

8/6/14
Week 32 WFL
Beth Moore: Encased in Grace #4

[Cheers & Applause]

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us and it is Wednesday. Beth will be speaking and teaching, and I know you're going to be blessed! I'm Betty, and this is James.

James: Yeah and we want you to get the book, *Women at the Well*. You say "Beth Moore" and I realize the devotions that are here in this 32 devotionals from women you've seen on *LIFE Today*, and they will be refreshing as the subheading says.

And then this children's book, *Children at the Well*, it will inspire children. I've told you many times that children are among our most faithful, most devoted supporters of the outreaches like food and water and help.

Well, Beth is going to be talking about grace, not works -- grace. Our friend Dudley Hall has a book titled, *Grace Works*; it's the only thing that does work. And yes, it produces many good works. Well, Beth is going to be talking about that. Welcome Beth Moore. Here she is. Here's Beth.

Begin video clip

Beth: Why does disappointment not apply to God? Well, all I'd have to do there is go to a dictionary and look up the word disappointment because it means: To fail to meet the expectation or hope of.

See God already knows how this is turning out. Disappointment means you don't know what is coming. You can't be disappointed if you already knew. Disappointment comes when we don't know the future. God is never disappointed because by the time we're coming to him we're going, "You're not going to believe what I did." He goes, "I already knew. I already knew! I've just been sitting here waiting because I already knew -- I already knew."

No, not disappointed. He knows the future. He knew everything when he called you. He knew everything when he said your name. I love First John 3:2 that says this: Beloved, we are God's children now and what we will be has not yet appeared. Does anybody need to hear that? When I glance in the mirror, you know what? I'm not done yet. God's still got work he's doing on me. And it's not clear to me yet what I'm going to be like; it's not clear to you yet what we're going to be like but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is.

I just love it because if I could just throw some King James terminology around, that who God begets, God has no regrets. God has no regrets about the ones he begets. He has chosen us; he does not regret it. He knows the end from the beginning. He knew what was going to happen before he ever said our names.

Now does that mean -- I want you to stay here with me a sec because this is what happens. When I live my whole life, when much of my prayer life goes like this and I've lived in this -- not recently, not in recent months or years but I've lived a good measure of my life like this -- where what I said constantly to him, I bet, easily, easily 40% of my prayer time was all about, "God, I'm so sorry! God, I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry." I cannot tell you how much of my prayer time I spent on, "I'm sorry about the following things." Most of them I had said the day before. Anybody? Because why? Because I still -- I had not paid my penance yet. And I made some ground yesterday in my penance but I really didn't go as far as I wanted to and then I messed up and then I talked about that person and acted all prideful. So I blew it and so now I'm back to where I started.

So what happens is the more we say -- and listen, we're supposed to come and confess. I still tell him I'm sorry. You know what I do now? I do it once. And I try to discipline myself with it. In other words I say, "I'm going to test you, girlfriend. We're going to see how much faith you have in God's Word; how many times you're going to have to go back to him." If I wasn't repenting, if I didn't repent that's another thing but if I did, don't go back a second time. Because the more I'm saying, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry," the more it's reaffirming back into my belief system, God is so sorry. God is so sorry. I would turn it around every time in my mind. The more "I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry, God

is so sorry, God is so sorry, God is so sorry. God is so sorry he chose me. God is so sorry he called me."

Now listen -- so I want to just launch out there and be bold enough to say the word does not support that God is all disappointed in us all the time. Does that mean he cannot be displeased? No, it doesn't mean that. We would be erroneous in our theology if we determined that under grace honestly, we never ever displease God. He will never let us go.

But I'll show you a place, if you just want to just jot it down so you have it. There are not many times it says this but in Hebrews 10:38 is one of them. I'm going to read it to you. Hebrews 10:38 because this is profound; it says -- I think I'm going to start back in 36 -- Hebrews 10:36: For you have need of endurance so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

For, verse 37: Yet in a little while, the coming one will come and not delay.

In Verse 38: But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him -- if he shrinks back from faith. And it says, "But we are not of those who shrink back."

Listen, you know what he is after? You know what he credits his righteousness according to the book of Romans? Our faith -- our faith! You know what disappoints God is not disappointment. What cause -- we're putting that word to the side. What causes displeasure instead of is when I'm faithless; when I don't believe that God is who he says he is and that he loves me the way he says that he does; and I am, who his Word declares that I am. That -- that is displeasing not disappointment. Still called to obedience, yes, but our obedience of faith; it is a beautiful thing.

