

7/30/14

Week 31 - WFL

Beth Moore: Encased in Grace #3

James: This is a great day! I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Beth Moore is teaching about encased in grace.

Betty, this woman is literally encased in grace.

Beth, you're such a treasure and such a blessing! You're going to hear her teaching right here and what she's talking about is going to inspire you. I want to tell you something that I'm finding so many people are excited about. We're going to tell you how to get this book, *Children at the Well*, the joy of clean water.

I'm telling you, when you get little kids, I mean a three or four year old will enjoy this, all the way up to let's say seven or eight years old. They're into this. They're going to get a vision for loving and helping people that feel too often overlooked. I tell you what Beth does when you talk about grace, and Beth, this is what I'm watching.

I know Beth watches the show. Even though she's taught and going to be here, she's home watching or wherever she is. Beth, you're putting the arms of grace around the world and the church that God loves so much. You are a tremendous blessing! Would you welcome Beth Moore?

Begin video clip

Beth: This is going to test our legalism. Anybody? Test our legalism.

Number one: True or false. I tend to assume that the hardest option is probably the godliest. In other words, the obedient way is probably the harder of the two ways. True or false?

Number two: I rarely ask forgiveness only once for any significant transgression, even if I truly repented the first time. And by significant transgression, I'm even going to include like gossip, sharp words to someone, a big demonstration of pride and on and so forth from there. I rarely ask for forgiveness only once for any significant transgression even if I truly repented the first time. Would that be true or would it be false? Maybe I could have just stayed home and had this with the mirror and I cannot tell you how we would have done on this test.

Number three: I tend not to feel back in God's graces right away after repentance. True or false? I tend not to feel back in God's good graces right away after repentance. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Like it's just a while -- it's going to take a few days. I need to punish myself a little bit more than this.

That ties right into number four. Number four is this: I catch myself wanting to pay penance after feeling like I've really messed up. Penance is defined here as acts done to make up for sin. So number four: I catch myself wanting to pay penance after feeling like I've really messed up. True or false on number four?

Number five: I think God loves me but in spite of me and not because I'm lovable. True or false?

Number six: I'm going to get you here. Truth be told, Jesus' parable about the workers who get paid equal wages regardless of how long and short of time they work seems a bit disconcerting.

[Laughter]

True or false? [Laughing] You can feel some real company in this one because that was overwhelmingly, in all the people I've tested, that was the big T.

Number seven: I deal with a fair amount of anxiety in my spiritual life. You just have a lot of anxiety in your spiritual life. True or false?

Number eight: I struggle with considerable self-condemnation. True or false.

Some of you are looking over on somebody else's paper.

[Laughter]

This is when you want to be with your good friend or somebody that you'd love to be in their business. If you brought your teenage daughter you're all looking at her paper. You don't know she is looking at your paper. She is just writing down whatever you do.

[Laughter]

What was that one? Number what?

Okay, number nine: I find it easier to tell others how much God loves them than to believe it for myself. True or false? This is getting ugly, isn't it? Just getting right down ugly.

Number ten: I feel I must always bear up with people who have wronged me over and over. True or false? I always have to bear up no matter how they've wronged me: True or false?

Number eleven -- some of you are thinking, I did not come to class for this! I'll tell you that. Number eleven: I tend to feel guilty about some of the good things in my life. True or false? That got a rousing "yes" in this room. I don't know how y'all are doing on other side of the screen. I want to hear from you about it though. I tend to feel guilty about some of the good things in my life. True or false?

Number twelve, and then the bonus: I know God loves me but I think I often disappoint him. Oh, yeah. True or false?

I love the bonus question: Romans 14:17 says: For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit -- righteousness, peace, and joy. However you would not know that by being around me. True or false? We know that's truly -- that's the kingdom of God: Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. But probably they wouldn't know it from being around me. True or false?

Just so you're in good company if you happen to have a lot of yeses. I did this first of all, before I did it with a large group, I did it with my staff back at Living Proof. We are women that spend every single work day pouring out our lives in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We love him! We believe his Word. We soak ourselves in his Word. We believe in a vivacious life in the spirit. And I cannot tell you how all over the map we were in these answers. We had staff members among us -- nobody had no trues -- and some of us had all trues. The least were two trues.

So listen, I'm talking about people that know. These are some women that know a lot of truth. They know what the answer should be based on the word. So here we're talking about whether or not this is through the Law of Moses or the law of me living in this kind of legalism and asking ourselves, where is our peace with all this spiritual nail biting we're doing? -- All this anxiety? If the world is not making us anxious enough, we're anxious in our own spiritual relationship with Jesus. We're anxious with the one who came to give us peace.

