

2/19/14
Week 8
Beth Moore – The Widow's Oil pt. 2
James and Betty Robison

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today* and welcome to this special Wednesday with Beth Moore. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: I want you to get the *Awaken Now* Conference. As a matter of fact, Beth's message, what she taught here was one of the most dynamic heart cries I've ever heard come from a believer. And all the other speakers, from our pastor Robert Morris, to Sammy Rodriguez, to Dr. Ben Carson, the noted neurosurgeon who has shaken the country with his wonderful wisdom from God, Governor Huckabee, Mark Rutland... so many others that you will recognize, like Christine Caine, Lisa Bevere, and Betty and I share.

God used you mightily, Betty!

Get these CDs, DVDs, and the transcript. We'll tell you a little later how you can get them. Here's Beth Moore teaching a very important message from *The Widow's Oil*.

Begin video clip

Beth: But watch what happens here. Verse eight, I'm going to read -- I think I'm going to go 11 to 17. Oh, I don't think I can, I've got to eight! Okay, verse eight: One day Elisha went on to Shunem where a wealthy woman lived who urged him to eat some food so whenever he passed that way he would turn in there to eat food. I've never noticed a man having to be urged for the second or third time.

[Laughter]

So he knew he was going to get a good meal. Nine: So she said to her husband, "Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our

way. Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair and a lamp so that whenever he comes to us he can go in there." I love that -- just the basic necessities. They just make him this little area that he can call a home away from a home.

Verse 11: One day he came there and he turned into the chamber and he rested there. He said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunamite."

And when he called her she stood before him and he said to him, say now to her, "See, you have taken all this trouble for us. What is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the Army?"

Pause there just a second. So he goes to -- this is the Shunamite -- wealthy, wealthy woman. He goes and he stays in his little chamber. They've gone to all this trouble to build it for him. He is laying there and he is just like, like who does this? So he gets his servant. "Go call her."

Now I love this guy. I love watching what's happening in ancient manners here, because he does not talk straight to her. Look what happens here. He said, in verse 13: He said to him... so Elisha is saying to Gehazi, "Say now to her." See, she is standing there right in front of him. See, you have -- so he is saying it to -- "you have taken all this trouble." So now Gehazi is going, "You have taken all this trouble."

Are you getting this? Because this is beautiful! I love stuff like this. I just love stuff like this. So she doesn't hear it just once; she hears it twice. So "Is there anything? Can I speak to the king, the commander of the Army?"

And she answers something in the verse 13. She answers, "I dwell among my own people." And what she means by that... that would be just like, "No, I'm doing fine. No need -- no need." That's very ancient terminology, so we don't get it but she just means, "What could I want? I've got my people."

Many of you are like that, "I've got my people." I've got Keith and the girls and my in-laws who are my parents live just down from us, and my grandkids are there. I'm just like, I've got my people! This is all I need; I've got my people. So she says that back.

And he looks at Gehazi in verse 14 and said, "What then is to be done for her?"

And Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son and her husband is old." I mean just like, okay.

[Laughter]

Sorry gentlemen. Awkward!

Verse 15: And he said, "Call her." And when he called her she stood at the doorway again and he said -- this time he says it straight to her, verse 16: He said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son."

And she said, "No, my Lord! Oh, man of God, do not lie to your servant!"

Now, I know that some of us would be saying, "No, my Lord..." for different reasons. Like...

[Laughter]

But hers was don't mess with me on this again. This was like, "No, don't even! I've had that lie said to me. Do not lie to your servant."

And verse 17 says: But the woman conceived and she bore a son about that time the following spring as Elisha had said to her.

Such a crazy story! But the point I'm making to you and if you're just getting into the text with us and just coming in to the classroom with us, what I'm wanting you to see is that this story of this wealthy Shunamite is right next to the story of the woman who only has one little jar of oil in her entire house. So there's something to this, to me, here are these bookends here and so I see like this is woman A and this is woman Z. And for our gentlemen to really come into the passage with us, this is like a picture of man A and then there is man Z because you've got everything from A to Z, somewhere in-between the two.

