

10/30/13

Week 44

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: I know you're going to do the opening.

Betty: You were just hoping I will.

James: You never know with Betty. I really have to encourage her to let the river flow. But I find myself like right now, see, you notice I lean forward. I'm not trying to cut in on her, I want to look at her because I just love her smile. That knocked me dead more than 50 years ago and I still love it.

Anyway, hey, we're glad you joined us. I don't know.

Excuse me, you're kind of interrupting our little interaction here. We are so thrilled for you to hear Christine Caine. And you know what Beth Moore told me? She said, "I want the whole world to hear Christine because she is so full of Jesus. She is a source of inspiration to me." Well, we agree with Beth.

And Christine is teaching about how to *Move Past Your Past* to turn trials into triumphs, and she is talking about beyond the gate. I wonder what she means by that. By the way, you can get the entire series. We're going to tell you how you can do that but I want you to listen to Christine as she takes us in the word. Would you welcome Christine?

[Applause]

Begin video clip

Christine: That thing that was your greatest weakness, that kept you bound at the gate, now can become your greatest strength. And I'm telling you, not only am I able to turn around and open that prison door for everyone else, I feel a whole lot more like Joseph now.

Joseph, in Genesis chapter 50 verse 20, said to his brothers, "You meant this for evil against me. You meant this to harm me. You meant this to take me out. But you know what? God meant it for this very purpose that he saves many people alive."

And I think, I look at that in my own life. Do I wish that any of that happened to me? Of course, not! I never look back and go, "I'm glad."

But I will tell you what I am glad about. I am glad that through that experience God has made me into the woman of God that he has made me to be and without that I don't know that I would be who God has called me to be. And the truth is he's redeemed every bit of it.

And now God is taking this girl, left abandoned in a hospital, unnamed and unwanted and he's using her in ten different countries of the world to help rescue the victims of human trafficking and to help restore young women that have been sold into sex trafficking and violated and abused. And only God could turn all that around.

You know what I think? I think that the devil thinks he wishes he'd left me alone. I think he -- I really do! I think that when he has his little staff meeting in the morning...

[Laughter]

I think he thinks, why did we touch her? Oh, no! She is awake again. And my feet touch that floor and it just pounds and it says", I'm awake, hell, don't you worry. I am awake. And I'm going to commit the rest of my life to making sure you know I'm awake. And everything that you took from me, God has given back, and he's restored."

And let me tell you, every time a trafficker goes to jail, every time a girl is restored, I bet you the devil regrets the day he ever touched me. You can take every bit of your pain and God can turn it around and use it for his gain if you allow him to do that. You are able to do that. You really are! And to me, it is the greatest power of the gospel. The thing that he wanted to keep me limited and contained with is the very thing that God used to say, "Come on! Come on Christine. You can do it!"

But you know it is not only changing your posture to change your perspective. Once you walk through this side of the gate to this side of the gate, you've got to embrace the responsibility of wholeness and that's what a lot of us find very, very challenging. Because when you get used to being a victim, when you're used to being the recipient of benefits, when you are used to people just making accommodations for you because that's what they do. Like we just think, well, it's not my fault. And what happens often -- often we excuse behaviors and we excuse attitudes that the Bible never excuses. We

go, "You know, I know that I've got that real anger problem but they were abused." "I know that they really can't submit there but you've just got to understand."

And Jesus is like, "Why did I go to the cross? Why did I die and rise again? It's so that you can have a life beyond this prison and this gate no longer needs to be a prison it can become a doorway into the future that you have." But when you walk here whole there comes a whole lot of different responsibility.

The responsibility of freedom is a price that many of us don't want to pay. See a lot of us, what we do is we prefer to live bound in the wilderness of deliverance than free in the Promised Land of freedom.

Let me explain this to you. The children of Israel for 430 years were in bondage, they were in slavery, they were in captivity as slaves in Egypt. So they were under physical taskmasters; they were beaten, they were kept limited and contained.

Well, God came and he did some miracles and he delivered them from that physical bondage. They were no longer slaves. He delivered them from that and they stepped into the wilderness. He did great signs and wonders, he parted the Red Sea, he drowned an entire Egyptian army. I mean it is awesome! But then they weren't yet in freedom. They were delivered into the wilderness.

Now what happened was he brought them into the wilderness so that he could take Egypt out of them because although they were out of Egypt, Egypt was not yet out of them. So God had to get it out of them and it was meant to take 11 days. But instead of 11 days they did laps around Mount Sinai for 40 years and they just kept doing laps around the same old mountains of fear and shame, insecurity, murmuring, grumbling, complaining, doubt and unbelief. They just kept going around that same old mountain to the point where it was almost like I'd rather go back. I'd rather go back and get beaten physically again and be in physical containment and slavery rather than be in this kind of wilderness.

