

8/20/13

Week 34

Betty: Thank you for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James. And we are so blessed to have the Women of Faith with us.

James: Yeah, I've got to be brave to be here. I'm a brave man; I really am. You know what? I'm a blessed man. I am. I love you ladies. I just praise God for every one of you. The Women of Faith, I actually went. I didn't have to wear anything pink. They let me in.

[Laughter]

And I was welcome. I really enjoyed it at the American Airlines Center. I praise God for all that he's done. And really, I've got to be honest with you, I think that women have been -- boy, we know about the abuse, we know about the misuse, we know about the misunderstanding. It breaks my heart.

You talk about a great God creating something awesome, let's face it. He got Adam first but then he perfected a few things, kind of took it up a step. I don't think that women, from the time most of them sadly are little girls, I don't think they're made to feel pretty in the right way, attractive in the right way, important in the right way, of great value in the right way to where they have to kind of prove their value. God help us all, men and women, to learn how to honor this incredible gift, as beautiful as anything you've ever created and we thank you for it. I think the Women of Faith have been a continual source of inspiration.

You've seen Sheila Walsh many times on our programs. Welcome Sheila, she's here. Lisa Harper is here. And out of our own home area and one of our former staff's child, and the girl that danced at our daughter's wedding, and danced with our daughter in conferences and that just blessed us, just grew up, Kari Jobe is here. Would you welcome Kari? And Holly Wagner is here... looking for a little personality. Kind of get --

Holly: So shy and inhibited -- if I would just come out of my shell.

James: You're so closed down. Do you know, you really do have this outgoing personality. Always, did you?

Holly: Yeah, I'm kind of annoying. Like from the first moment I wake up I'm like this.

James: Yeah, but all your life?

Holly: Yeah.

James: How did people react to you before you became this great woman of God? How did they react to your outgoing?

Holly: Well, some people actually loved it. They liked having a life of the party so, "Holly, come to my party" because they knew I would bring life to it. And then some people were intimidated.

James: How does your husband handle it?

Holly: You're praying for him right now; aren't you?

James: O God!

Holly: That's what you're doing. I'll tell him.

James: I bet he has fun; does he?

Holly: He does. We are so opposite. He is total opposite.

James: But does he enjoy -- he doesn't just tolerate it?

Holly: No, he actually loves my brain --

James: You don't go teach the women how to tolerate -- be tolerated.

Holly: No. Actually that's a really good point.

James: I love your personality. So don't think I'm picking at you. I love it! I think it is great and what I see is all -- I see it as a gift. I see you've taken the gift that God gave you and you've kind of turned it loose to loose people from any of their inhibitions

that keep them held back. Betty is quiet. Betty is so funny. If you could know Betty when she is not on set like when she is straightening me out and when she's -- and just she is -- I've said sometimes, "Why don't you just be the Betty that nobody ever gets to see sometime?" It would be so fun!

[Laughter]

But see the thing is that she is so beautiful, and to ever tell her she is not and push her down, you seem to me to inspire. Would you agree, Sheila, would you agree?

Sheila: And I've watched her with her husband Phillip. It is a beautiful combination. One of the reasons I think people love Holly and are attracted to being around Holly is because you're not just the life of the party, but you love all people. I've watched that for some time. And her husband Phillip, he is an amazing man. I've watched them together, the way that they're constantly building each other up and supporting each other -- and their two amazing children. It's just -- yeah, it's a great thing.

Holly: Because we're supposed to actually, when you... with people, certainly with a marriage, that you honor each other. It is not about tolerating -- like the word you used, I just think that that's often how people -- they think in our politically correct society we think that tolerance is the goal. Tolerance is not the goal. It's admiration, it is honor, it is love, and so I just think in a marriage it's the same. Tolerating you feel --

James: That's terrible! Let's put up with it. I'll put up with you a few more months. But Betty, we're 50 years married; she gave me a one year extension this year. I feel pretty good!

Holly: Yeah! Come on!

James: It is a day-by-day deal. I'm so proud.

Holly: It makes like our differences actually, not what attracts you to the other person but what makes the body of Christ one --. We don't look at a bunch of flowers and say, "Gosh, I wish the tulip was like the sunflower." No, we appreciate the differences in them.

James: There you go! That's what I wanted us to talk about is spiritual unity because we -- I don't know if you did, but Betty and I came out of -- we were Baptist, we were the biggest denomination. We were the biggest denomination on earth.

[Laughter]

And we believed --

Holly: Sit up straight when you say that!

