

11/06/13
Week 45

James: Oh, boy! Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison, Betty and I are thrilled to share this time with you.

You may have noticed as they scanned and if you didn't, you'll know more about it even as the week goes on, Embrace Grace T-shirts on a lot of the young ladies here. Mmmh! That's really a challenge. It might even be called a command, Embrace Grace. Mmmh! Extend it, receive it, really good point.

Christine Caine understands what it is to Embrace Grace, to Move Past Your Past. She is teaching this. We would like for you to get the series on CD or DVD and some of the things that she has written are phenomenal. Beth Moore who shares so often on this day just loves Christine. We've had wonderful talks about get this message out that this girl's got.

Now, Betty, you remember when I was very defeated as a highly visible preacher and I'd become trampled ground for the enemy to walk on because I was too busy doing the work of God to live in the will of God and to have intimacy and fellowship with him like I should. I was too busy preaching his Word to really get into his Word and get his Word in me. And we found out that the way of escape is there, the Promised Land, the victory when we knew it. And I decided to send one more year in torment rather than go to the help. And I followed up by telling people that Pharaoh spent more one more night with the frogs, the plague. I spent another year with the frogs. Some people who are watching this program have spent a lifetime with the frogs, with the torment. Welcome Christine Caine and don't miss what she is saying. Here she is.

Begin video clip

Christine: This to me is one of the most random stories in the whole Bible. If you just think God is boring, then you really, really do not know this God. He says... let me give you a little bit of context. The children of Israel, 430 years they've been in slavery, they've been in captivity in Egypt. So God wants to let his children go but Pharaoh has got a really hard heart and he is a slave taskmaster, he's got a very hard heart and he

doesn't want to let the children of Israel go. So he's got them all locked up and God says, "Okay I'm going to soften his heart." So he sends a series of plagues, ten plagues to soften Pharaoh's heart. We're just looking at one of those today. And that's the plague of frogs. So really, at the end of the day, God says, "I'm sending frogs everywhere."

And I love what the Bible says, it does not leave one inch of territory uncharted. It says there were frogs everywhere. There were frogs in the kitchen, in your kneading troughs, in your ovens. That would not affect me because I've never opened my oven. But for those that actually really do that, it would be quite drastic. So my kids would probably die of shock.

It's so funny. My children, at school, Catherine is my eldest, she is 11. And the teacher said to all the kids, "What is the favorite thing for your mum to make?" And all the kids are telling their favorite thing that their mum makes. And my daughter puts her hand up and she goes, "My mum makes great reservations."

[Laughter]

I know -- I know -- I'm just emancipating all the women out there that just think, why cook when you can buy?

So what happened was, the frogs were everywhere, in the beds, on the streets, wherever you went, here a frog, there a frog, everywhere a frog frog -- there were frogs everywhere.

And so I would imagine Mrs. Pharaoh, I've never known her name, they don't talk about her in the text but I like to imagine these things, Mrs. Pharaoh went to Mr. Pharaoh and said, "That's it! I'm done! I'm sick of these frogs!"

And the only thing worse than a plague of frogs is a nagging wife so what happened was Pharaoh comes to Moses and he says, "All right, do whatever you need to do."

And oftentimes we do this with God. We just get so sick of a situation we're like, "All right, I'm desperate. Do whatever you need to do. Pray to that God of yours. I'll let these people go. I'll keep my end of the bargain. Just get rid of this mess that I'm in."

I don't know if you've ever prayed that kind of prayer where you're like in a mess and you're like, "God, I'll do anything. I'll go to church every day. I'll give all my money" -- like just get me out of this mess! The minute you're out of the mess, you forget.

So what happened was he said to Moses, "Get me out of this mess. Pray to your God."

So here we are. We have a God who is willing to get rid of the frogs. A God who is well able to get rid of these frogs; a God that is just right there engaged saying, "I will do this." And I love what Moses says to him. He says, so Moses said to Pharaoh, "I leave you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you to get rid of the frogs." So he is essentially saying to Pharaoh, "You just tell me when. God is willing, God is ready, God is able, he is going to get rid of these frogs. Just tell me when you want it to happen."

And then to me is one the weirdest one verses in the whole Bible. It's only three words, it is so random right there in verse ten. It says, "Tomorrow!" Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow!"

I just want you to think about that for one minute. God's willing to get rid of the frogs. There's a plague of frogs happening everywhere. They're everywhere you go there is frogs and God says, "I could get rid of these frogs right now. I can deal with this situation right at this moment. When would you like me to deal with it?"

And Pharaoh goes, "Tomorrow! Tomorrow!"