I'll let you look it up for yourself, but in the book of Romans it begins, I think as early as the first chapter and right around the fifth and sixth verse. It talks about this phrase, "The obedience of faith." It comes up at the very end in Romans 16, toward the very end of the letter. It comes up again, this whole book is sandwiched between these two

wonderful phrases, "the obedience of faith." You know where he wants you to be most obedient? In your faith! In my faith because he knows that what I believe will change the way I live and think and feel. It's my faith that is going to be key to living in victory; not that I'm going to be crushed by the law.

We saw number one: Some things in our lives need to hear the words, "no longer."

Number two: Important point we're making together! A life no longer enslaved cannot be lived under the law.

Number three is this: It is time we see our lives under the heading of grace. We have got to see our lives... Ladies, we've got to pick up our purse and move it under grace. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Gentlemen, whatever you have got to do, you pick it up, move the whole thing out from under the law. We are over here under the covenant of grace and this is where we must stand. It's time we see our lives under the heading of grace. Law is consumed with behavior; grace is consumed with beholding.

Let me tell you something else that occurred me to. The law is a great way to use God as our rationale for being all self-consumed. The more legalistic you are, the more self-consumed you will be because you are so self-consumed about your behavior; everything you think, everything you do, everything, everything, everything. So the law becomes its own for a narcissist. Anybody know what I'm talking about?

We've got to change what we're standing in -- change what we're standing in. I brought some doormats with me because we've got our doors drawn right here. We've got the doorway that is entitled "the law" and here is the doormat we stand in. If you want to be a person who lives under the law this -- this is what you're going to stand in. You've got no choice. It will come back to this every time because you cannot keep it! I cannot keep it. Look at one another and say, "You can't do it!" You just can't do it. So this is what we'll constantly... We're going to be over here under the law and we're just going to stand in our shame. I'm so ashamed of myself. I'm so ashamed of myself. I'm so ashamed of myself. I'm so ashamed of myself.

So what are people who are ashamed of ourselves do? Well, we just shame ourselves. We say it, and then we do it. See, we don't want anyone to hear this message because we're afraid they'll abuse the whole doctrine of grace. You can know that you're legalistic if you're worried about who is going to hear this.

[Laughter]

Is that fair? Come on now? Is that fair? Because I think, I'm responsible because I handed someone a drink. I'm responsible enough to do it without overdoing it, but they're going to drive in the ditch. No, actually, this is the way to freedom. I'm loved. I'm loved. And what I do is I stand over here under grace because I'm going to stand in the name -- in the name of Jesus Christ not in the shame. I'm going to stand in the name. This is the grace in which I have access to stand: Jesus Christ, my savior. I stand right here on his name. And in him, I am the righteousness of God; in him I am made completely -- oh, yes! You better believe that's good news! I don't know about anybody else but the hair is standing straight up on my arms. I don't know if anybody else is having a revival but I'm having -- listen -- I'm having one of my own.

Grace does not mean that there is no chastisement or discipline when we just roll into the ditch but it means that even the discipline that we would go through would reconstruct and heal the lame instead of being to just throw us into pieces. It's always to put us back together again. That's what it's about.

Listen -- we don't have to get thrown in jail or have an affair or sleep around or steal money from a company to grasp grace. All we have to do is lose faith in ourselves. And I just ask you, have you blown it enough for yourself that you can no longer be your own savior? Because that's what it comes down to -- that's all it takes. However bad you've got to be 'til you have lost faith in yourself because you cannot save yourself -- I cannot save myself. Jesus alone can do this. And I am going to get over here. I have lived so much of my there. I'm going to live here. This is my safe place. This is my free place. I'm going to stand in the name. I'm going to stand in the name. I'm going to stand in the name.

God began to show to show me that self-condemnation is the pet compulsion of credit cravers. I just want you to think about it. Self-condemnation, the more self-condemning I am is because there is a side of me that wants -- that craves credit. So when I disappoint myself I'm all about, "Oh! I didn't get the credit! I didn't get the credit for it." Die to it. It's no way to live. This is freedom.

As we conclude this first half of the series I kept looking for definitions of grace because it is so big, how do you get your mind around it? I just couldn't find what really jumped -- I found so many things and I was blessed by so many things but I'm a very visual person like many of you and so my thought was, I'm going to just picture what does it look like? What does it look like? It is so hard to wrap our minds around. What would it look like in action? And I wrote down just a little creative writing that I want to read to you as we end and it's on grace, and see if any of this resonates with you.

