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Week 25

Beth Moore: Awaken Now

James: Well, I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you be a part of this incredible crowd of people, some 4,000 who came; actually over 5,000 registered from almost every state, many foreign countries. You may not have been part of that crowd but you're about to be a part of the Awaken Now Conference.

And then, the good news is, Betty, you can have every speaker, every one of these gifted teachers and communicators teaching under the anointing of God something that the church and the whole earth needs to hear, America needs to hear. You can get the messages on transcript and hear these great speakers. I promise you, you are going to be inspired and blessed beyond measure. So I look forward to you getting the DVD's, CD's. And now, here is under the anointing of God, Beth Moore.

Beth: We are thirstier than we are saying that we are. And I've come into this house tonight to ask you and to ask each one listening, would we own our thirst? I wonder, would we own our thirst because that's all it will take. Can we humble ourselves enough to say, "We are thirsty and dry for an outpouring of your spirit, God. We are desperate for your downpour."

Would you look with me at Isaiah 41 please. Chapter 41, I'm going to start at verse 17. Isaiah 41:17: When the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I, the Lord will answer them. Do you hear these "I wills"? I the Lord will -- I will. Not I may. Not when the time is just right. He said, "I will do it."

When the poor and needy seek water and there is none and their tongue is parched with thirst, I, the Lord, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I

will open rivers on the bare heights and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water.

Listen to what he will do to your wilderness if we'll own our thirst.

I will take that wilderness -- before I even move you out of it. You keep telling me that you want to move out of the wilderness. I'm saying to you children, I believe this is what God is saying to us. No, I'll do it right there in your wilderness. Right there where you are. I will make that wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together.

Listen to this, verse 20: That they may see and know and may consider and understand together that the hand of the Lord has done this, the holy one of Israel has created it.

I want you to just go back to that verse 20 and hear it out of the E.S.V. You would hear it in the authorized version as well. I'm not sure why it is not translated in several of the other formal translations but you'll hear it just brilliantly here in the E.S.V. as it says that I will do this when the poor and needy seek water and there is none. I will open up rivers in the bare heights, fountains in the midst of valleys, make a wilderness a pool of water. I will do all of this that they may see and know, may consider and understand together that the hand of the Lord has done this. The holy one of Israel has created it.

The beauty of the word together because it is conveyed in the Hebrew language and the beauty of it is it means with people and with bits and pieces of what God is doing. One of the most blatant messages, life messages that James and Betty bring into any environment they get to serve is the unity of the body of Christ regardless of -- he's not talking about uniformity, us coming together as the body of Christ knowing that we are saved by Christ alone, and we have put our trust in him, that makes us brothers and sisters.

And it is not until we come together that we even realize what God is doing because we get so isolated in all of our corners. But when we come together and the bits and pieces of what God is doing all over the world, to go to another country and go, "What is this

he is doing? What is this marvel?" And it gives us courage and we come back together and we put it altogether. We come back together and we see and know and consider and understand only the hand of the Lord could have done this. Only the holy one of Israel could create this. Only he.

Here's the thing. Did you notice with me that it says "when the poor and needy." See here is the prerequisite. This is all we've got; is that he is calling us to own our thirst and to come to him as those who are poor and needy. In his economy, it is the needy who receive, it is the way he does it. Only the barren miraculously conceive.

Do we want something that we can plan and put together with our godliest efforts with our big teams, the big players, all coming together? Let's plan a move of God. It does not work that way. It takes us saying, we're poor and needy. We're desperate for you to work. We cannot do it on our own. We are barren, Lord. And when we come to him barren, that's when we miraculously conceive over and over again.

Do we want what can be conceived by our good and godly planning? Or do we want something that can only be conceived by the Holy Spirit? I believe if we stay apart, I believe in that togetherness we see and understand and consider the hand of the Lord has done this, but apart, we will not see this downpour. We're so spread out that a drop is falling here and a drop is falling here. Until the body of Christ unites, it will be scattered showers on planet earth. But once we unite in common purpose to see salvation to the ends of the earth, through the great name of the Lord Jesus Christ, now we're talking -- now we're talking. All we have to do is own our thirst. All we have to do is say to him, nothing else will do.