I don't know if you think that's random but I ask the question, what would implore this man to want to spend one more night with those frogs? I mean seriously! God can get rid of it but he says "tomorrow."

And I guess really my question today and if you've tuned in on the other side of this screen, the issue isn't really why did Pharaoh want those frogs to survive another night,

the issue is what are the frogs on your life, in your life, around your life that you are willing to live with that you've become so accustomed to and God is able to get rid of them, God wants to get rid of them. God is so willing to get rid of them but you keep saying, "Okay, God, I'll deal with that tomorrow."

I don't know what frogs -- my life was one that was riddled with frogs of insecurity, of fear, of shame, of guilt, of lust, of envy, of greed, of jealousy, of bitterness, of unforgiveness. I mean you can go through a whole list of the sort of stuff that you and I carry around with us every single day like a little frog.

Now it looks cute when it is like they're in my hand but I wish I had like 100 little frogs to shove on my head because I was going to do this whole message with a frog on my head to go, "This is what a lot of us look like." We think, what frog? What frog? And everybody...

[Laughter]

I don't have a frog! Is there anything unusual about me? But the point is we actually... then we begin to think, isn't it cute? Oh, I like my frog! And we think, "I've got no frogs. Christine, I haven't gotten any issues. What are you talking about?" And all I need to do is ask the friend next to you, "Does she have an issue?"

And the point is, eventually, you're not even defined by your name anymore, it is just your issues. "Oh, don't say anything because she's got an anger problem."

"No, I don't! No, I don't!"

And we just walk around with these frogs. And in fact, we like them, put them on our little shoulder. We like that little ribbit, ribbit, ribbit and we're just really used to that little frog. And so we just think, we can sit in a message like this, or maybe you've tuned in to the other side of this camera and all of the sudden you're thinking, "Whoa, she is reading my mail. What's going on?"

And you just go, "What you're saying is really right. I've got all of this stuff, I've got these addictions, I've got this pain, I've got this guilt, I've got this lust, I've got this greed, I've got this -- I don't know -- I've got these frogs, and what you're saying is really right but I will deal with that thing but I'm going to do it tomorrow." How many times do we do that?

I made a little list here and you can answer me. How often do we go at the beginning of a brand-new year, "This is my year! I'm going to get so fit and I'm going to get so healthy. I'm no longer going to eat Krispy Kremes and I'm going to get on that treadmill!"

[Laughter]

Now, you're quiet because maybe none of ever said that prayer or said that resolution in your life about "This is the year I'm going to get fit." You think, I'm going to go to the gym and I'm going to start going tomorrow." And then the alarm goes off at 6 a.m. and we put the snooze button on and we go, "Get thee behind me Satan. That is not the call of God." And we think Jesus is not even awake himself! There is no way that this is going to happen. And so we press that snooze button and I don't even want to ask in this room or on the other side of the screen how often we have snoozed our way through another year of fitness and all we've added is more pounds to ourselves rather than get fit.

Or we go, "This is the year I'm going to start eating healthy. No more Tex-Mex for me. No more Greek baklava for me. I am going to eat nice and healthy." You know what? Until that first dessert comes past us and we go, "You know what? I really am going to start eating salads, spinach, and grilled salmon and the dressing on the side but I'm going to start eating that tomorrow."

We deal with unforgiveness in our heart and in our life and we think, "I really need to deal with that unresolved issue in that relationship. I really need to deal with and forgive that person. And I am going to forgive them but I'm going to forgive them tomorrow."

"I know I need to deal with this addiction in my life and I know this is not good for me, it's not good for my family, it's not good for my friendships, it's not good for my relationships and I really plan to quit but I'm going to begin to deal with it tomorrow."

I really think most of us are fully sincere with our intentions. We actually really do want to deal with the guilt or the shame or the unforgiveness or the bitterness or the lust or the greed or the envy. There's stuff going on and we think, "I really do want to deal with this and I'm going to get there. My marriage is in crisis and I know we need to get help but we're going to go and we're going to start counseling tomorrow."

"I know that I'm in the wrong crowd at university or at college and I'm involved in a whole lot of activities that I need to not be involved in. And I am going to leave this group but I'm going to do it tomorrow."

And what happens is we think because we've decided that I'm going to deal with it tomorrow, we convince ourselves that we have somehow dealt with it. We think I've done something about it because I'm going to do something about it. So what happens is tomorrow we wake up and guess what day it is? Today! Because the truth is until we choose to deal with our yesterday today, we're never going to step into tomorrow.

Most of the time when tomorrow, the sun comes up and it becomes today, we're really still living in yesterday because we have brought our past into our present and we've never moved into our future and we never will until we deal with our past. The only way to lay a hold of the future that God has for each and every single one of us is to actually deal with our past so that we can move past our past.

