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in you, to lift you up, to lighten that load, to brighten your dark moments.

Father, I pray for every person that they will be Wonderstruck in the most beautiful way possible by the wonder of your greatness and your love. And that they will receive your love, your sufficiency, your forgiveness, your divine enabling power to overcome and to be lifted by love out of any point or pit of despair and be placed on a solid rock of your truth, your love, and your wisdom; in Jesus' name.

Any time you want someone to pray with you, you want someone to agree with you. Betty, our counselors care. The people that work here are people that have gone through heartache that can identify. We have many people who have called and said, "I just need somebody to talk to." Well, somebody is here. And the call is paid for by the love of God through someone.

We're asking you today if you'd like to have this book, it is in the bookstores. There is, again, Margaret's web site. If you want her to come -- well, you want the Bible study of *Wonderstruck*, and begin to do it in your church group or your study group or your neighborhood, do it. We'll be glad to send you the book today if you will do something we ask you to do and that is to help us rescue people who are being trafficked right now by sex predators, and we can turn it around. I want you to watch. This is going to

touch your heart as much as anything perhaps you've ever seen -- and you are the answer to this problem -- and you'll want to be.

Announcer: Daughters, what a precious gift! You want the very best for them. Yem, mother of two thought she found it.

>> Thinking that someone is going to take care of your kids and give them a better life than you can give them, and then finding out they're going through this horrendous evil that could ever possibly happen?

[Open captions]

>> Men arrived in my village and convinced me to let my daughters work in Malaysia for a good salary.

[Weeping]

Announcer: It was the promise of a life she couldn't provide. What it meant was letting them go. What it became was something altogether different.

Her oldest managed to make it back home but almost unrecognizable from the abuse, and in a condition that quickly took her life.

Yem's youngest daughter has neither been found nor heard from again.

>> As you can see it's completely ruined her whole life; for her family, she has nothing. She has no children here. She had two beautiful daughters and all she has is the pictures to look at. We have to help her. No mom should ever have to face this. This mom is living it. We have to help her.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Somebody's precious girls.

Betty: James, as I was watching that, I think, evil looks for vulnerability; it looks for the helpless to destroy -- seeks to destroy. And this precious mother thought she was doing what was best for her daughters. She wanted them to have a better life. What

parent wouldn't? We always want the best for our children. But she was deceived. Evil came and took her children, and now she weeps; her heart is broken. I think that is just one example of what's happening to these children. They need hope. They need someone to care for them. They need a place to go to lay their heads and rest.

James: You know one of the girls that you saw, obviously, was blinded in one eye. A lot of the little children that we rescue in places like Mumbai and other places of poverty, they'll get these little children and they will cut their hand off or they'll blind them so they become better beggars. I don't know how she was blinded but she was obviously abused.

But then the other little girl, that other daughter, but Betty, I couldn't help but think wouldn't it be wonderful if we could find her daughter, and at least show her she is going to be okay? And then you need to know that we get those girls like that that we find and we're able to give them a home.

And when I say "we," please understand we. Betty and I support every outreach of *LIFE* because we believe in it. And many of the outreaches we believe in we believe in because of people like you. You showed us something that needed to be done. And you said, "James, would you help?"

I said, "Well, we'll help if we can get others to join us." And you do! And you really wanted to do this. You wanted to rescue these girls. And amazingly, it cost only \$128 to rescue a child; that's to get them, a woman or a child out, and then take care of them. That actually includes being able to get secure facilities, even sometimes it means building it and when you build it, then you ask viewers to help us do it.

Now we've been able to build some incredible *LIFE* Centers. We're going to ask you to help restore one that has been damaged by fire and actually enlarge it because it's so effective. But you see what we're doing is we're rescuing those girls that are going to have happen what just happened there. Somebody told that mother, "We're going to give your girls a future" and they destroyed their future and their lives -- can't even find one of them.

Would you now say, "I will rescue a girl -- a child"? Sometimes it is boys that are trafficked. And it costs \$128. Would you make that gift? Would you make as large a gift toward that as you can because I believe others will join you? If there is any way you can help us rescue ten, make a \$1280 gift. Would you do that? Multiply what that woman needed by five. Just do that and get the ten. Would you help us? And then

would you help us restore and expand the *LIFE* Center that burned in the Ukraine where our wonderful missionaries who lost their little newborn son, Joshua.

The McCanns are the greatest lovers of children we've ever seen, for the glory of God. We need to rebuild that *LIFE* Center. We need \$275,000 -- that's additional. God, would you touch 275 people to give \$1,000? Would you, father?

Would you be one of them? God's touched your heart? Could you give \$1280 to say I'm going to rescue ten. Whatever you can do. \$128 will rescue one of them. Dial the number, please. Take your bankcard, use it like a check. Would you do that? Or you can go online LifeToday.org or write a check but call us and tell us what you're doing. And thank you so much. We have some beautiful gifts for you to bless you and help you because we love you and we want to bless your life as you bless others. We will be saying thank you by blessing you.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's hard to believe it's happening but at this very moment innocent boys and girls, many very young are being forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable and someone must save them.

Through *Mission: Rescue Life* you can help reach, rescue, and restore thousands of children from the horrors of the sex trade in Thailand, Cambodia, India, Ukraine, and many other nations. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their life forever. And with gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your gifts with others to help reach, rescue, and restore one more child from the horrors of their kidnappers.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you *Free to Be Me*, Betty Robison's updated account of how she moved from fear and insecurity to true freedom. You'll also receive the companion journal for your quiet time and daily reflections.

With your gift of \$128 or more to help rescue a child, be sure to request your copy of the *Life Application Study Bible*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help rebuild the *LIFE* Center in Ukraine destroyed by fire or \$1280 to help rescue 10 children, and you may request the limited edition bronze sculpture titled Christian.

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: From the depth of our heart, Betty and I just say thank you. We say thank you to Margaret for taking us on her journey. We say thank you for the way you pray for Betty and for me.

And 50 years we've been in ministry; I don't want you to miss our anniversary conference this summer to hear the wonderful speakers, the 18th through the 20th of July. Don't miss it! It will be held at our church, our home church Gateway here in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in Southlake. Please plan to come. You don't want to miss this.

Awaken Now! This is the hour. We will be glad to send you *Wonderstruck* if you just help us rescue some of these girls, some of these children.

Would you say thanks to Margaret Feinberg?

What a blessing you are, Margaret. You've been one of our best friends for a long time!

And you want to know how to get a hold of her? Well, we've given you her web site and you can go on LifeToday.org and get any information you want.

Thank you so much for helping us rescue these precious girls and children. God bless you!