Had the Israelites not thirsted in the desert, they would never have experienced water from a rock. I don't know about you but I want water from a rock! You can go get a bottle of water, that's just fine. Lay down your dollar for it. But then there's like a rock -- and it gushes with water! Let me say that again -- a rock and it gushes with water. I don't know about you, forget the plastic! Somebody hand me a rock and make that thing, in Jesus' name start gushing water and now you've got a girlfriend that wants to take a drink, I'll tell you that. Because I want that kind of water. I want miraculous water! That's what I'm looking for.

I want you to see. Listen -- as long as we pretend that we have already got that which we lack, we will remain in our lack. We are acting like we've already got all of what we want to see the Holy Spirit do and it is a lie. We know he can do more than this. We know he promised more than this. We know he promised more than this.

Look with me at Isaiah chapter five, verse 13. Anybody glad to be in the house of the Lord tonight? Praise you, father! I don't want to be left out. I believe God is doing something unprecedented in our day, and I don't want to miss it. Look at one another and say, "You don't want to miss it." We don't want to miss this. We don't want to miss this.

Isaiah 5:13 says this -- it's a powerful, powerful word: Therefore my people go into exile for lack of knowledge. Their honored men go hungry and their multitude is parched with thirst.

See that again because it is talking about God -- this is the religious community -- the people of God. My honored men go hungry and their multitude is parched with thirst. God began pressing a word on my heart about honored men and women throughout the body of Christ all over the world, whether they're pastors, teachers, evangelists, missionaries, whatever they may be. I want you to pray with me and we're going to pray it tonight that God would begin working in such a way in all sorts of streams and traditions throughout Christianity that he would pick out key people and that he would cause them to have such a hunger they cannot stand but to cry out to God to do it for them. Their people are parched with thirst.

What would happen if we began praying, "God, go throughout Christendom into every denomination, every single sector, every single part all over the world. Go in -- go in!" Because here's what I believe with all of my heart, I think there are exceptions to this but I think this is the general rule. I believe the influence often comes from the outside. But transformation comes from the inside. You can almost take that one to the biblical bank because a transformation is something that comes from within.

We need to pray that key people throughout all of these different traditions in Christianity, that it will go -- that it happens within. People still have trouble trusting someone or do not see themselves identifying with them if they're always from the outside coming in. It takes people within those moves, within those traditions, within those streams. You and I want to pray that key people throughout every single branch of Christianity get hungry where nothing else will do but the spirit of the living God. Oh, that the honored would say, "I am poor and thirsty."

I'm just going to let that fall a second. What would happen if the honored men and women said, "I'm just going to be honest with you, I'm dying of thirst. I'm telling you, I do not know how I can manage another year of ministry if God doesn't come through afresh for me." What would happen? What would happen? I'm thirsty. I'm hungry. I want to own it.

I told him here recently, I'm desperate for it! I'm desperate for it! I'll even stop telling you how to bring a downpour. I'll stop turning in my notes to you and go, "This is how I really think it would work." I'm telling you how to do it. Just do it! Do it! But I want my eyes to see it. I want my eyes to see it. I know he can do more than this. I know he can! But we're not poor and needy yet. All it would take is for us to own our thirst because I think we really are thirsty. And when a hungry people persist in appearing full, there exists no provision of food. When a parched people persist in appearing wet with the spirit, there exists no promise of water.

Our persistent playing, I believe is part of the spirit's delaying. We just keep playing with the thing. You and I both know it, we're starving. We want something more. We know there's something more and we want it with everything we've got in us but we will not admit it because we are afraid for people that we think are lesser spiritually than we are to see our need. When honored people will drop down and say, "I'm starving here."

[Applause]

"I'm thirsty here. Lord, give it -- only you can give it."

I believe that out of his great mercy God is about to push this envelope with us. Now listen please test the spirit. I want you to pray about this and see if this is so but as clearly as I know how to discern, what he laid upon my heart, I feel like I am bringing it to you as I understand it.

But I think what we will see if not now, very, very soon is him pushing this point with us over and over because I think it is very possible that what has satisfied you before will no longer satisfy you now. That how you've been doing the Christian thing and the ministry thing and the -- the thing that has been working for years, decades, maybe you're pastors and teachers, or you're in evangelism, whatever it may be, that you have sought him and you have loved him and you've gone on -- I mean it's worked for years. I want to ask you a question, is there any chance that just here lately you've kind of wanted to admit, something is not working like it used to? Would anybody own that? Something? Something?