Why don't we sometimes say, "What is wrong here? Why is this like the Emperor's New Clothes?" Why isn't anybody going, "Is something off here? Because I thought we were supposed to have a lot of joy, feel our freedom. And I thought, really, these areas of depravity or bondage were not supposed to have dominion over me. Who's lying here? Because I see something in the scriptures that is not in my bones and I want it -- I want it -- I want it," we say! So much anxiety.

During our series, a lot of these true/false statements will come to light and we'll see the basis for why they're false but I do want to throw out a few of them right now. How about that first one? The hardest option is probably the godliest. Listen -- neither happy nor hard is an indicator of God's will. God indicates his will; neither happy nor hard get to be the plumb line. That's not what tells us what God's will is. Does it make us happy or is it really hard? Some people would say, "It makes me happy; that's got to be it." "No, it's super hard; that's got to be it." Neither one of those are the plumb line for the will of God. God tells us his will.

And what happens is when we make an assumption that hard or happy always means that it is God's will, we're shortcutting being led by the spirit. You know why we are so drawn to the law? Okay, I won't say it about you. You know why I've been so drawn to the law? Because I was spiritually lazy; it takes some alertness to walk in the spirit. We just want give me my rules and I'll live by them. No, it doesn't work like that. It works like this, "Lord, I want to pour everything out before you, everything of me, of my human nature. And I want you to fill me full of your Holy Spirit. I want to be yielded to you completely where at an impulse, at the press of your thumb I know whether to lean to the right or to lean to the left. I want to know you. I want to be literally, Lord, a temple for your spirit to act and work and to speak."

It takes alertness. We cannot live spirit-led lives and be lazy. It is impossible to do! It is impossible to do. I tell you, this whole thing about if it is hard, it's got to be God. Listen, noble disobedience is still disobedience. We can be noble about it. We're going to be martyrs about it. He's going, "You know what? You are disobedient to me. I did not tell you to do the hard thing. I told you to do my will. Now my will may be hard or it may be the biggest kick you have ever had in your life. But I'll tell you what it is and then I want you to respond to that."

Another one that really got -- I'm not going to take them all apart, but the second one, the reason why it was a big deal to me to bring this one to you, I'll remind you of what it was. Do we rarely ask forgiveness once? It would help me so much if I could see in this room how many of you would say, "No, I do it over and over." Anybody? -- For the same thing. Like you truly did, you repented. We do it over and over. You know what we're doing? We're reaffirming over and over again that God does not forgive.

Our belief system is saying because I'm not going to respond as if you forgave me, I'm going to believe that I've done my part but you've not done your part, Lord. I'm faithful, but you're not because you couldn't have forgiven me because that's not how it works. So I'm just going to ask you over and over and over. That shows no credibility in our belief in his Word that says when we confess our sins we are forgiven and completely cleansed -- completely cleansed!

If we would start believing we were completely cleansed we would get out from under some of this dominion but we still feel filthy so we still go back to the very same pit over and over again. It is killing us. Our legalism is keeping us in our sins! It's not setting us free, it's holding us there. That's the cost of it.

True or false: Must we always bear up with people? The Word of God says we love, we love people. We are told in the word to forgive but there are several times in the scriptures we are told to put some distance between us and another person. I'll just throw out a few to you. You can find several of them in other places but Second Thessalonians 3:14 is one. About people who are idle and don't pay attention to what they've been given to do and to their jobs and they're just busy bodies; talking about that Titus 3:10 is another place. No, we're not always told to keep in a situation continually when we've been done wrong over and over again. We're told to love with that love that is of best interest.

Sometimes we're not doing someone well when we just stay in there and never say, "I think this is wrong. I love you but I need to say a word to you. No!" And you know what? It's been too long since you've heard this." Anybody? We need to say it maybe to a teenager. Everybody just practice, no! There comes a time when we draw a line with somebody. We love them. We've forgiven them but no! No! No! That is sometimes appropriate. That is the appropriate answer.

The one, number eleven: I tend to feel guilty about some of the good things in my life. Listen -- God could not have been better to us than to have given us grace. He is the giver of all good gifts, the book of James says. God is gracious to us and to give him credit, to continually give him credit for the good in our lives, that is freedom to us.

This one I want to camp on for a few moments. I heard you react to it here. I would love so much to hear how you're doing with it on the other side of that screen. This one let's sit on it a second. I know God loves me but I think I often disappoint him. I want to take y'all there with me for a few minutes and think this through because what are -- this is the question I want to put on the table -- what are the ramifications in a relationship believing that you are constantly disappointing the other party? What would be the ramifications of that?

