

4/3/13

Week 14

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. It's that very special day of the week, Wednesdays with Beth. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: And Betty has a book that I think you'll really be blessed to read. As a matter of fact, there are pictures of us back when we were dating and we've been married now 50 years. This is her story, but of course, I'm part of that story. I think maybe a lot of the freedom she had to get was living with me; that's where the overcoming came. I promise you I wouldn't have made it without you.

Betty: A lot of the encouragement too.

James: Well, I tried to be your cheerleader but she picked me up so many times. I mean I'm telling you, it is amazing. This is a great story. There is a journal that comes along with it and what we're asking you to do is help us rescue people who are trapped in the sex traffic. We need to get them out.

Here's Beth Moore. I know you want to hear her. Would you welcome Beth?

Begin video clip:

Beth: This is going to seem so terribly ridiculous but Keith and I lost, within 21 days of one another, our two beloved pets. Now we're dog freaks and my Sonny, my constant companion was 18 stinking years old -- 18! Most of my youngest daughter's life had Sonny in it so this was a long time. I knew that one was coming. How many dogs make it to 20? Her face was completely -- she was black and her face was completely white. Who would know if my hair is white, you won't know it for a while. But hers we did not color her hair at that point.

But our little Beanie, Beanie our bird dog was only nine. Beanie had fought off a disease, a bone disease for many, many years and had just been a picture of health but we gave her medicine every day. When Sonny died, that day, Beanie went and got behind the bushes in our yard that day. And I said to her, "Get out! Because I promise

you, you're not going anywhere. And get out from behind there." That dog was dead in three weeks.

Now we were all like, "But don't you love us?"

She was like, "I love you but I miss my friend."

So her body just -- isn't that crazy? But her body just gave way to that disease and she was dead in three weeks. It was so crazy.

So I have about a month left to go when I get a new puppy because the Moore's have to have a dog. We have to fur -- we have to have like dog hair in our throats somewhere. It's just us. It's just us. We have to have it so it's never a question.

I've known other people so devastated they never got another one. I can't conceive of that. My dear friend, Janice, here at L.O.I. she lost her beloved golden retriever and she was like me, she could not have grieved it more but she had to get a new one, that's all there was to it.

So I bring in this little puppy and of course, I name her Queen Esther because why wouldn't I? I'm in Esther so I named her Queen Esther. So I have this ongoing memory. I thought, I've not been in this Esther but boy have I been with Esther, Queen Esther, I call her Star for short but she is very much the queen.

I've told you this part of the story before but it is so perfect for reading out of a portion of Esther. When I first got Star -- We are go people so they have to be go dogs and they're taught how to behave in a car immediately because we can't have any dog that cannot travel. We can't have it. So I want them to have a lot of fun. I like to drive with the windows down with dogs' heads out of them. I like it when other people do it. I'll just drive up next to them. I love it!

I was trying to teach Queen Esther how to look out the window, and I didn't want her to jump all the way out so I had to just crack it. She would get up because she would always stand at the window and look out. So I would start to lower the window because I'm up in the front seat where I have all four controls and I'm kind of glancing in my rear view while I'm driving. So I'm cracking it down like this but for months -- for months, when I lowered window, Queen Esther went down with it just like this.

[Laughter]

I'd bring it back up -- I'd bring it back down. I'd bring it back up; I'd bring it back down. And I would say to her, "You're missing the point! The point is, like you stick up your head and you do it over and you get the real view." But it took forever. Now she loves it but it took forever. This is so silly because we drive past people and the window would be half way down and she would be down here looking at them.

[Laughing]

You know? But it's such a picture of Esther because the whole book, God is not on the forefront where he is obvious by name all over the page as he is in so many other books. Picture Esther and Exodus next to one another, they could not be more different. And it's looking -- what she had to do was she had to look through the mirror darkly, the glass darkly. She didn't get to have her head out in that open air where we have very obvious revelation working through a whole different set of circumstances.

I want to read once again, I'm going to read a long portion but I want you to just go with me here, Esther chapter four. When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went out into the midst of the city and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry. Of course, there's been a death sentence, extermination for an entire people -- happens to be the people of God no less, a death sentence placed upon them. He hears about it. He puts on sackcloth and ashes, tears at his clothes.

He goes, it says in verse two: He went up to the entrance of the king's gate for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth. Don't you just love how they protected the leader from any of the grief? Oh, by all means. Sometimes that can happen in Christian leadership where you let everybody else handle the pastoral side. "I really am called to study. And let everybody else do that and really, I don't want any sackcloth and ashes in my presence." And we will cease to have anything to say about the scriptures because that's where it applies, right there in the real depth of life.

And it says in verse three: In every province, wherever the king commands and his decree reach, there was great mourning among the Jews with fasting and weeping and lamenting and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

Verse 4: When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai so that he might take off his sackcloth but he would not accept them.

