

12/18/13
Week 51
James and Betty Robison
Christine Caine

[Cheers & Applause]

[Laughter]

James: We've got crazy people out here, Betty.

Are you crazy people watching us? We want to thank you so much for giving us an opportunity to share this time with you. I'm James Robison. Betty, my wife, and I welcome you to LIFE Today. Christine Caine is teaching – now get this – *Moving Past Your Past*. Don't get stuck. This girl is so gifted. When Beth Moore, as gifted as she is, says, "I think this might be one of my favorites in the whole world!" And that they are, they're wonderful friends and co-laborers and wonderful teachers. And she's going to close with an illustration, Betty, one of the greatest I have ever heard in my life. She says out of the mouth of babes, her little girl, boy, you talk about a life lesson. You don't want to miss this! So here is Christine Caine. Would you welcome her? Here she is!

[Applause]

Christine: So we went to the zoo and I went to the lion cages and this is what was fascinating to me. The lions were just docile. They were just so tame and domesticated. And they were in their cages and they're caged in and they're tame and domesticated. And I said to my husband, I said, "This is what happens to many of us in the church. Jesus created us to be untamed, to be wild, to be undomesticated for the cause of the king and his kingdom, and we get into the cage of religion and we start to assume this certain persona. And we become safe and nice and domesticated and we're just waiting for the rapture, just us four and no more. Hurry up, Jesus! And we're just kind of like sitting here."

And Jesus goes, "I did not give my life and rise again from the dead just so that you can live a nice, little, safe, comfortable, complacent, nine-to-five, four weeks in you'll lead just a nice little ordinary life. I called you to live a faith adventure. I invited you to follow me. Christine, that didn't stop when you got married. That didn't stop when you had children. I've called you on a faith adventure. And if would continue to take

a risk, you could move past your past. You don't need to stop at any one season of life, you could keep moving through the seasons, you could keep following me. Your latter days can be greater than your former days and the best is yet to come!" That's the adventure of Jesus Christ who continues to call us on!

I don't want -- I don't want to be a boring 50 year old. My kid is going to be in like third grade when I'm 50. I don't want to be -- I want to be super granny for Jesus. I want my kids to go, "Mum, take a chill pill! I'm so embarrassed." I want to be on fire because I think the more we know him, the more we walk into our future with him, then you and I should be ready for greater risk than ever.

I remember when the Lord spoke to us about starting the A-21 campaign. I had seen the posters of the young women in Greece and Thessaloniki and children and I saw these posters of all these missing kids and I went on to find out that they were the alleged victims of human trafficking. I was in my early 40s, already had a global ministry and I was not looking for anything new to do. I was already maxed out, I'd just had my second child. I mean I think I deserved an award to have my second child in my early 40s. I always thought that, in itself, is great. And then drops into my heart, "Christine, I want you to start this." And all I saw originally was all my own limitations. God, how can I do this? And we start with our butts. But God, I can't do this. But God, I live in Australia. Do you know how far Australia is from Greece? And I can just imagine God saying, "Gabriel, can you bring me a G.P.S? I don't quite know. I'm trying to work this out. Anyone got a map book? I'm lost. Geography I failed in God school."

[Laughter]

"But God, this is Russian and Albanian Mafia. They're like... don't do nice things to people. God have you not seen the movie, The Mafia, The Mob?" It's like, "God, this is dangerous! This is dangerous! And it is irresponsible for a 41-year-old minister of the gospel with two children to do this. God surely you wouldn't require me to do anything irresponsible? God, surely you wouldn't require me to do anything dangerous! Wasn't this the goal that I have a nice house, a nice car, a nice family, a nice little lifestyle? And now I just wait for you to come back? Isn't that the goal?"

And then begins the challenge of, "God, I've got two small kids, I don't have any more time. But God, I don't have the money. But God, I don't have the resources. But God... and I don't know if you've ever been there and you don't step into your future and you don't step into your destiny because you're so stuck in the comfort of your present, which locks you into your past as soon as it becomes tomorrow because you start with

all your butts. But God I can't. But God I'm a woman. God's in heaven going I had no idea! Anyone know? Peter? Did you know she is a chick? Oh, well! But, but, but... you know what I seriously believe we need in the body of Christ? We need a serious butectomy.