Maybe you and I are not similar after all but I'm going to tell you what I do and I've had them, haven't we all had relationships where we're just a continual -- I mean it is just somebody that you cannot please and they're continually... you'd rather them get mad at you but oh, no, they're just...

[Laughter]

...Disappointed! And that happens over and over again.

Here's what I do. I hang in there for a while and I really try to do it good because I want them to like me, and I want them to approve of me, and I don't want to disappoint them so I do that for a while but if they keep being disappointed, I withdraw. You see I'm not going to hang in. Anybody?

I ask you, how long do you remain close, maybe you remain in communication but I'm asking you this question, with someone that you are convinced that you continually disappoint, how long will you retain closeness and intimacy of relationship and friendship with them? If I were a betting woman I'd bet you hundred bucks that what you'd do is the same thing I do, once I know they're going to continually be disappointed, I'm going to start scooting back because I can't stand that mirror all the time. If that is true in our face-to-face relationships, how true is it with God that if we get in our head he's always disappointed with me, he's always disappointed with me, he's always disappointed -- okay, then what I'm going to do is I'm going to try my hardest to keep the law but I'm going to scoot back because I can't bear the condemnation of being close to someone that constantly is disappointed in me.

Listen -- when I was researching this subject matter I thought, you know what I'm going to do? I'm going to go and do a word search on the word *disappointment* because I need to see what are the conditions in which God is disappointed in us. That would be a big question. I want to answer it. So I did a little word search. I can do that with my concordance but you can do it on Bible Gateway, on all sorts of different web sites that let you put in a keyword, choose your version that you're looking up and then you just put that word in and it shows you every time it comes up. So I did that. I put in the word disappoint.

And in the E.S.V. I found the word disappoint zero times. In the N.I.V., the '84, and the New King James and the N.A.S. and the H.C.S.V. all had it one time -- one time the word disappoint. I looked up the word -- I thought, no, it's got to be there. I mean it's got to be there! So I looked up disappointed. Now we're talking. The N.I.V., original N.I.V., four times, the E.S.V. and N.A.S.B. five times. Never one time in any of those contexts is it ever about God's disappointment.

I'm wanting somebody to get a word. Listen -- I'm trying to think at times in my life what I would have done if somebody would have said this to me. I'm trying to think, what it would have saved me in my spiritual angst and anxiety if someone had said, "You know you're going to have a hard time finding where God is all disappointed in you in the scriptures." But I never heard it. Who wants to teach it? Because people might misbehave!

[Laughter]

Because we're driven by what would disappoint! Am I telling the truth to anybody? Am I having Bible study by myself, anybody?

[Laughter]

Okay! Because we need it! -- Our disappointment. Well, we're disappointed people. It works! It works! It's powerful. So we take that away, we don't know what to do.

So I found the one verse where disappoint pops up in the N.I.V., the King James version, the N.A.S. I want you to hear it out the Holman Christian Standard Bible. Romans 5:5, when Jesus through his Word says: "And this hope will not disappoint us."

I just -- I want somebody -- come on now! Come on now! It says, the one time it comes up in those particular versions, it comes up this way: I will not disappoint you. Whoever puts their trust in me will not be put to shame.

What just happened there? That's revival, girlfriend! That's revival, guy friend! That right there is grounds for revival.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Girlfriend, hey, girlfriend, guy friend, are you hearing what Beth is saying? Father, thank you for letting the river of love and life and truth flow so freely and that we can all be a part of it. Bless everyone that hears and let them live in the fullness of your grace sharing it with others, experiencing it; in Jesus' name. We're going to ask you to give, literally in a moment we're going to ask you to give a cup of water.

But all of you who love Beth and appreciate her, do you understand that that was what we just with all of our heart were seeking to do, to give you fresh water, spiritual water, transforming, powerful, cleansing water. It is what our ministry is about and we've told you this.

Betty, I sometimes wonder if our viewers really understand this. They're the main focal point.

We try to get people's attention on what God is looking at that oftentimes goes overlooked, unnoticed but I'm not sure they realize that God's focus is on you equally. And we focus on you because we want to bless you and help you. That's our major ministry, is to you, the viewers. That's a major mission outreach is the media outreach all over the world. But we believe that if we are receiving it is more blessed to give

than to receive, to release the love of God, not just in word, but in demonstration. And there may not be a single thing that our viewers identify any more clearly with than giving someone fresh clean water. Contaminated water is killing children and it is destroying health and futures. You're giving life.