You know what? Sometimes it's just like our lack -- like we've just gotten lack somehow. I just want to suggest to you that it may not necessarily be that. It may not be an accident at all and it may not be chalked up to just personal weakness as weak as we are. Sometimes God will stir a sense of lack when he wants to give us more. I think I can say to you, what has worked for you before may not work for you very soon. What yielded results before will not yield the same results now.

It is a new day -- look at one another and say, "It is a new day."

[Audience repeats]

And yesterday's outpouring is not going to carry us today. It is not going to do it. I believe he is going to push this with us because I believe that we're seeing -- I believe that we are having sort of an angst of spirit. I truly believe that we are. And it is very, very biblical. We so desperately need -- so desperately need a fresh awakening and that's everything this weekend is about. I believe that this will have... this thing that is not working the way it used to work will be for us, not against us, it will be a blessing and not a curse, unless we sit back with it. But if we say, "Lord, my same thing, the way

I used to get up, have my same time every day, do the exact... the exact same thing is not working the exact same way because it is not the exact same day.

[Applause]

Has he got you in a holy dissatisfaction? By any chance, anybody notice, it's just not going the way it used to go? Matthew 6:7 and 8: And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do for they think they're heard for their many words. Do not be like them. For your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

I was studying that just here recently. I felt like God just penetrated my heart with a truth that sometimes he'll know what I need before I ask him and I'll get up and have my entire prayer time and never mention what it really is I need. He's going, "I know what you need but you haven't said it once." [Laughter] "I'm glad you said all that, that's good but that really wasn't what you needed. What you need is that you feel bored and drowsy. And what you really need is for me to wake you up -- wake you up!"

[Applause]

We are so over-stimulated in our culture we are numb. You tell me today that what we're not really looking for from God is just to feel something again -- to feel again. Chris told us this afternoon, we will live off our passion, what we're passionate about it; if we could get our zeal back, our passion back. Nobody would have to tell us to share our faith. One reason we don't share our faith is because we do not have enough to spare.

[Applause]

What if we did? What if we did? Lord, I need a fresh awakening. I need a fresh awakening. I want to feel my heart again. I want to feel it pound with passion for you. Lord, I need a fresh awakening.

One of the mysteries of faith is that faith does not easily satiate. I want to see if I can explain that because our souls are meant to be satisfied. Our souls can be satisfied within us but faith is much harder to satisfy and I'm going to tell you why -- if you'll think of it in these terms because faith always believes for more than it sees. That's why for some of you that really do walk by faith, you're not satisfied right now because you know good and well that what you're seeing, there is more than what we're seeing because your eyes continually look ahead and you know this is not it. I'm glad of it, I thank God for it, but this is not it. This is not it.

And wouldn't it be something for us to just say instead of writing a new chapter of The Emperor's New Clothes is like, Lord, we're naked here and we can stand to be clothed with some power. Amen? We could stand to be clothed with some power? Anybody but me? -- Because like I'm just done with anything less than that. I'm absolutely done with anything less than that.

Faith says what my eyes have seen of God in my generation is not enough. What my eyes have seen of the lost saved is not enough. I'm not seeing enough people saved in my conferences -- I don't know about you. I'm not! I mean this is going to end because I'm telling you, I'm ready to say, "I'm barren. I'm barren! I'm hungry! I'm thirsty! I'll own it, Lord." I want to see people saved.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, what a day in which we live! God knows we desperately need the next great spiritual awakening. As a matter of fact, it really is the only hope we have to secure peace and to give hope to people.

And please understand this. As believers, we don't have to turn our lives or our land, our country, or our future over to the gates of hell or the powers of darkness and deception. If Christians will be salt and light witnesses, we can actually refocus the eyes

of the world on a living savior and that's what we're talking about with the Awaken Now Conference.