James: Now wait a minute, we believe every word in the Bible. And if you don't, we'll beat some sense into you. I was the biggest -- bigger with the Bible!

And here's the thing. I'm really not belittling anybody because I'm going to tell you, everybody on the planet ought to get on their knees and thank God for the Baptist faith and message to say: We have a reliable source. We have the Word of God, it is reliable. Now let it read us while we're reading it.

But a lot of times we measure everybody. Did any of you come out of the deal where Philip Yancey's journey from that radical -- how in his journey of how -- he is a marvel, he is a marvel! How he got set free from all of that. Dallas Willard was the same way. He is now with the Father, who showed us the Father. Did any of you have any of that rigid, we measure you by.

You come out of England where you've got to look like the rest of us? You notice they come to church all dressed the same so they can make up -- eat at the same restaurant. They want to beat the Methodists there, if you're a Baptist so you get out and hurry. It's just we all just look alike. You can tell they went to that church by the way they look, the way they sit, the way they act, the way they worship -- all of it!

Just think -- I don't understand -- wait a minute, I can appreciate all of those differences now. What I don't appreciate is where you try to measure all the rest by whether or not they're doing the same thing you do.

Sheila: I think that's one of the major -- if there was one major shift at Women of Faith, I think it would be our understanding of honoring the local church in every city we go to, and not the Baptist church or the Methodist church. In fact, in every city we're going to we're inviting some of their top leaders to come and be part of what we're doing. Whether it's Rick Warren when we're out in California or Tullian Tchividjian. Or... who else?

Lisa: Max Lucado. Craig Groeschel.

James: Think about that, you just named a Baptist and a Church of Christ and I bet they came. Did they come?

Sheila: Oh, yes, they're coming this year.

James: They've been here. I'm sitting here talking to Lucado, we went to school, to seminary to learn how to destroy each other, the Church of Christ and Baptist, that was our study course; how to show you where you're wrong and you've got to be baptized and I've got to baptize you. You let me baptize right here by him -- okay, excuse me. I'm sorry! I'm going to be baptism -- it's got to be there! Now then we're sitting here and we like each other. What on earth is happening?

Lisa: Revival maybe! Revival!

James: We actually like it! Max likes me, says nice things about me behind my back! And to me! And I say nice things about him. See, you just said a mouthful.

Sheila: That's the beginning of revival.

James: You mean these preachers will come to your meeting with all these crazy women?

Sheila: Oh, yeah! They're coming and we're going to honor them and they're going to pray for us.

James: And you're going to have some women on the platform? And they let them talk? Oh, my God!

[Laughter]

Do any of them -- would they ever raise their voice? Oh, my God!

Lisa: We've got basically pew jumpers, smells and bells, and everybody in-between. Because as Lisa was saying earlier, we focus on uniformity sometimes in the church -- it's unity. It is Jesus is the hero of the stories. It's not uniformity. So that's one of the things we love the most at Women of Faith is that there are so many different backgrounds.

Kari: I would love to say this on the side of worship. In a lot of these churches that I

get an honor to go in and lead worship, I have to actually ask, what denomination is this? Because if I didn't ask I wouldn't know. Because on that, as far as people being desperate for the presence of God, I believe I'm watching what I saw as a young kid, the move of God where it was the Spirit of God was super welcome in the charismatic circle that I grew up in.

And then it kind of went into this season of health, which is beautiful because we needed to have more health in our churches, but cutting off and having so much structure where the Holy Spirit didn't have freedom to move. And then I'm watching this whole shift right now as I get to lead worship of just the presence of God being welcomed in whatever facet and form in these churches. And it is just cool as a younger believer and I just love it.

James: And it is so great that we've reached a place, Kari, in worship where you don't measure them by how they raise their hands or if they lift their hands. We've learned that some people worship without moving. Some of the greatest worshippers fall on their face and they don't fall out in front where everybody sees them and that's fine too. They just get on their -- some people just get down almost in a fetal position and they're just as worshipful as the person standing here.

The beautiful thing is we don't want to shape people in our image. We don't want to make them do what we do. We don't want to talk -- if you're Protestant about Catholics. We don't need to talk -- listen to me.

I've got news for you. We've all got shaping up to do, and the shaping up is to appreciate all of the distinctives and difference, but for us to come together in such holy harmony that people really see him as he is in all of his beauty -- and it's happening. I'm telling you, I'm watching God lift us so high above the walls that we built we thought were protection walls and they became walls of division, and I'm seeing bridges put in place. Do y'all bear witness that that's happening?