That's where we get to. Often we are delivered from an addiction. We are delivered from physical abuse or verbal abuse or sexual abuse or emotional abuse; we're delivered out of that. Perhaps we're delivered from a situation at work that isn't great. Perhaps we've been delivered from a marriage that was just really not... really, really wrong. Perhaps we've been delivered in many different areas but we just still sit at the gate and we allow that to define us. We still look through the lens of the thing that happened to us, it becomes a prison door. We're delivered -- meaning, we're not anymore physically addicted to that substance. We're not anymore in that physically

abusive relationship. We're not anymore in that bad job or whatever. We're just not in that physical situation anymore where we are under the control of either that substance or that person or that situation. But we're not yet free.

We call it freedom because we go, "I've been freed from drugs." Well, you are no longer addicted to the substance of drugs but that doesn't mean that you're free yet because true freedom never comes until you walk through the gate of the wilderness, the deliverance, into the freedom of the Promised Land. And freedom requires a whole different level of responsibility than living in here behind the gate delivered in the wilderness, just getting manna from heaven every day, just barely getting by, just sort of still existing -- but you're still existing in your past, you're not at all in your future. You're not in any physical danger anymore but you're delivered not yet free.

And yet, Galatians chapter five, verse one says it is for freedom that Christ set us free. And many Christians settle for the gate -- still defined by our past, still defined by what happened to us. It's not happening to us anymore but we're still stuck at that gate and we're still stuck in a wilderness and we're pretty much just doing laps around Mount Sinai while we're sitting behind this gate. And there's all this promise, and all this purpose and all this future ahead of us but we're just sitting at the gate victims of what happened simply because we won't change our posture to change our perspective and simply because we won't walk through the promise of the gate of Jesus Christ into the freedom of the future because when you're free and you're standing up and you're on this side of the gate, everything changes. You're no longer looking at things from down there, bound, or in the bondage of a wilderness, you're now looking at it free, which means you know what? My legs have got to carry me. I've got to carry my share of the weight.

There's a responsibility that comes with freedom and most people don't want that. We would rather still be victims of our past, stuck at the gate rather than standing up and taking the responsibility of freedom. But if you choose to walk in freedom on the other side of the gate and lay a hold of the promises of God that's where your purpose is, that's where your destiny is. It's here in the Promised Land. It is not in the wilderness behind the gate. Jesus Christ came to set us free.

He says, "I am the gate." What was a barrier to your past has now become a doorway to your future and Jesus Christ is that doorway. "So Christine, all those things that tried to stop you, they don't need to hinder you or stop you anymore but you're going to have to stand up, you're going to have to learn my word, you're going to have to learn to renew your mind and meditate on the truth of my word. You are going to have to be -- you are going to have to insure that you do your part to walk strong, that

you do your exercises, that you continue to do your daily disciplines so that you can stay strong in the Promised Land. And yes, you help to rescue and restore the victims of trafficking. And yes, you'll speak life and hope to people. But Christine, you've got to learn to stand on your own two feet to do that leaning on me and my word and the truth of my word."

And you know what? That just takes responsibility and the one thing this generation does not like is responsibility because there's a responsibility that comes with freedom. And so we would rather be broken and have someone put a leg brace on us and sit behind a gate and murmur, grumble, and complain about why we're not walking in freedom rather than saying, "I'm going to stand up and embrace it." I'm living proof.

If you're watching this on the other side of the screen, I'm living proof that this stuff works but you've got to appropriate it. We have a responsibility to stand up as well. And maybe you've been sitting on that couch, or maybe you've just been kind of for years sitting in church but never appropriating the truth of what the past has been speaking about and then you're going, "It doesn't work! It's okay for Christine Caine because that's her personality."

Freedom is not based on a personality profile. It doesn't matter if you're a high D, high I, high S, high C; it is not a strength finder and it is not a love language. It is what Jesus Christ came to give every single one of us. That's what it is. That's what freedom is!

[Applause]

And we can all walk in that if we make a decision that I'm going to stand up and change my posture, to change my perspective. The door, the gate that had become a barrier to my destiny, I'm going to walk through that through the blood of Jesus Christ. It's going to become my future. You know what? If you do that it doesn't just impact you, but it impacts the generations that are going to come after you.

