

Week 24
6/12/13

James: Wow! You look like a shining city set on a hill! You look like lights on the lamp stand out here. Hopefully you do. Don't let the light be covered by anything! That's what Jesus said. He's the light of the world. We are lights in this world, don't let the light be covered -- not by party, not by denomination or sectarian divides or ethnicity that would divide.

I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Wednesdays with Beth; you are going to enjoy what Beth is teaching. Let me give you the title: From Cast Down to Ecstatic Joy. Now you know that Beth has joy. Boy, is she energetic? Is she exuberant?

Betty: Absolutely!

James: But she also knows what it is to be in a pit, to be defeated, to understand the importance of breaking free and the absolute necessity of God enabling us to break free and have joy. Here is Beth Moore. Enjoy her.

Begin video:

Beth: I am presently married to ancestry.com.

[Laughter]

I don't know what has happened but all the sudden my husband has gotten interested in finding out all about the lineage of his family. It was very important now -- no telling where you're listening -- you may be in another country besides the U.S. You may be in all sorts of regions of the world but I'm going to tell you there is something very odd about Texas, and I'm from Texas, and we're in a studio here in Texas. Listen, that doesn't have to mean anything to you, I'm just going to tell you they're strange people.

[Laughter]

The reason why I can tell you that is I was raised in Arkansas so I'm not --. And my husband, any time I say that my husband says to me, "I forgive you." Because it's just like -- I'm really teasing. But he's just like you -- this is the most important thing you can be next to saved is a Texan to my husband Keith.

[Cheers & Applause]

See how it is? I'm sorry but this is how it is. So you can ask James and Betty about this. This is a big deal, a very big deal.

So Keith was so happy to learn that his ancestry literally goes back to the time when -- you don't even know this is a fact but Texas used to be its own nation. Now, listen, most of them think it still is.

[Laughter]

But it is not. It is not! And I told him, well, because I moved here in high school, I said, "My kids are going to -- my kids' kids, kids' kids' kids' kids are going to do their little ancestry and find out when we came on my side of the family to Texas. And they're going to go, 'Well, it was 1972..." So long after -- long after!

But in all of this, I can't tell you how many things he has read to me. Most of them -- I don't know how to explain it because I love my husband and I get a very, very big kick out of him but somehow this just puts me to sleep.

[Laughter]

I can't really explain why but it's just -- I don't care that much about great-great-grandfather Jedediah. I don't know -- I just don't. But I try to but we're just so into it.

But he did interest me here recently when he told me a very unfortunate occurrence that happened to his great-grandfather's father. No, I think it was his great-grandfather's grandfather, that's how many years this goes back. That in that family one of his ancestors was struck by lightning. Let me quickly say that is a terrible thing and not the part I was so happy about.

[Laughter]

What made me happy was that it just so happened that when the lightning struck, I'm

sorry that I have the kind of sense of humor that would think this is a little -- listen, they've long since been with the Lord. Thank you, God! They're complete in heaven. There is no insult to them but the person was in an outhouse when it happened.

[Laughter]

I didn't make it up. It's my own husband's own ancestry.

Are you ready for the worst part of all? It was a woman!

[Laughter]

That needs to be a man! Not a woman. Can you just imagine? If you're like me, I don't even like to tell my husband when I'm going into the lady's room. I just do a lot of hiding like this. Still after all these years I really am very modest about that kind of thing.

Picture like everybody's been going like, "Where's Maude Anne? She's been gone a while. Where is she?"

And like is there a lock on it or anything? How long did... did they have to get a hatchet? What happened? Did they hear it happen? Was there anything left? I don't know. This is how my imagination works.

But I'm just going to tell you if we were the sons of Korah in the days of say, David, and then the intertestament period; if any of these had been looking back and had been able to get on a site like ancestry.com they would have to turn back to Numbers chapter 16, and somebody would be in an outhouse. That's all I'm saying.

[Laughter]

Numbers chapter 16: this is where the story of the sons of Korah begins. This is the original Korah. Numbers 16, one through 11.

Now let me tell those that have just joined in with us what we've been doing in our series because this is a continuation of it. We've been talking about number one has been that the trip from cast down, if you're in a cast down place right now you need to know that the trip from cast down to ecstatic joy can be a whole lot quicker than you think; that was our first point in our last series.