Sheila: It is like Christ is teaching us once more what it means to wash each other's feet. It's like foot washing 101. Where we come into your city, it's not as on the platform, Christ is a hero and we're simply there to serve, and to be able to invite the local church so that we can learn from what God is doing in that city. When we leave the place, we should leave with an enormous blessing on all of the churches in that city.

Holly: And here's the other thing too, it's like we're not in competition. Like the Special Forces when they're sent out as a unit, each of them have a function. You know

there is the sniper, there is the medic, and there is the communications guy. The medic isn't going, "I want to be the sniper." No. They each have their job. Well, so for all of us, we have a job to do. So I'm not trying to be singer chick right here. Like she is amazing. Like I can't sing two notes in the same key. Like it is terrible.

James: Right. Shake. I can change keys in the middle of the words.

Holly: Me too!

James: You have to be trained to do that.

Betty: Let's not ever have them sing a duet.

James: We need to have a show.

[Laughter]

Holly: For people to turn off. But I just think sometimes, perhaps with women in particular, that we can get in competition rather than celebrating who she is and go, "Thank God she is on my team."

[Laughter]

James: She was on your team.

[Laughter]

Kari: I have to sing after this.

Holly: So thank God she is on my team rather than me wishing I was that. Just start celebrating she is that or how you teach the Bible is very different from how I teach and it is awesome. Or each is using our gift and talent for the whole because it is actually about making him famous and not us anyway. So I just think we're not in competition. We're like, "Yeah! Go do it!"

Lisa: One of the sweetest things you'll ever see like at Women of Faith is to watch Christine Caine, who you've had on the show who is really shy, like Holly --

[Laughter]

-- to have Christine watching Beth Moore and taking notes as fast as she can take them.

James: They love each other. That pleases God.

Lisa: That's Jesus because he is the hero of the story; it is not a denomination. It is not my way is the best way.

James: Priscilla Shirer, what a blessing she is!

Lisa: She is on our platform this year. We're so excited.

James: Sheila, you have been all over the world and from traveling with Billy Graham to being co-host of the 700 Club, to being a part of so many huge events, are you seeing what you think is closer to what Jesus prayed for when he prayed that we would be one with the father, sanctified in truth, not divided by truth because we differ in some aspect so we really come unglued, and perfected in unity. Are you seeing this unity, this that you believe Jesus prayed for?

Sheila: Absolutely. I'm seeing things that I've never seen. I mean I'm 56. I'm seeing things I've never seen in my lifetime. As I travel around the country and the world, it is not through Women of Faith, it is not through this church or that church, I spent time with Hillsong in London and Kiev and saw its Christ. It's the message finally getting out that he is the good news, we are not. That we are desperate for him and rising up -- women rising up and saying, "We're going to make him famous."

James: And we're not seeing people compromise the Word of God. But what we're actually doing is we're beginning to live the Word of God. In other words, we've stopped just discussing the Holy Spirit, dividing over the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives you the fruit of the spirit, which is not the fruit of strife and dissension and animosity and hostility and division. Instead of discussing the Holy Spirit we're beginning to allow the power of the Holy Spirit to control us and make us one, not the same, but it brings us together in holy harmony. It's beautiful to watch; isn't it? Don't you think it is absolutely critical?

Holly: It is essential.

Kari: The bottom line, I believe, is people are just so desperate for the presence -- the

pure presence of God again in their churches and their homes, and has nothing to do with what kind of denomination they go to.

James: It is. Do y'all appreciate what God is doing? Do you appreciate these women? I do! Betty and I thank God for them. Here Kari Jobe, *This is Where I Find You*. She has got a new CD that you can find online or in the stores just coming out. Lisa Harper, *Stumbling into Grace*. She is so cute. Is that when you were little?

[Laughter]

And then *Warrior Chicks*, I can't imagine Holly being a warrior chick. Oh, boy! You're just so calm. I can't imagine!

[Laughter]

And then *God Loves Broken People*, and boy, does Sheila open up and talk about that. And I certainly can. Go online, you want to know where the conferences are: Women of Faith.com. You'll find the schedule where they're going to be.

They have some very special things coming up too; they've kind of alluded to them. Some women coming together that I believe puts a smile on Jesus' face and the Father's as much as any, to see these beautiful people coming together from distinctly different backgrounds to be one with the Father and perfected in unity, sanctified in truth, no compromise -- just love.