Most people live in the present but in an eternal past. We live as victims of what happened to us somewhere in our past or choices we made or decisions and we never moved past it. And we talk about the future and we hope for the future and we wish for the future but we never step into that future that Jesus Christ died and rose again to give us because we're so busy living in the past thinking, "Tomorrow, I'm going to deal with my stuff. Tomorrow I'm going to deal with my frogs." We are no different to Pharaoh that we keep thinking tomorrow... tomorrow! Whether they're internal frogs

or whether they're external frogs, we keep reliving the past in our present every second of the day.

And yet Jesus says that he's got a plan and a future and a destiny for every single one of us. We go into sermons and we get inspired and we want to lay a hold of the plan and the purpose that God has for us but we keep tripping up over our past. The whole purpose of today is hopefully I'm going to teach us a few principles from my own life of how I've moved past my past because a lot of us get stuck in that moment.

U2, I always joke, they were one of the best worship bands on earth. I love U2! They've got a song called "Stuck in the Moment" and the chorus goes like this. It says: You've got to get yourself together. You got stuck in a moment and now you can't get out of it.

And it is amazing to me how many people get stuck in a moment of their past. Now it could have been a good moment and you were the cheerleading champion of your school -- or the football champion. And I've got a friend like this that played Australia football because I am from the land down under in case you wonder, you all have the accents and this is how the queen speaks English in the Colonies. So I love that! I've got all my Australian audience that love James and Betty and we just -- this is how the queen speaks. Anyway, she would not agree with that comment in case you're wondering. But the truth is that I go back and if I go and visit my friend -- now we have not been in high school for 30 years but you wouldn't realize that if you went in because everything is still stuck in that moment. The same trophies, the same -- I'm thinking, have you not had a life for 30 years? It was a good moment but if you're always talking about the good old days, I'm like, what about today? And the best is yet to come. And you are so stuck in those -- "Man, when I was the cheerleading champion!" "When I got this award at school..." And we're so busy looking back that we're not moving forward. And God says, "I've got a whole future ahead of you and you've still not moved past your past."

Then of course, there are people that have been stuck in a moment of abuse or a moment of pain or perhaps a moment where their marriage fell apart or they lost a child or there was some other pain or suffering, and we've never been able to move past that moment.

And really, my intention and my hope and my prayer is that you understand through a relationship with Jesus Christ that you know what? The rest of your days can be the best of your days. No matter what happened in your past, you can move beyond your past into the future that he has for you. And his plans for you are good, are for good and not for evil. They're to prosper you and not to harm you. And if we can stop looking back and start looking forward then we can make a difference.

But we have to change our whole confession and our whole concept. We've got to be not like Pharaoh who says, "Tomorrow. Tomorrow!" And we live like that because -- and I think part of that is all of these New Year's resolutions that we make. And statistics say six months in 80% of people have not kept their New Year's resolutions; by 11 months in 95% of people have not kept their New Year's resolutions.

Now obviously, in this audience and anyone watching me on the other side of the screen, you've all kept every one of your New Year's resolutions -- I know that! But for everybody else, they've broken them. And that's because I think we make resolutions but we don't resolve. And if we don't resolve that today, right where I am in my current circumstances I'm going to deal with my stuff, then we are never going to move on.

I think another fallacy is that we think we have to stop hurting in order to start moving forward. But I've discovered you don't need to stop hurting to start moving forward. Sometimes you've got to limp your way forward until you can walk, and then once you walk you can start to run. And I think a lot of times we think, I don't have the energy to run. I don't have the energy to move past the broken -- I've either had a broken family or my own regrets or things have happened to me. I feel so bad. I feel so hurt. I feel so bitter. I feel so offended. I feel so wounded. Well, welcome to being alive! Part of being alive is that this is going to happen. So sometimes we think I've got to stop hurting before I can start moving.

And in my own life, and I'll tell you a little bit of my story in a moment, I discovered that I had to start moving hurting. And while I was moving hurting, the healing came as I was moving. And I limped my way through a lot of years until I was able to walk, and then I walked my way through a lot of years until I was able to run, and now I run

so much and my husband and I, and our daughters go all over the world preaching and teaching and helping to rescue the victims of human trafficking.

And nowadays, people say, "Whoa, you run so fast." By the time jet lag catches me, I'm in the next country so that's how I never suffer from jet lag is because it never catches up with me.