A year ago, celebrating our 50th anniversary in ministry and marriage, we hosted 20 of the most dynamic, anointed speakers on the face of this earth. Many of them you've never heard. Some of them you have. You know Beth Moore, Christine Caine, and Lisa Bevere. You've seen them many times right here; and many of our speakers you know, Andy Andrews, Governor Huckabee, Ben Carson, many of the great preachers that you've heard like Mark Rutland. I'm telling you, these great men, Jack Taylor and Dudley Hall and Peter Lord – many of you have never heard them but they changed my life and many of us went through an incredible transformation by the power of the word together, and it's impacted people all over the world.

Our viewers have said, "We loved the conference! We want everybody to see it." They're playing these DVD's and CD's; many of the DVD's are playing in churches and Bible Study groups. We're sending them to you if you'll simply help us continue to support the mission outreaches of LIFE, the television ministry.

As a matter of fact, you can get the entire conference both audio and DVD on a flash drive and we would love to send the entire conference to you. We're asking you for a gift to support our outreaches of \$125 to receive the CD's, the DVD's or the flash drive.

You will also get with that gift of \$125 the transcripts of all the messages and I'm talking about... here's Robert Morris and here's the transcript! What a great preacher! This is our pastor! Can you believe we had over 50,000 people attend our Easter weekend services at Gateway? A church that's only 14 years old but the power of God is there. And it was in Gateway that the conference was hosted.

So you are going to be blessed. You'll get the transcripts if you'll simply make the gift of \$125 to help us with the outreaches of LIFE. You'll get the CD's, the DVD's or the flash drive if you prefer it.

Now if you'd just like to have the CD's we're asking you for a gift of \$49. Again, that gift supports the outreaches of LIFE.

Go to the phone, take your bankcard or go online and say, "Send me the Awaken Now Conference now!" Twenty of the most truly anointed speakers you'll ever hear. And we thank you so much for your prayers and your support of the outreaches of LIFE. I pray you go to the phone or online right now. You'll be blessed if you do and you'll bless others.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Introducing the greatest conference in 50 years of LIFE's ministry! *Awaken Now* – a powerful message for every believer seeking their full potential in God's Kingdom. In this once-in-a-lifetime gathering of over 20 anointed speakers, you'll hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church as you receive insight and empowerment from God's Word and experience a fresh call to unity with other believers.

>> If you're a believer you need to hear what has been said at this conference.

>> This was a very appropriate message for these times.

>> You will catch the enthusiasm of this group. Trust me!

>> A fresh touch of God!

>> It stirred my heart!

>> Listen to it -- it's wonderful!

>> Don't order them if you don't want to be changed.

Announcer: *Awaken Now* is available with your gift of only \$49 for the audio series or request both the audio and video series, along with a companion book containing the speakers' sermons and encouraging messages for just \$125! For your convenience you may choose to receive the entire series on CD and DVD or now for the first time ever, on USB flash drive! This micro device contains all the messages in both audio and video. Simply plug into your computer to watch or listen.

Remember, your gift today helps offer the gospel in word and deed around the world. Please call, write or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: You could have quite an awakening in your church or your community by just getting people to come week after week and just listen to these messages. Remember, \$125 and you can get the CD'S, DVD'S, or the flash drive, and in addition you get the transcripts. If you just want the CD'S, we're asking you to make a gift of \$49.

We want to thank you from the bottom of our heart for watching LIFE Today, for listening to these great speakers and you're going to want to share the content and the inspiration that they bring with many of your friends and family. And hopefully, even your churches.

God bless you! Thanks so much for watching!

Begin video clip

>> And it ought to be clear, everybody else is coming out of the closet, you might as well come out too!

[Cheers & applause]

This is not a day for secret agent Christians, spiritual CIA representatives, and covert operatives. This is a day when you let your flag ring high in a culture in chaos. Jesus is not liking Christians. Yes, we want to win people to Christ but when it comes to his operation in history, he's having trouble finding disciples.

>> Don't order them if you don't want to be changed, because it will change your life!

>> Whatever awakening comes, and may God hasten the day, it will come only and all together because of the dangerous, wonderful, terrible, miraculous, unpretentious, uncontainable, unrestrainable liberty in the spirit of the living God, the Lord's power and presence through individuals. Come, Holy Ghost! And set us free!

>> If you are a believer you need to hear what has been said at this conference. It is a now word, for a now time.