I want you to look in on a scene that you can step right into and bring the power and presence and provision and love of God to this situation and so many like it. Watch prayerfully.

Begin video clip

Announcer: The Bible says that gray hair is a sign of wisdom and gives prestige to old age. And when most of us reach the so-called golden years, we yearn for a lifestyle of leisure and pleasure. But for this proud grandmother who lives in a poverty-stricken village in Honduras, life has some different priorities. Her name is Petrona and she spends several hours a day walking to collect water for her family. While this hike is tragic enough for a woman like Petrona, the heartbreaking reality is the water she is collecting is contaminated and potentially life-threatening to her grandchildren.

Open Captions: We come here several times a day to get our drinking water. It takes us so many hours because we have to stop because it's so steep. The sickness starts with runny noses; then a bad flu disease with diarrhea and vomiting. Even us old people get stomach pains. I would kneel down and thank the Lord if we got clean water. Even though I'm old and probably won't be here much longer, my grandchildren would use the new water well.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I know you know how grandmothers think and she is saying, "I may not be here much longer but it sure would be nice if we had a well that we could just go to." It seems like a pretty simple request; doesn't it, Betty?

Betty: It really does. She has the heart that a grandmother would have in caring, in warning her grandchildren to be well and not wanting the cause of any death of her

grandchildren to be because of the unclean water. But yet she still goes on that long journey. I know she has to stop and rest and get that water that she knows is going to hurt her grandchildren but they have to have the water. The request she has is if they could have some clean water.

James: We've watched all -- when we started our Friends for Life, I don't know how many of you remember this but this goes back nearly 20 years, we showed two little boys that had to walk, I don't know five miles to a dirty water source and then they carried it in a bucket, it took both of them to carry. You see them, there they go. Then we watched the women with the big pots of water on their head and marvel how they could balance it and walk with it and walk so far. And they take it back to utilize it and so often, it's diseased-ridden.

You know Betty and I started years ago saying we need to do something about this, and the big "we" was you because we did not know if people would help us. But you really have lived up to be the very people the missionaries said they believed you would be. Because when we called the missionaries the greatest Christians the missionaries always corrected us and said, "No, the greatest Christians are the ones that enable us to come and help; they send us -- and they don't send us empty-handed."

Betty, for so many years and you think, we've been ministering over 50 years and the last 25 years of it has been to the ends of the earth -- to the unseen, overlooked, precious people. If God notices a sparrow that falls, not a cardinal, peacock but a sparrow, it means he's looking at what you don't notice. And so we said notice... the grandmother noticed the children and you've done it and you've enabled us to drill water wells.

So now we want to complete this year's project of 500. We're more than halfway there. And we've got some friends that said because the need is so desperate in Angola we'll match what you give so we can drill the 68 wells that are desperately needed right there where they're drought-stricken.

So would you go to the phone today? Take your bankcard, make the largest gift you can; write a check, call us, tell us what you're mailing or go online LifeToday.org and make the largest gift you can make; and for Angola, know it will be matched.

Father, I pray every person watching will give something today; in Jesus' name. Whether it's \$48 or \$144 or \$4800 for a whole well or part of a well, please do it today.

From the depth of our heart we ask you to express God's heart and make the best gift you can. Please do it! And thank you for it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children of all ages 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 effective life-saving demonstrations of God's love you could ever be a part of. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today, you can help establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages impacting over 20 nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five 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 new *Children at the Well* interactive book to help your little ones understand the blessing of clean water, as well as the *Women at the Well* daily devotional with 32 refreshing devotionals for your quiet time. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request this beautiful leather journal to help capture your personal times with God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request our commemorative sculpture glass statue "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to thank you for your love and concern. I want to send you *Women at the Well* as well as *Children at the Well*.

I was looking down through this and here you are, Betty, waiting for God's best. Here's our daughter Robin who is with Jesus right now in heaven, the best job in the world. Here is Kathy Troccoli, Beth Moore, our oldest daughter Rhonda, Chonda Pierce, Lisa Bevere, my goodness! Linda mint will. I'm telling you, when I look at this, our daughter-in-law, Debbie Robison, Randy's wife, Jeanne Rogers, Ann Pretorius, CeCe Winans, Luci Swindoll, Patsy Clairmont -- *Women at the Well*. We're going to say thank you. Get the journal.

And please help us get those wells in Angola and know that your gift there will be matched in order for us to reach the goal. Thank you. Thank you for being here. Thank all of you!