So the truth is, we've all got a lot of regrets and we think, "How am I ever going to get past those? How am I ever going to get past this regret or that regret?" I guess the truth is that are things... and really what I want to talk about is you can't get past what you can't get over. God is able to move mountains that you can't climb over; that's the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our faith can move mountains. Sometimes we think, "I can't get over this mountain!" And you're right! But God can get that mountain out of the way so that you can get past what you can't get over.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You see if we let the God who moves mountains move us to the hope and the truth that he offers, we'll behold a miracle and it will begin within and then you'll see the manifestation of the effect.

Betty, we're going to let our viewers right now see something that has absolutely not a word or a sentence. You've heard that actions speak louder than words and a picture says more than a 1,000 words and so forth? Would you... would you please focus your attention, not just your eyes, but you're spiritual attention on the images, the very real images and the very real people you're about to see.

James: Phew! I don't know what's going through your mind when you look at those images but I know what goes through my mind and my heart. I find myself wanting to bring some of them back up on the screen and say, look at this little child because that's somebody's baby. But that's also a child that God loves more than we can describe.

And, Betty, as difficult as it may be to grasp or even comprehend, he expressed his love very beautifully through the death and the gift of his son. But to express his love today that his son gives so freely, it must be expressed through us. We're the ones that don't just look at that little child and say oh, my! We're the one that says here's help.

And as the conclusion of what you saw, actions always speak louder than words. We've been helping people a long time, Betty and we've been doing it because people who watch do more than watch, they help.

Betty: As I watch that and I hope as you watched it, even though there was silence, I heard a lot. One thing I heard was that life is in our hands. We can give the food that's needed to help these babies live, to grow up and to have a chance of hope and joy in their lives -- and to be children like children should be; to be able to play and run and laugh. We have an opportunity to do that. I hope you will join with us and let's give to help the children.

James: I've got to tell you, I'm confident you will.

Father, I just thank you that I believe people are going to be your hands here to pick these little children up. And I thank you.

You don't have any idea what it would mean to a mother to be able to give her little child something or to see their little child leave that malnutrition clinic or that area where they came so desperate to try to head off death.

We try to head it off too before they get to that desperate state in our feeding centers where we have children that are in many instances still able to walk or stand up and their families will bring them a long way to get to the food. We're feeding hundreds of thousands of children and the way we do it is just one child at a time, so to speak. \$30 we can feed three children for the next months. \$50 we can feed five, for \$100 we can feed ten.

We have some beautiful gifts to give you. We want to give you as a thank you and to bless you in your life and your spiritual journey and your spiritual nutrition and strength, *Moving Past Your Past*, don't be trapped by it, Christine Caine. We're offering it in CD or the DVD's, two of the books that Christine has written, one of them a bestseller, *Undaunted: Daring to Do What God Calls You to Do*. We're sending the CD's and one of the books for any gift. We're sending the DVD's and the CD's and both books for a gift of \$100 to help feed ten children.

You may be able to do more than that. We're asking you right now if you would, please reach out and touch someone with love by dialing the number. Take your bankcard, use it like it's a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Would you? And do the best you can. Help as many of those little children

who each little face, each little child represented many that need to feel the love of God expressed through you and through those missionaries and relief workers.

Please make the call or go online, LifeToday.org; would you? And make the gift God put on your heart.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation, and those hit the hardest are their children.

Life's Mission Feeding program is there able to feed and care for over 400,000 children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. Our mission partners urgently need your support. Our food reserves are gone and we desperately need to replenish our supplies at more than 800 feeding centers immediately. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

With your gift we'll send you *Moving Past Your Past*, a powerful new series featuring author and speaker Christine Caine. In Christ There are No Yesterdays, Only Tomorrows; in this series, Christine provides you with the keys to leaving your past behind and receiving all God has for your future.

For a gift of any amount you'll receive the audio CD series along with Christine's book, *Can I Have and Do It All, Please?* With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, please request the entire teaching on both DVD and CD. And as a bonus, we'll send you Christine's latest book release, *Undaunted*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children and you may request our 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, "Brotherly Love." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, Betty and I just say thank you. You're going to say thank you for what you get when you simply ask for the gift we're offering you, the gift of love.

And if there is any way that you could ask for the commemorative bronze, brotherly love, I think you need to see this, I don't know how close a shot you can get on this but

this is an older brother. I've seen this picture many times. This is a little boy here. He's malnourished; he has a bloated stomach and there is a leaf -- the children use a leaf as a spoon. But over here there is a little bowl. This older brother is feeding his little starving brother out of this bowl you put the food in. Save this little brother's little brother. Thank you!

If you can help us help 100 children and feed them, we'll ask for the bronze and all the teaching by Christine Caine. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today* and share *LIFE Today* every day.