I want you to picture this, if you would, please, because you've got woman or man A representing someone with almost nothing -- almost nothing. No one watching or tuning in has nothing. It would be impossible; the fact that you're either in front of a computer or you're in front of a television screen, the fact that you could be here. We are not people with absolutely nothing. So as bad as it could get for our audience and for all of you in Bible study Wednesdays, it would be just like, "I have almost nothing."

Then the other extreme is almost everything. Girl Z, she had almost everything. So relate to it, gentlemen. You've got a man with almost nothing and you've got a man with almost everything.

Now nobody has everything if they don't have Jesus. Nobody has everything and is still really living on this very difficult fallen globe. So I just want you to get this picture because somewhere between -- we all fall in-between them. And I wonder, if you can just gauge, if you had a meter going and I'm picturing it like the gas tank in my car. Are you almost empty or almost full? Because right here, here's what we've got. Like one doesn't have a dime, the other one is wealthy. One can't pay her bills, the other one could pay all of her neighbors' bills. One has had something taken from her, her husband, and the other just had something missing. Is anybody getting this put together? One's got almost nothing; the other one thinks she needs nothing. And both of them were about to experience a mighty miracle of God.

I don't know which way you lean there, I don't know if you're leaning towards the almost everything or the almost nothing but here's the most beautiful thing I have to tell you today, you have not already received everything you're getting from God.

Again, I want to say to you, I'm not talking about physical, tangible prosperity. I'm talking about something a whole lot better than that. I'm talking about God showing up in your life in such a way that you know that you know. You don't just believe in the son of God, you flat out know him. That's what I'm talking about. Both of them were about to get a miracle.

I think this is so intriguing when you contrast the two women together because I just wonder, have any of us gotten to the place where we just have quit asking? Because that's what happened to her. Like, don't even bring that back up to me. That subject is not even up for discussion.

I thought when our hope gets deferred what a crisis we can find ourselves in, and if we work through that crisis we can numb ourselves and dumb our faith down enough to go, you know what? Here's what I'm going to do. I am going to ask little and risk little. So this is how we're going to do it. I'm going to live in such a way that God cannot disappoint me.

I wonder, who is in this lesson today? Anybody? Where I'm just -- I'll tell you what's going to happen now. We're going to get in the safe zone here and then God and I can just be comfortable together. So it is so tempting to attempt faithfulness without any

faith. What I'm praying is going to happen for every single one of us through this series is that we will get the fire back in our faith because here's what happens. I just want you to see as if I'm writing it in fluorescent letters right above my head. I just want you to hear that word and see that word faithfulness, because for many of us, one of the verses we know the best out the gospels, that we want to hear when we see God face to face is, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"

Well, here's what we're trying to do. We're trying to get our faith out of our faithfulness and all we've got left is just fullness. So here's what happens. When I try to attempt this walk with God with no faith, what happens is I have to fill up that huge vacuum with all sorts of good works.

Now, I think you know that James and Betty, and that I am -- we are adamant about living out our faith. That's not even in question here. What I'm saying is some of us are exercising no faith whatsoever, we're just going to work ourselves half to death to make up for the vacuum that our faithlessness has left.

The Word of God says in Hebrews 11:6, I didn't make it up. A lot of times I'm not even glad it's there but it is there. It says: Without faith it is impossible to please God. That we're justified by faith, and the just shall live by faith, we're told in the scriptures. So this thing is we're going to get this, where we're going to go to church, we're going to give money, we're going to work hard, we're going to work in the nursery at church, but I'm telling you, I'm not getting back out there in the risk zone of faith. And here we are called again back to that place.

I want to tell you something, it is not just the pleasure of God we're risking with our faithlessness. Let me tell you, faithless people become unforgiving people; and you can take that one to the spiritual bank. If we are going to lapse into our faithlessness and we're just going to do the thing, we're going to work hard but we're really not going to exercise our faith, what will happen is it will not be long before we find ourselves in unforgiveness because forgiveness takes faith. Some of the people you're forgiving are not sorry. Amen?