Secondly, we learned together that we start getting up when we start asking why we're down. We ask God, "What is going on in here? What is the root of this?" We start asking questions. And in fact, we learn that we're going to keep asking questions 'til we get to the very one he's been driving us to ask so he can answer it.

Then thirdly: Our escorts toward ecstatic joy are light and truth. So this builds right on this series as we look back at this ancestry and Numbers 16, verse one: Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, son of Levi and Dathan and Abiram and the sons of Eliab and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben -- this is the very reason why Numbers is a little bit challenging; amen? I mean I love in Genesis where it calls them Buz and Uz. I like that!

[Laughter]

There is a part in Genesis where they go: The sons, the brothers were Buz and Uz. I like that kind of stuff. I don't know what went wrong here. Verse two, and it says: They rose up -- now this is Korah, you've got to see that from the very beginning in verse one.

And Korah and these men, (who we'll not name again,) they rose up before Moses with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly -- this is important -- well-known men. They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far. For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them and the Lord is among them. Why then... Now they're asking this to Moses and Aaron. ...Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?"

When Moses heard it, he fell on his face, and he said to Korah and all his company... I don't know when because he went face down. I don't know if he is face down still going, "You have no idea what you're talking about." Or if he is now just brushed himself off, gotten back up.

He fell on his face and he said to Korah, and all his company, "In the morning the Lord will show who is his, and who is holy, and He will bring him near to him. The one whom he chooses he will bring near to him. Do this: take censers, Korah and all his company; put fire in them and put incense on them before the Lord tomorrow, and the man whom the Lord chooses shall be the holy one." And he says –

I love this because don't we do this sometimes in our conflict where one says something and the other one says it right back to him? It says remember when it says

that they said to Aaron and Moses, "You have gone too far!" Listen to Moses say it back because he said at the very end of verse seven: "You have gone too far, sons of Levi." And Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi: is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the Lord and to stand before the congregation to minister to them, and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers, the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also? Therefore it is against the Lord that you and all your company have gathered together. What is Aaron that you grumble against him?"

In other words, he says, "Your problem is with God. It is not with us."

I want you to just lock in on this a minute because this is the first place Korah pops up on the face of scripture. And it would have been notorious; this is true infamy in the people of God. That name would have carried on from generation to generation to generation.

In fact, in the New Testament, in the tiny book of Jude that is right before Revelation, Jude refers to "the sins of Korah... the rebellion of Korah... Korah's rebellion." So we ask ourselves, what in the world was Korah's rebellion?

Well, we have a name for it in our culture today and it is very important word because it is something we need to face up to continually and it is called "entitlement." You are seeing on the pages of scripture the birth of this thing we call "entitlement." When somebody looks around and says, "I'm too big for the job you have given me. Really, I'm more than this. I need more respect than this."

We're built up -- I'm not cynical about our culture. Many, many wonderful things are happening certainly in the body of Christ, certainly in the testimony of Jesus throughout the world. Certainly, so much is happening on the kingdom calendar but let me tell you, we've got some ills in our carnal culture and one of them is it is raising up people with entitlement.

Now entitlement was that very specific, that exact strain of pride that was pent up in the heart of Lucifer. Because if you do a little looking in scripture and you compare Ezekiel 28 and then Isaiah chapter 14, you're going to see in Ezekiel 28, this oracle against the king of Tyre. Only when you look at it and this happens in prophetic scripture, when you look at it, it not only has an immediate kind of a bearing on the king of Tyre but ultimately it is talking about Lucifer himself.

How do we know? Because he says, "You were there from the very beginning. You were in the garden of Eden." Well, the king of Tyre was not in the Garden of Eden. It begins to talk about the jewels that were a part of his very person. Well, that would not so much be as you look at the history, how long he is talking about this chronological order of this person he's addressing in Ezekiel 28. I mean it is Lucifer; it is the fallen one from heaven.

Something very, very interesting comes out of that portion of scripture when you compare that part of Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah chapter 14 because it says, "Listen, you were perfect in all of your beauty until unrighteousness was found in you." It says that "You were corrupted because of your beauty." It was a pride issue.