Do you kind of love that? We can't just really camp there because we don't have the time to but you do just love that for a moment? Don't we kind of do that? Somebody will be all upset about something. We think, "You know what? A change of clothes will help." Aren't we constantly trying to --. "Honestly, if you looked a little better, you'd feel a little better. Let's get the robe off and let's get --." Because we think, fix it! We've got to fix it. There are some things you can't just fix with the next outfit.

Verse five: Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed to attend her and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

What it was and why it was. I love that! Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate.

Verse seven: Mordecai told him all that had happened to him and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

Verse eight: Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people.

Verse nine: Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai. So this is going in-between, one comes to her, she sends it back to him, and say this, verse 11: All the king's servants and the people of king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law, to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come to the king these 30 days -- the most beautiful woman in the kingdom.

But I mean -- she had not been called in for 30 days. Imagine, if your husband just ignored you for 30 solid days. And you want me to go to him, and this time he's the king and he can put you to death. Not make you feel like the living dead, put you to death.

Verse 12: And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. I love all of this go-between. Then Mordecai told him, "You know what? You reply to Esther, 'Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape anymore than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another

place but you and your father's house will perish! And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this.'"

This is -- when we want to escape it and let somebody else do it, what if this was the very time, if for all practical purposes, we were planted on the earth -- such a time as this! It so moves me to see that he tells her, "If you keep silent, it's going to come some other way." Why? Because God was faithful to his Word and he had promised that even in their disobedience they would be carried into oppression and carried into bondage but that he would deliver them because he had made a covenant with their father Abraham and he would keep it no matter what. It was based on his faithfulness and not on theirs. He would bring relief and he would bring deliverance but it would not be through her and she would go down with it.

I just want you to understand with me today because there is a concept that applies very much to you and me. God is going to do his thing. He has a kingdom agenda and it is what he is talking about through the prophets when it says, "His will will stand and no man can change it -- no matter what." That what he is doing, his kingdom agenda is in stone. He knows exactly what the plan is and he will do his will. His kingdom will come and he will do on earth as it is in heaven -- oh, yes, it will happen!

But the question becomes in the difficult times of our lives, will we join him in that process and be part of that relief and deliverance that comes to us first and then those around us, after us, will we be part of it or will we pass it over because it is just too hard? It just takes too much energy. It takes too much death to self for me to do that kind of thing. So he is going to do it any way but you're not. And I'm not.

And so the question on the table today, are we going to miss it? Are we going to wimp out on it? And I'm talking about what's really, really hard? Are we going to wimp out on it because we go, "You know what? He does not need me." No, he is completely self-sufficient: "I am that I am." But he invites us to join him in a kingdom agenda where our works will last all eternity. But we just sit back and go, "Use someone else!" You don't have the thing going in your life that is more important than the call of God on your life.

I promise you, the thing you were born for is the only thing that is going to fulfill you in your heart. There are many other things we love, many other things we find satisfying but I tell you, if you do every other thing, all those wonderful loved ones and they are, I wouldn't trade my family for anything!

But then if I made it to my death just on the eve of my death and I did not fulfill my calling, there would have been something I would be still going, "You know what? I never quite -- I never found it!"

And we would want to go, "Lord, you weren't faithful. You told me I had a calling."

And he might say back to us, "But you know what? You didn't like your this -- for such a time as this. For such a time as that."

No, this is the this but Lord, I want for such a time as -- no, no! For such a time as this one right here. This ugly one? This ugly one! This deadly one? This deadly one. What is such a time as that? Right here, right in your now. I don't know what's going on. How hard is it? I can only imagine.

I hear from you all the time. I have my own stuff. I've got my own problems. I go through my own pain and my own sheer terror of some circumstances. I get it! I get it! What are we going to do with it? Will we join him? Will we sit back and watch it because it's going to happen one way or the other but we could just perish in our affliction, that's all there is to it.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Boy, I don't want that to happen. I don't want us to perish and give in to the enemy. I don't want us to be buried by our own mistakes, our own poor judgment, our own lack of trust and faith and obedience to the Lord. I want him to lift us up out of the circumstances or the trap that they can become.

Beth, thank you. You are a blessing.

I want all of you, as our viewers, and those of you here in the studio to look into a situation where you're going to see some of the most beautiful children -- they could be ours, wherever you are, in your community, in your family, and yet these children are taken literally captive by predators, sexual predators and sold like slaves. It can be stopped but it can only be stopped because someone cares; not just enough to weep -- but enough to become involved, to literally rescue them. We must do it together. I want you to watch prayerfully and then you respond as God's leads.

On the mission field:

Announcer: These are the faces of those who once were. Once were happy. Once were safe... loved... cared for. Now they are vanishing at the hands of predators... abducted... misled. To distant cities they are taken, in foreign lands they are held captive. Their childlike innocence is erased, freedom forgotten; their spirit and will broken under abuse -- under torture.

>> If the girls won't sleep with our clients we beat them with a bat or electrocute them until they obey.