I was speaking at a conference in England very close to a city called Stratford-upon-Avon, which is where William Shakespeare wrote -- he lived and he wrote all of his poetry and his plays. Believe it or not, this little Auzzie girl is an English major and majoring in Shakespeare -- all things Shakespeare. Because I was going to be at this conference so close to Willie's house, I thought I'm going to go out and visit Willie. And I kind of... I went to Willie's house but Willie wasn't home.

[Laughter]

That was really disappointing. But across the road from Willie's house was a -- you know one of those stores where they have computers and you put in a name and it is a genealogy and it gives you all the history of the family name. Well, my maiden name was Caryofyllis, which is very Greek. But my married name is Caine, and my husband comes from British stock. And so this was right about the time that Prince Charles was going to marry Camille. And I was thinking, I wonder if my husband is related to royalty? And I might get a wedding invitation -- like I was really pumped. I was thinking I might go to the royal wedding and who knows what could happen? Or maybe that my husband is actually like got lords or barons or knights in his background and he comes from great British stock and that he might just have all of these properties somewhere. And Jane Austen might have written in one of their -- my mind was just going. I can go there every now and again.

So I thought maybe Nick has this secret little inheritance somewhere and hasn't told me about it and I'm going to go and find out. So I go in and so I'm waiting for lords and barons and knights, and I'm like so into this so I put in the name Caine. I'm not joking, it spits out this piece of paper with this list and this is what it says: Pirates, criminals, convicts, murderers, rapists.

[Laughter]

It was like his whole ancestors are the relatives... they're the ones that came over on the convict ships to settle Australia. They're all like that's his stock. I started laughing because I'm like oh, good bloodline there, man! I married well.

I'm just like awesome! Awesome! I guess I'm not going to Charlie's wedding. And so which is why I wasn't at George's christening.

So the fact is, I'm watching all of this, laughing my head off and then I started to think of mine. I started to think of my little family tree as well because there's Nick's and I thought, well, I don't know any of the names in mine but I do know that there was adultery and fornication, and abuse and abandonment and hurt and pain and suffering.

And I started laugh -- whoa! That's awesome! That's awesome! Because that's all on this side of the gate -- never going to change it. It is what it is. Everything on our family tree, on Nick's side back there, I cannot change the past.

And over here, all of mine, I cannot change the past, abuse, adoption, marginalization, hurt, abandonment, rejection, pain -- I can't change it.

But you see, I was thinking about this and I thought, imagine when my kids go in and do their little genealogy chart one day and they, like us, are never going to be able to change that. But see, all of the sudden they're going to see something weird when they look at their family tree because somewhere along the line they're going to see the 30th of March, 1996, Nicholas Joseph Caine marries Holy Ghost terrorist Christine Caine.

[Laughter]

They're going to see that. And although they can't change any of those things, you know criminals and murderers and convicts and thieves and abuse and abandonment and fornication and adultery and addiction, none of that is going to change. But from the 30th of March 1996, we walked through a gate when we decided to get married. We walked through a gate and said, "We can't change any of that. We can't change the past but we can change the future."

So what we decided was we drew a bloodline in the sand and we said, "You know what? With us, adultery stops. With us fornication stops. With us addiction stops. With us abuse stops. With us it all stops!" And so this thing that was once going to limit us and contain us became the doorway to say, "Oh, no, I'm shutting that gate on that past. And we're moving beyond it."

And it doesn't just affect me. Right now I've got an 11-year-old daughter and I've got a seven-year-old daughter, you don't think it's changed everything for them? The very things that kept me bound behind this gate for most of my early years of my life, they will never know because we chose to walk out and turn what was a deadlock in our life -- walk through the gate of Jesus Christ and it became a doorway into the destiny and the future that he has for us.

He says, "I am the gate." You can choose to sit at that gate for the rest of your life or like the four lepers, you can ask a question, there is a lot of power in a question.

I wonder on the other side of the screen whether you would ask that question today: Why am I sitting here until I die? Why? If I stay here, a victim of my past, a victim of my regrets, a victim of my shame, my guilt, my condemnation, my insecurity, my fear, my doubt -- if I stay here I'm going to die. This will be my end point.

But if I stand up and I change my posture, then I change my entire perspective and then I have the strength to walk through a gate that was once a barrier, it can become a doorway into the future and it doesn't just effect me, it effects the generations that are

coming after me. It is for freedom that Christ set us free. Don't settle for deliverance behind the gate when you can have freedom on the other side of the gate; in Jesus' name. In Jesus' name, amen!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy! Listen to me, father, I pray that everybody listening hears what she is saying and responds.