When we get to Isaiah chapter 14, we find out there exactly what happened. What was it that was the straw that broke the camel's back and that kicked the enemy, our enemy now out of heavenlies? And it was because as much as he had, he was the anointed cherub, Ezekiel 28 says. And yet in Isaiah chapter 14 he said, "I will be raised above the holy mountains, above the clouds, and I will make myself like the most high.

In other words, he was on -- scripture said he was on the holy mountain of God. He didn't want to be on the mountain. Now when it talks about a cloud in scripture where God is concerned, the cloud is the cover of his glory because we would not -- man could not look upon his glory so it was constantly covered in clouds even when he returns, according to Revelation chapter one, he will come in the clouds. Why? Because it will be such a mournful sight when we look upon that kind of glory that it will hurt the bones. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? Mortality can hardly live through a look at God. If anyone sees his face, they can't live through it, the Old Testament scriptures tell us. So he comes covered with these clouds.

This is when Lucifer goes, "I want above the clouds. I want to be like the most high."

What's so interesting, it was the only thing that he was withheld. He was an anointed cherub; beautiful, perfect, he had been formed to perfection. And an angel, this is not Jesus, this is not Jesus' brother -- this is an angel -- the ultimate angel. But it wasn't enough to be the ultimate angel. It wasn't enough to be the anointed cherub on the holy mountain of God there in the Garden of Eden. It was not enough.

He wanted to be like the most high: Entitlement. That is where entitlement was born into the history of man. And every single time we take that on, we are never more like the enemy of our souls. That is the sin of Lucifer. That is the fallen angel's sin. The

very one that said, "I want the thing that has been withheld from me, I want to be like the most high."

The essence of you and I living in the spirit, if you and I are going to do what God has called us to do, we will be in a situation, one way we're going to know is it is going to be more than what we can do -- it is going to be more than we can do.

In other words, we're going to constantly -- if we are operating in our full on gifting, in our full on calling, we will constantly be telling the Lord, "I am not big enough for this job."

Do you see how opposite this is? Because we will constantly be saying, because whatever your calling is, you cannot do it in your flesh. You cannot do it in your human gifting. You can only do it in the spirit. It can only be done through the power of the Holy Spirit, yielding to the spirit so that he can do it through you. So the true heart before God, the authentic heart before God says, "Listen, I'm not up for this! This is more than I can do."

End of clip

In the studio

James: That... that's getting honest and Beth is a straight shooter. I think one of the reasons our viewers tell us they enjoy Betty and James is that we are vulnerable, we're open. Betty says I'm far too open.

Betty: Transparent is the word.

James: Our kids would say, "Oh, dad! Don't talk about this!" But oh, dad is an open book.

But you see, when we get honest and say we can't handle it -- and we had to say that after losing our daughter, we're not up to this. We're cast down. We don't understand. But God is the only one who can lift our heads, and look into his face and know that he is able to deliver us, to comfort us, to set us free.

I'll tell you something else he's able to do. He is able to use us to release his life to express love to show people what God the father and Jesus the son is like because he sent the Holy Spirit to live in us to express the heart nature, will of God. I want to show you one of the best ways to express the will of God. And I want you to look very

closely at these little faces and you just see if God wants to show them how much he loves each one of them through you. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: It's not a new problem and it is easy to be overwhelmed by its size -- so many statistics laid before us. Of course they're important but as we look at numbers we can sometimes lose sight of what's behind them. So what is behind these numbers among those masses? Well, there's Martino, Branco, Veda, Adelina, and Tonya, Rusydiya, Victoria, Maria, Sabina, Anapala, Mateo, Jenerosa, Adriana, Dinanana, Naza, Paula, Azekeya, Gedenia, Fernanda, Esperanza, Alayna, Miyodi, Astora...

When it comes to numbers, the most important of all may be one. Just start by helping one.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy! The most important.

Can I take it one step further? Not just the one in need of help, but the one who will help; the one who will be the difference maker by choosing to make a difference in one life or several. I don't know what happens to you when you look at those children. But as I look at those little faces, I saw one there in the line that looked shy and I thought, how precious.