Ladies, we love you and we love helping people that feel like nobody ever noticed them. That's one of the things you all have done with Women of Faith. You've shown a lot of women who think, "Nobody even notices what I do as a mother, trying to be a good wife or trying to work really hard" and you show them how valuable they are. People all over the world, they don't think anybody ever noticed. And when they find out somebody noticed because God led them to care, it's amazing how quickly everything changes. I want you to watch this.

On the mission field

Tammy: I had the privilege of meeting and holding and spending time with so many people in India who expressed to me in the best way they knew how that they need help.

Tammy: It's just so heartbreaking because there's so much struggle in her life and there's always been. It's possible for us to change this for her through water -- something simple like water that we take for granted every single day but to them, it's a cup of life! It's a cup of life! I just can't leave here and not do something about it.

Tammy: I travel around the world with *LIFE Outreach* in hopes to bring life to people that are literally dying. That's the reality. And the beautiful part of the story is because of you and the way that you give to this ministry, it has changed literally thousands of lives.

Tammy: In this village, generations, the lives of thousands of people are forever changed! But this is just one village -- there's the next village and the next village. The funds are all we lack. Please, partner with us in this glorious opportunity to bring Water for Life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy, I love that! I would not be able to look at the ladies like Raney and the children, I see them peeking around a building. We've watching them almost look at us as though, "Who are you? And why are you here?" And then when they find out why and you have that incredible celebration that makes any celebration in the advanced countries like the United States pale in comparison, they've got water, they've got life, they've got a chance.

I just see them as such precious children. I see them as precious families. They have such meager substance and they haven't learned to hate everybody that has something they don't have. That's so sad. When you give them something, you give them a cup of water, a well of water, it's overwhelming to them. Betty, our viewers answer the needs of people like that by saying, "I'll help drill a well."

Betty: You do! And if it wasn't for the hope that you give, along with so many others as we reach out to these places, these people that are in such dire need of clean fresh water, that if they don't get it, it's killing their children, they love their children so very much. As I watched Tammy throw her arms up, I felt like she was reaching to the heavens and saying, "Thank you Jesus that we can offer hope to these precious people that deserve it so much" -- a way to help their children. They're hopeless without our help. So please join with us in drilling the water wells.

James: I think that we probably don't really grasp what Jesus meant about the

significance, "If you'll just give a cup of water in my name the reward" -- but Betty, I've said it and I'll repeat it as long as I live. I don't need a reward. Once I see that joy, once I see that child get healthy, once I see that family have access to something as precious as fresh clean water, and then to know that it makes their heart open to the love that sent us there, sent the missionaries, and gave them something that they so obviously needed. We didn't just tell them, "God loves you!" We show them God loves you. We don't love in word only.

There is too much word, there is too much preaching, too much talkie-talkie, not enough walkie-walkie, the Chinaman said when he looked at Christians. And there really is, there is a lot of this but we need to do it.

And I'm finding this, Betty. Our viewers and church people everywhere, they're becoming more concerned about putting the arms of God around a hurting world and that's so important! We've committed, really because the missionaries led us to the places, we've committed to drill 500 wells this year, it's the most ever in 12 nations and we've only got a few days left. \$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. \$144 will give 30 people -- you can help at that level. \$4800 will provide a well.

Father, I pray there are several people today say, "I will give a well. I will give a well." In Jesus' name.

Could you give a well? Could you give \$1200 and pray three join you? Or \$2400 and say, "God, let somebody join me"? Whatever you can do.

We've got some special gifts to send you to bless you, to strengthen your life and enhance your witness. We want to bless you. You're going to be giving life. You're going to be giving love very clearly.

Would you go to the phone? Dial that number or go online LifeToday.org. Take your bankcard, use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. Would you do it today? Please do! Do it right now.

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 *Majesty*, an inspirational new, fully illustrated book that will help you discover the promises behind the many names of God.

With your gift of \$100 or more, be sure to also request "The Names of God" pen set custom crafted with the various names of God and the gifts of the spirit.

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*."

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: We only have a few days left to... really to see all the support for the 500 water wells. Could you do one of them? Part of one?

Majesty, the promises revealed in the names of God, Jack Hayford. Jack was so thrilled that we wanted to put in the opening of the book, Majesty, that incredible song, and what he says about what God's called us to do. He's been a big part of it. Women of Faith, WomenOfFaith.com, you want to know where they are.

Would you join me in saying thanks to these ladies again? And all the others that work alongside of you, they are in holy harmony, they are in unity. A bunch of women -- isn't that something?

Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*! We love you!