So here you are. I ask you, give me something, just throw something out there that would be a bigger faith than forgiveness, because what you're saying is, I'm going to believe God to make it right. Because in your mind, if you're like me, I come from a background of childhood abuse, it is not all right with me. I haven't gotten to the place where I think, well, it's okay now. No! No, it's not!

You know what gives me peace? God has promised he's going to handle it. I don't have to. I have to give it up because he says, "You know what? I'm going to tell you something, you can hand that to me because I'm going to handle that." I don't have to. It's an act of faith. Faithless people become cold-hearted people because girlfriend and guy friend, you love by faith.

I've been married 34 years. You don't just enter into a long term marriage that still has some life in it -- I'm not talking about co-existing, but to actually have life in your marriage. You don't go all of those years without faith. You just don't. Faithlessness causes every kind of ripple effect you can possibly imagine.

Now, I want you to go back and look at verses two through seven with me -- Second Kings. So we're going to return now. We've made a comparison between one woman who has almost nothing and one woman who has almost everything and how both of them were about to get a miracle. And we're going to look back now at the woman that just has the one little bit of oil.

Let me back up to where it says in verse two: Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me! What have you in the house?"

She said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

In verse three: Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few."

That may be the best phrase in the whole thing. Everybody say, "Not too few."

[Audience repeats]

Oh, say it again! Not too few. I mean I want you to see something come out of your mouth. Like spit on the person's hair in front of you. Not too few -- one more time.

[Audience repeats]

And then it says: "Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside."

Verse five: So she went in from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "There is not another."

Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

I want to tell you what I think God is up to in our present series. He has come to awaken the jar gatherer in all of us. Wouldn't that be something? -- A call back to faith? That this is not just about works; this is about us not just having believed in God, but believing him -- getting in to a lifestyle that only he can explain.

Do you remember in the book of Acts when they said they were just astonished at the power of these men, Peter and John? Because they were ordinary men, and yet they were so extraordinary -- power -- only Jesus could explain that. Okay so I love that he says to her, he asks her, "What shall I do for you?" And something must happen.

I'm hoping one day when we all -- when time is complete and we are all in Heaven and we all get to see the finished product that we're going to get to see some of the visual like they'll show it to us like on a DVD because there's so much that you can't see. There are things happening, expressions happening here. So we're looking at the page, the ink on the page but we don't know what is happening in-between. There's some reason why he asks her a question and then he asks her another question. He changes it. He says, "What shall I do for you?"

Then he says, "Well, tell me this. What do you have in your house?"

So I don't know whether she just like -- he was like, "You know what? I'm going to ask you a second question. This is going to lead you a little better. What do you have in your house?"

And she said, "Well, I have nothing in my house but a jar of oil."

And he tells her what to do. There are times, wisdom knows that there are some things you do not do for another person or you cheat them of their own intense encounter with God. He could have just gone and done it. Like, "I'll go get you some money." If it is so, what tradition says, and this was a man that did work for him, and that much is intimated there in verse one of Second Kings four. He could have just gone, "I can get you some provision." There was something in it for her that she was going to have to get up and act on the faith. I think it was critical to the matter. She was to go out and

borrow jars, to awaken that jar gatherer in every single one of us. She didn't lay in bed. She got up and borrowed jars.

End of clip

In the studio

James; Boy, I really love the point you made about everybody gathering – doing something. It is so heartbreaking to me to see people wait for somebody to come to them rather than taking action themselves.

I've said many times of the birds, you know, Jesus said, "Consider the birds, that they don't worry." But boy, do they work. You can't find a bee, you cannot find an insect, you cannot watch a butterfly that's not busy seeking and finding the provision that God has for them. And it really seems that plants are more wise than people because plants turn every leaf, every blade of grass toward the light and they drive the roots down to get the water. Christians should be getting rooted and grounded in love and grounded and rooted in the word of God, which is the water of life, and turning toward the light for illumination and guidance. That's what we try to give you in the Awaken Now conference, some insight in how to find direction for your life.

In a few moments we'll give you an opportunity to get the DVDs, the CDs, the transcripts. I'm telling you, you're going to be blessed in the presence of the Lord.

Right now, Betty, I want our viewers to look in and see reality and see situations where your love and your action is the only help and only hope people have. There is no doubt in my mind you're going to be moved by compassion and love to take appropriate action.