Look at me, listen to me. You don't have to live behind a gate or experience some kind of freedom experience and not go out and let it flow. When the son makes us free we are free indeed. God wants us to experience freedom beyond anything we've ever imagined. That doesn't mean there's no battles but it means that we're freed to fight and win. And we're free to be open about the battle or the difficulties we face. We don't have to hold back and hide.

Oftentimes we're scared of each other and that must change. We're going to show you someone we think is very beautiful with some very precious beautiful people and children. You're going to see our first grandchild, our first granddaughter. We don't have any great grandchildren yet and yet we have 11 great grandchildren because all of our grandchildren are in love with Jesus -- thank you, Lord! So they're all great grandchildren. But here is Lora in Sudan. Listen to what she says.

On the mission field

Lora: I've watched my grandparents do mission work for years and their heart goes out to these people, they love these precious people so much. And now that I'm older and I can understand the need and see the need, my heart is the same, my heart goes out to these precious little kids. I want to help them too.

I went to Africa when I was ten and being a child, I don't think I really understood the desperation of these people and understood the needs of these kids.

Now that I'm older, it hurts to think about the fact that they don't know when they're going to eat next. I feel like I understand it so much more. I understand the hurt and the pain, and I want to see them not hurt anymore. I want to see them have hope in their eyes. I want to see them smile again. I want to see them look forward to tomorrow.

But we can be a part of giving them a future, of letting them enjoy their childhood. Mission feeding gives them a meal to eat every day. It allows them the opportunity to be children again, to play, to run, to have fun and not have to worry about trying to find something to eat. Mission feeding will save their life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, there is no way for a grandparent to explain what that means to watch your grandchild and to just see her expressing love and seeing those beautiful little children.

Did you notice at the end, now think about this a minute, right there in the Sudan where we went when people were being killed, when we didn't know if we would get back alive. We went the first time with Franklin Graham, and we saw these emaciated bodies. And they saw some of them that you saw even there that Laura was referencing with, but at the end, in the Sudan, you saw some children with nice clothes on, they were at a school where we're now feeding them at school.

But in that same country, and we didn't put that in there but she saw it and you will see it some, these children have been driven out. Many of their parents have been killed by radical religious extremists.

And now then, South Sudan has become its own nation and it is a nation built on faith in Christ because of the seeds missionaries have sown, and it is the great resistance to radical, damaging, deadly, destructive forces of Islam where there's a terrorist mentality and dominance, and destroy the infidels -- but they are full of God. And Betty, she was right there showing us the need but we also got to see the effect of it.

Betty: Absolutely, James. Yes, we are blessed as grandparents to watch one of our grandchildren be over there and to love on these precious children; and the mothers that sit there too, Laura talked about she would like to see these children be able to have a meal, at least once a day, James, and to look forward to tomorrow.

Well, that's the heart of those mothers too as they watch their children's little bodies shrink up and die before them because they can't have enough food to take care of them. Please help us reach out and do that. We are blessed here in our country. For the most part, we get to eat several times a day. They're asking for help to have one good meal a day. Won't you help us do that?

James: You have been such a blessing over the years to help us feed hundreds of

thousands and save millions of lives. Would you, right now during our mission feeding emphasis, would you reach out and touch someone with love by dialing that number or going online, LifeToday.org and make the largest love gift you can? Use your bankcard like a check.

Remember this, for \$30, \$50, or \$100, we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months. We'll be able to give them food, like Betty said, every day for many months if you'll help.

Now we have gifts to send you to bless you to say thank you. The Christine Caine collection of teaching, and books, is available. I want to show you how to get it and it is going to bless you. We hope you'll get the commemorative bronze, "Brotherly Love." You're going to enable family members to feed their children or little brother or sister. You're going to give them the ability to live and we want to tell them about the source of life and the love that prompted it.

Would you dial that number right now please? Make the best gift you can. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*, but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Or again, you can go online. Father, I pray everyone watching will reach out right now and touch someone with love; in Jesus' name. Please make that love gift right now. And from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

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: I really pray that you will ask for this beautiful commemorative bronze celebrating our 50 years of marriage and ministry with the Robert Summers "Brotherly Love" of a brother feeding his little brother, feeding him the food that you give. I hope you will help us feed as many children as you can. And not only ask for the book and the teaching, and hopefully the DVD, but just say, "I'm going to make a gift to help enough children in a very special way and I'd like to have that picture of 'Brotherly Love.'" You're enabling a brother to help his little brother. Thank you for that. Thank all of you for being with us. We really do appreciate you being here. Thank you for your help!