[Laughter]

You can go open the medical journal, I'm sure it is listed in there.

[Laughter]

Google butectomy on the other side of this screen. We need to get our big butts out of the way because it is not about what I cannot do it is about who he is and what he wants to do in and through my life. It is not about my limitations. It is about God's purpose for my life. And at some point, your past isn't just the negative stuff that's happened to you. You could have been walking with the Lord but the truth is, you didn't take a step into your future with the Lord, you haven't taken him on for the last ten years. Your life's great, you're going to church every week, you're reading your Bible, you're paying your tithe, you're even watching me on the other side of this screen but you've not taken a risk. You've not stepped into the future that God has for you. You haven't obeyed the last five things he's told you to do because you're stuck in what you were doing. You're still stuck in the past. And if you're going to get past that past, and if you're going to get past good to go to God's great, you're going to have to take some risks. Some risks where people are going to look at you and think you are weird! I don't think anyone's called me normal for 25 years. I take that as the highest compliment; I don't want to be normal. Normality is highly overrated. I'm telling you, it is highly overrated.

So many of us spend so much time worrying about what everyone else thinks and those people are really not thinking anything and don't care about us anyway. And we care more about man's opinion than we do God's opinion. And when we, as women of God, get to the place where we care more about what God thinks than we care about what man thinks then I'm telling you, we're going to step into the destiny that God has for us. Other people, the opinions of girlfriends, the opinions of family and friends, we've got to come to a place where we say, "God, I'm ready to take a risk. I'm ready to do what you've called me to do and I'm ready to be what you've called me to be." You know the truth is, if God can do it for me, God can do it for anyone. If God can take an unnamed, unwanted, abused, adopted girl that should have been a statistic, I'm sure there are people watching this on the other side of the screen and you're thinking, "Man, Chris, if you just knew my life! If you just knew my life!"

The truth is, I've been the person on the other side, and I know what it is to be bound and I know what it is to be free and I know which I prefer. And he whom the son sets free shall be free indeed. You can step into the destiny and the purpose and the life that Jesus Christ came to give you but you've got to be willing to take some risks and you've got to be willing to look foolish. If you're going to move past the past into the future, both the good and the bad past, then you have got to be prepared to look foolish.

I love the scripture in First Corinthians chapter one verse 27: But God chose the foolish things of the world -- exhibit A, as I read this, I want you to see this -- but God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things -- and the things that are not -- to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It would be just like God to show off through some little unnamed, unwanted chick from the backside of the desert and say, "You know what? Everyone is going look at her and think it's got to be me because it's not her for sure." And you know what? Every time you think you can't, you just have to know that he can. And that it is just like him to weave together all the challenge of your past so that he can use it to give somebody else a future. But are you willing to look like a fool?

And really, what I want to read to you is this list because from Genesis to Revelation in the scripture, it's only people that have been willing to look like fools that have done anything significant for God. Can you imagine how foolish Noah looked when he was building an ark in a desert? Can you imagine everyone saying, "Noah, what are you doing?"

"I'm building an ark."

"What's an ark?"

"I don't know, but I know rain is coming."

"What's rain?"

"I haven't got a clue."

"Oh, so you're building I don't know for I don't have a clue. Awesome!"

[Laughter]

I feel like that most days of my life. "What are you doing, Christine?" 47, two kids, traveling -- "I don't know really; haven't got a clue. As soon as I know I'll let you know." Can you imagine Moses how foolish he looked with his little stick? "What are you going to with that, Moe?"

[Laughter]

"See that Red Sea? Yep, yep. Me and the stick, Red Sea." Can you imagine how foolish he looked? Can you imagine how foolish Sarah looked in the maternity department at Wal-Mart?

[Laughter]

"What are you doing, Sarah?"

"Buying some baby clothes."

"Really?"

"Yeah, yeah. It's in there."

Can you imagine how foolish -- most of us, we're not prepared to say, "I'm pregnant with a dream of God because I'm too old, I'm in my 50s, I'm in my 60s, I'm in my 70s." And we think everyone will laugh at us because we are pregnant with a God dream at that stage. And we're not willing to look foolish to everyone else so we won't take the risk of faith it requires to give birth to the dream that God has.