You were shy. I was shy. People find that hard to believe about me. It was truly a miracle of God that the kid who would never give a report in class suddenly began to speak to millions with a boldness what could only come from God. One that was noticed by God, but as I noticed them and look, I found myself saying, I wish others could see them the way I'm looking. And I felt like I sensed the Lord whisper, "I just wish they would look at them the way I look at them. I love them all! Gave my life for them. I've asked you to share life with them."

That's what we're asking you to do. Our program is *LIFE Today* because we want to share life with you every day and touch you with life and love and truth and let you know God cares about you. But also, encourage and inspire you to share that love with little children like that. It's not just a statistic, not just numbers who perish or are hungry, but numbers that we can feed.

Betty, our viewers have been the answers to the prayers of missionaries and parents praying for their children all over the world. And I believe you will be during this last week now of mission feeding, this time of the year, we need your help to feed 400,000 children, and add 25,000 more we have found who are starving. They desperately need our help and we've got a miracle matching gift that just came, a half million dollar challenge gift that will match what you give today. Betty, I'm praying every viewer will give.

Betty: James, I'm so grateful for each one of our viewers, every one of you that have been a part of what *LIFE Outreach* has been able to do. The children we've been able to reach like these children, God does care about every one of them just as he cares about you. So join with us again and again. Don't get tired of us asking because we'll keep asking because there's a need. Please join with us and let's help these children.

James: I know some of you know that Betty took a little time off quite behind the loss of our daughter Robin. Needed a little time to regroup. I want to tell you something, we loved that girl, the mother of three teenagers, our baby girl. Wasn't a way to spend Christmas and New Year's.

Can I tell you something? I doubt if there is a viewer watching that wouldn't have said, "Betty and James, if I could have brought your Robin something that would make her well, we would have brought it." And I believe you -- I believe you!

Well, I'm telling you there is something that will make those children well. Its nourishment and food, and the love the missionaries offer them.

Listen to me -- please listen to me -- the full hearts and empty hands if we don't put the ability in the hands of the missionaries. They are ready and in place. We've got to give them the food. This last week I'm asking every one of you to respond. I want you to give the best gift you can. It will be doubled. If you could help us care for 100 children with a \$1,000 gift -- do it! We'll be able to feed them for several months. It will be doubled to \$200. \$30, \$50, or \$100, three, five, or ten children for the next months -- it will be doubled.

Would you go to the phone? Use your bankcard like a check or go online LifeToday.org, make the best gift you can. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*, that's what you're giving but call us and tell us what you're sending. Would you do it please? If you get a busy, be determined, press through and say, "I'm going to share the life and love of God today." Please do it and I thank you for it.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment children are drawing what could be their last breath, struggling to stay alive due to severe hunger. You can help stop the cycle of death. You can help save a child's life. In addition to the 400,000 children already in our feeding program throughout Africa, we must immediately provide for an additional 25,000 children in the hardest hit areas of drought.

As an answer to prayer, a group of *LIFE's* friends have set a \$500,000 matching challenge for Mission Feeding. This means your gift today can have a double impact. \$30 to help feed three children can be doubled to impact six children! \$50 to help feed five children can be doubled to help save 10 children! And \$100 for 10 children can be doubled to help feed and introduce Jesus to 20 children!

As a thank you, we would like to send you *A Good Word for a Great Day*, a 365-day devotional providing a word of inspiration and promise for each new day.

With your double impact gift of \$100 to help save the lives of 20 children, you may request *The Family Reading Bible* to help engage your children and grandchildren in God's Word.

Finally, please consider a double impact gift of \$1,000 to help save the lives of 200 children, and you may also request the 50th anniversary commemorative bronze, "Brotherly Love."

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of clip**In the studio**

James: I want to remind you this is the last week. And I'm going to hold up once again the "Brotherly Love" bronze; this is the commemorative bronze. If you've not made your reservations and you have to do that...

As a matter of fact, we'll feed you, all of us together, at the conference July 18 to 20. Go online, LifeToday.org, get the information, register. Don't miss it! You don't want to miss these speakers that are going to be there.

"Brotherly Love" is a commemorative bronze showing what we're doing, enabling an older brother who needs nourishment himself to feed a little brother, and he's got a bowl and it is not empty. Ask for this. Help us if you will, feed 100 children for the next months and it will be doubled to 200 because we have the matching gift.

It's the last week. Do all you can to help and we thank you for it.