Announcer: Not only do these girls vanish, all that they were disappears too. Nowhere is there a darker evil than that perpetrated so viciously on the victims of sex trafficking. It may be the greatest evidence of Satan at work on this earth and it isn't going away without a fight. We cannot turn away. We cannot say we did not know. The time to rise up -- the time to respond is now.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Dear God, dear God! Those girls with those little numbers, that's like the menu. "I want girl 21... or 15. I want that one." To attempt to gratify perhaps, appetites that can never be satisfied.

Betty, there are some things you can understand, we know they are not right what they do, the compulsive behavior but how it is that people can prey on children or hurt children or little girls and take them captive, use them for their own gain -- and then those who would come in and pay to use them. It defies imagination. It is the power of demonic darkness and bondage. And only love, God's love can break the bondage and set the girls free and also the people who are trapped who are using them.

Betty: Yeah, James. They kidnap them, any way they can get them, they take them and they take their innocence from them. They take their freedom from them. They take their lives from them. And we can make that difference. We can get these girls out of this captivity that they've been put into, not by choice. They lie to them, any way to

get them to come with them. If they don't willingly, they just steal them. And then take them into this bondage and beat them and abuse them and hurt them badly. And they hurt their hearts and their spirits. We can give them hope. And through the centers, James, through the people there, they are there to love them and care for them and get them out of these tragic situations.

James: I think it is real important for our viewers to understand that what we do, we see needs all over the world but what we have been directed by God to do is find those God sent who yielded to go to be his hands of love. And when we see these workers, these caring people, many of them have sold everything that they owned to go and try to rescue people. This is what missionaries do.

And when we find them, because we not only look for need, we are looking for people who are meeting the need effectively; we believe that's the anointing, the divine enabling of God. And when we find that, then we undergird it and many of the workers right there where you were watching, many of those girls were in Cambodia; those workers that are helping rescue these children by the thousands, they surrendered to the mission field without us ever knowing, watching us on television in New York City -- sold everything and moved to Cambodia.

One example, the *LIFE* Center in Thailand, they worked in Hollywood supplying power plants for all the movie sets. They sold everything, a seven carat diamond ring and left. We found them there just working, renting facilities trying to rescue kids. They've never left. We helped them build the largest center like that in the world to rescue precious children.

Here's what it takes to reach them, to rescue them, to restore them: It takes \$128 per child, per person. What we do, is we get them out or we get the children before the predator gets them by telling the parents what these people are up to. And then we get these children to *LIFE* Centers and we give them an education and a future and they go back and help their impoverished community. This is what we do together.

Would you help us? Right now we need to restore a *LIFE* Center that burned in the Ukraine. It is incredibly effective. We want to enlarge it. That's a \$275,000 need we didn't even know.

We need to raise a million dollars overall to help the missionaries do where they've already targeted the outreach. Your gift of \$128 or \$1280 would rescue ten or \$128 will rescue one or give toward that whatever you can. If you can give \$1,000 toward helping us rebuild that *LIFE* Center and expand it, please do it. At whatever level you can help, please dial the number, take your bankcard and make the best gift you can.

If you want to go online, LifeToday.org, please do. Make the gift -- please do it. Write a check, make it to *LIFE*, but call us and tell us you're mailing it.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you to bless you in your spiritual journey as you literally help us rescue people who without the love of God through us and through those workers, they could never be reached. Thank you for making the call. Thank you for going online. Thank you for extending the arms of God to precious girls and precious children.

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

On the mission field:

Beth: Keith and I have loved every single minute that we've gotten to partner with James and Betty and the outreaches of *LIFE*. We've been part of the *Mission Feeding* program, and the shelter and the water wells. We've loved every single effort put forth by this outreach ministry but we are particularly excited about the opportunity we have called *Rescue Life*. This one is specifically for children that have been taken into sex trafficking. I can't think of anything that cries out for our help more than this.

Would you partner with us as we reach out to them and literally rescue lives through *Rescue Life*? This one is something that calls to the innermost part of our hearts and cries out to such victimization that we've got to help. Partnering together there is no telling what God could do. Let's do everything we can to rescue life. Thank you so much!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I hope you will ask for the bronze of Christian. This little boy was rescued out of the sewer; that's where he lived. That's where the kids lived after the revolution in Romania. It's the only place they had to get shelter. And we're sending this to those of you who will help us restore the *LIFE* Center in the Ukraine, the fire damage -- drastic. I'm praying for 275 people to give \$1,000. Some of you may want to give a large gift to help us rescue these precious women and children –

Betty's book, *Free to Be Me* for any gift, the journal comes along with it, the *Life Application Study Bible*. You may ask us, why do you ask us to give and then you give us something? Because you really are the great mission outreach, that's why Beth Moore is here, that's why we share *LIFE Today* because you're important to God. He

loves you. We want to help you. So when we offer you something it is to bless you, to encourage you in your journey and we want to thank you for helping us help others.

God bless you. Thank all of you for watching.

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, international author and speaker Christine Caine, Reverend Samuel Rodriguez, speaker and best-selling author Lisa Bevere, and many more including musical guests such as Phillips, Craig, and Dean!

Register today for this once in a lifetime event celebrating 50 years of ministry with James and Betty Robison! Go to lifetoday.org.