Can you imagine how foolish the Israelites looked as they marched around the walls of Jericho? Toga, sandals, a little shofar -- no A.K.47s, no missiles, no nothing.

"What are you doing?"

"Walking around... yeah, yeah. Six days, six times... yep, yep. Then we're going to shout, and those 30-foot impenetrable walls, yep, they're going to come down."

Because that's normally the battle plans God gives us; they're like ridiculous. And so how foolish we look.

Can you imagine how foolish David looked, a little stick, a little Goliath, nine-foot giant, five little stones, slingshot. "Wow! Knock yourself out!"

"Well, I'm planning to knock him out. But anyway, we'll see what happens."

Can you imagine how foolish Esther looked going to a king when she wasn't summoned?

Can you imagine those lepers we talked about, how foolish they looked as they said, "We're going to go in to Samaria." They would have looked so foolish.

Can you imagine how foolish Caleb looked at 85? "I'm not cashing in my 501 K, no, no! See, Hebron? That's what Moses promised me. I'm not giving up until then. I don't care if an entire generation died in the wilderness, I don't care if another generation has gone into possess the Promised Land. I'm 85 and I'm as young now as I was then. I want that mountain."

Now that looks pretty foolish because the whole world is saying, "Let's retire." We didn't come to earth to retire. In case you're wondering on the other side of the screen, this is not your retirement program, that happens in heaven. This is where we come to help everyone that doesn't know Jesus here come to heaven with us; that's what this is all about. We didn't come to earth to retire.

Can you imagine how foolish the wise men looked on the camels? "What are you looking for?"

"A little star, there's a messiah. Awesome!"

Can you imagine how foolish Peter looked stepping out of the boat?

Can you imagine how foolish the woman with the issue of blood looked as she reached and grabbed the hem of his garment?

Can you imagine how foolish Paul and Silas looked in prison and they're singing Shout to the Lord?

Can you imagine how foolish the little boy's lunch looked in light of 15,000 people that needed to be fed!

Can you imagine how foolish Mary looked when she turned up to a girlfriend's and said, "It was an angel."

[Laughter]

"Hey Joe, I know what we haven't done and you know what we haven't done, but it was an angel."

Anyway... and so, Jesus Christ certainly looked foolish to a generation hanging on a cross, mocked and ridiculed and scorned. What happens when you're willing to be foolish? What happens when you're willing to take a risk and look foolish? Well, Noah was saved from the flood. And Moses did see the Red Sea part. And Sarah did give birth to Isaac. And the Israelites saw the walls of Jericho fall. And David did behead Goliath. And Esther did stop a Jewish genocide. And the lepers did see the Assyrian army flee. And Caleb did get Hebron. And the wise men did see the messiah. And Peter did walk on water. And the woman with the issue of blood was healed. And Paul and Silas were freed from prison. And the little boy's lunch fed 5,000. And Mary did give birth to Jesus and Jesus Christ got off that cross and he defeated hell and death and he gave us the life beyond our past. I'm telling you! There is a lot of power in daring to look foolish.

I refuse to allow my past to limit my future. And as foolish as I might look to this world, then I am willing to take a risk of faith to spend all of this thing called life. I don't want to come to the end of my life and discover that I never lived. I don't want to come to the end of my life and stand before Jesus and say, "Well, I was abused and I was hurt. That's why I never did what I put me on earth to do. During my vapor, I allowed one thing to stop me from doing everything."

I was abused for 12 years, but you know, as I'm talking to you today, as you're listening to this on the other side of the screen, the truth is, I have not been abused... well, I'm 47 now, I was abused for 12 years. I haven't been abused for 35 years. So why will I allow 12 years to dictate my entire life when I actually haven't been abused for a whole lot longer than I was abused? Some of you have got stuck in a moment, a divorce, a pain, an abuse, a moment in time, a teacher that said you're dumb, a teacher that said you're stupid, something that happened to you, and that thing was a season of your life and you've allowed a season to define your entire life rather than understanding that you know what? Jesus Christ came to redeem me from that pain and that brokenness. He took my abuse, he took my shame, he took my guilt, he took my pain and he died on a cross for all of that.

And here's the kicker! He rose again from the dead so that I can have resurrection life. That same spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead lives on the inside of you and it lives on the inside of me. That same Holy Spirit empowers us to move beyond our past into the future and the destiny that Jesus Christ has for us, every single one of us ladies -- every single one of us.