On the mission field

Announcer: She moved so slowly. No, she hardly moved at all. And no tears fell because that well had run dry. While no picture of health, Roen has been drained of life -- the kind of life found in your role as a mother. Death came. It took from Roen but then it took again and again and again.

Subtitles:

>> I had 12 kids, but seven of them died. I only had a little breastmilk, it wasn't enough. I had no choice but to supplement with water.

Announcer: In this heat, the average person can survive only a few days without water. Though this water might extend a life, it eventually takes it, especially children because their immune system is too weak for that fight.

Subtitles:

>> This is our only water source. It feels like something has been taken from my heart, like I have no more soul. I think I'm going crazy.

Announcer: Trauma has taken its toll but because the water which took her children is still their only source, Roen knows that unless something is done to provide clean water that at any moment she could lose all that remains.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Roen, I wish I could -- I wish I could talk to you. The beautiful brown-eyed girl; our girls had beautiful brown eyes. I can't tell you how much I want to stop the death cycle; and Betty and I are praying for that.

We are believing God to take you in his arms through arms of people all over the world who will say, "I will show you Jesus." We want to give you the water.

Betty, we have been drilling wells a long time. We want to drill another 500 this year. I especially will say you and I would give her a well; right? Whatever it would take. What do you feel when you watch that precious mother that lost so many of her children?

Betty: James, there are some times that we can't do anything when we see a loved one lose their life. There are some times when we would do everything to save a life of our loved one -- all the time. But yet when you see situations like this, there's something we can do. This mother lost seven children and doesn't know how the other five will make it, James. She knows what is killing them, it's the water. But the only source they have is what she has to give them.

Please join with us. We can make a difference. We can do something about this if you'll just reach in your heart and ask God what he would have you to do. We can make the difference between life and death in so many of these children.

James: I'm totally comfortable pleading the cause of the orphan, the widow, the hurting, the suffering, because he loves them so much -- because I know what that feels like. I know what it feels like to be the one nobody noticed, nobody picked; I know what that feels like. Most of the world feels like no one noticed but God notices. He said even a sparrow, the least significant bird, not a colorful bird, the most ordinary bird, the Father sees it. And he wants to show those people through us that he sees them and he loves them.

I'm asking you to help us drill wells in her area. I'm asking you to help us drill another 500 wells. I wish we could triple that number. I'm asking you to help us drill them in the designated areas that the missionaries have shown us in 12 nations, 500.

Now listen to me. They're \$4800 each. \$48, basically you divide it out, will give ten people water the rest of their life; \$144 will give 30. If you can give \$4800 do it! Do it! If you can give \$1200 and pray three join you or \$2400 and one join you, whatever it takes, let's do our part.

We want to send you the Awaken Now series of one of the greatest conferences in the presence and power of God I've ever been in my 50-year ministry. We want to bless you with spiritual food and water but we're asking you to give these precious little children a clean cup, drink of water. Would you do it?

Go to the phone, dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check, or you can go online LifeToday.org.

Father, I pray that every person would take joy in saying to Roen, I'll help save your children. I'm going to lighten your load. I'm going to show you love; in Jesus' name. Don't let anything keep you from giving a cup of water in Jesus' name in love. Don't let

a busy, don't let anything stop you. I'm going to be an answer to that woman's heart cry and her prayer. I'm going to be!

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 5 people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 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 the *Awaken Now* audio series, a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of 23 anointed speakers proclaiming a powerful message for every believer in God's kingdom. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Awaken Now* on both audio and video, along with the companion book containing the speaker's sermons and encouraging messages.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request our new commemorative sculptured glass statue, "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Remember, we're sending the glass sculpture to those of you who will drill a well or give at least \$1200 toward it; and the Awaken Now CDs for any gift, and the DVDs, CDs, and the transcript of the Awaken Now conference if you make a gift of over \$100. I'm praying that everyone watching, Betty, will do something. I can promise you these incredible teachings, the great messages, are going to bless you and inspire you beyond measure.

Thank you so much for helping us share life! Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*! I think they will be glad you asked them to. God bless you!