My little girl is obsessed with flashlights, my little Sofia -- obsessed. She actually loves little Barbie flashlights. I was preaching somewhere and then it was about -- it was very late at night and the only place I could get her a flashlight was from Wal-Mart.

And us Australians, we love Wal-Mart. It is like a tourist attraction. We get our phones out and we Twitter to the world, "I'm in Wal-Mart" and all the Americans are like, "So what?" And the rest of the world is like, "Awesome! Take pictures!" And that's because it's the only place in the world where you can go 3:00 in the morning and buy breakfast, cereal and underwear and garments. It's fantastic! It's all there!

And so my little girl wanted a Barbie flashlight. And she actually -- you know back then, if I said to her, "Sophia, is Jesus in your heart?" She would say, "No, Mommy. Daddy said we are not allowed to have boys. So Barbie is in my heart and Jesus is in my tummy." So we worked on that theologically.

But she wanted a Barbie flashlight. So I bought her a little flashlight, put the batteries in and then I turned to the cashier so that I could pay for it. And then my little girl who at the time was three, she yells out to me. She is turning on the flashlight, and if you've ever been in a Wal-Mart, you know with all the fluorescent lighting you can't see the flashlight once you turn the flashlight on. So she turns it on -- she obviously can't see the light so she yells at me. She goes, "Mummy! Can we please go and find some darkness?"

And when she said that I turned around and I thought, out of the mouth of babes! If I put Sofia in a room and locked that basement without any lights you would hear that kid from Australia to America. But if I give that kid a tiny Barbie flashlight, then she not only shuts that basement door, she goes as deep as she can, looking as deep as she can for the most darkness that she can because she knows that darkness cannot touch her while she has the light in her hand. It is not the magnitude of the darkness around her but the power of the light within her hand that dispels that darkness.

And Jesus says, "You have got the same spirit that raised me from the dead that lives on the inside of you. Now take that light, don't live safe. Go out of your comfort zone, move past your past and step into a dark and a dying world and illuminate the

darkness with the light and the life and the hope of the Lord Jesus Christ." In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name!

End of clip

James: Oh boy! Christine, I have an idea you're watching. You did great, but what a story. You know, Christine, that Betty and I together have been diligently seeking to inspire the church to become together the light that pierces the darkness. Where the darkness is so apparent, the opportunity is the greatest. A bright light.

And if we do it together, Betty, as a family of faith, we really do become a shining city set on a hill that is not and cannot, will not, and must not be hidden. That really is our role today as the family of faith.

Don't be stuck in your past. Get the series. Get the material on CD, DVD or both. The books that Christine has written, let me tell you in a moment how you can get them. But I want to show you something about how we, together, can be that light that pierces the greatest darkness perhaps that we can face, the darkness that death brings especially as we only too well know, when it robs you of those closest to you, family perhaps, children. Watch prayerfully.

On the mission field

Subtitle:

>> I've lost all my children. I hope God can see me.

Announcer: Unseen, unknown, invisible is how Adut feels. In an area devastated by malnutrition, the suffering is widespread. Adut knows it well -- most recently her four-year-old daughter.

Subtitle:

>> She died on the 10th of this month. I buried her alone. I have no family, no husband.

Announcer: Now she sits alone next to her daughter's grave, the last of four children lost.

Subtitle:

>> This is where I live. I have nothing.

Announcer: Adut is not unseen. None here are. Not by God or you. We know God has called us to respond but we can only act if you do.

[Children crying]

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to remind you, this is the last week in this emphasis for mission feeding and your gift will be doubled. And the Christmas season, I would think there would be everyone of us inspired to make a very meaningful gift.

Ask for Christine's series. I do hope and pray that you will consider. Many of you are looking at the opportunity of making a year-end gift. Thank God that, at least at this point and time, we still get that tax credit. We don't need to give the government more money to mismanage, which so often happens. So let's do it where we know it works, make a gift. A \$1000 gift or more, and you may be able to do more than that. Ask for the Brotherly Love bronze. We'd be so happy to send it to you.

Thanks for watching! Thank you for sharing life. And thanks to all of you for doing it.

[Applause]