Grace is an inflated raft that can submerge to the floor of a sea to save you. Grace is the silver thread that stitches up the shreds of mangled souls. Grace is the eye that finds us where it refuses there to leave us. Grace calls the waitress to the table and sits her down to wash her feet. Grace sees underneath the manhole on a street of self-destruction. Grace is the air to draw a breath in the belly of a whale.

I want somebody to hear that again. Grace is the air to draw a breath in a belly of a whale. Grace is the courage to stand in the shamed wake of a frightful falling. Grace is the only fire hot enough to burn down a living hell. Somebody? Grace waits with healing in his wings when we're too mad to pray. Grace is the gravity that pulls us from depravity. Grace races us to the throne when we make haste to repent and always outruns us. Grace treats us like we already are what we fear we'll never become.

Somebody needs to hear that again. Grace treats us like we already are what we fear we'll never become. Grace is the doorpost dripping red when the angel of death grips the knob. Grace is the stamp that says "ransomed" on a life that screams "ruined." Grace sets a table before me in the presence of my enemy even when my enemy is me.

Grace is the cloak that covers the naked and the palm that drops the rock. Grace is divine power burgeoning in the absence of all strength. Grace proves God true and every self-made man a liar for the sake of his own soul. Grace is the power to do what we cannot do for the name of Christ to go where it has not been. Grace is a room of a thousand mirrors all reflecting the face of Christ. Grace is the eye-popping, knee-dropping, earth-quaking, pride-breaking, dark-stabbing, heart-grabbing, friend-mending, mind-bending, lame-walking, mute-talking, slave-freeing, devil-fleeing, death-tolling, stone-rolling, veil-tearing, glory-flairing, chin-lifting, sin-sifting, dirt-bleaching, world-reaching, past-covering, spirit-hovering, child-defending, happy-ending, heaven-glancing, feet-dancing power of the cross!

[Cheers & Applause]

-- Jesus Christ! -- Jesus Christ! -- Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ, grace incarnate.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Okay, Beth. Go girl! Listen -- nobody can follow that. It is so true. Beth, I know you watch a lot. We pre-tape these, if you didn't know that. They're not presented live, they're taped live, and Beth is alive. And Beth, what you said about grace, well, girl, that was good! Y'all agree? That's good stuff Beth said? Real good stuff!

[Applause]

Now let me give you another opportunity to just pour grace on people. How about we give them living water because we've experienced living water, the water of life? And let's give them some Water for Life and we'll point them clearly to the water of life. Listen to the heart of God expressed through our missionary overseer on the continent of Africa, our 25-year partner, shoulder to shoulder, lifting people up out of death and darkness and defeat and despair and giving them life. Listen to him and then together let's share life. Watch closely.

Begin video clip

>> It's really hard that I can't give more to my children. We have to dig in the riverbed to get water and we carry it here. There are insects in the water which makes the children sick. The water is giving them stomach aches, diarrhea and vomiting.

Pete: There is such a desperate shortage of water here. They go two kilometers to a dry riverbed and dig a deep hole to be able to get better water out of the dry riverbed. And that's how this whole village exists.

Maneco: Because of the dirty water there's Cholera, there's diarrhea, vomiting and the older people and the children have been dying.

>> We've been in a drought here. It's been 3 years since it last really rained.

Pete: Won't you help us change the lives of these children? Of this village? Of this area by putting in a deep water well here? And we'll get the water and we'll be able to pump it out and put it in tanks. We can even grow agriculture here. It will bring food stability to this village.

James: Boy, I hear Peter's heart. Twenty-five years we've been weeping with him, praying with him, working with him; watching his dream and vision. That little family, Betty, that beautiful little girl, when they kind of zoomed in on her and those little kids' faces, I just want to hold them with arms of love. But if we just did that, however sincere we were and didn't give them the water that we could give them with a well, and you heard that missionary, he's left everything -- he's planted his life there. And he said, "If we'd just do this for this village." He said, "We'll make this a deeper well; we'll even get enough water we can give them a little bit to water some little plants and crops." That can happen there.

That particular village is going to be a little more expensive. I told you the wells average \$4800. We get some places we can get it for maybe \$3,000; that one is going to

take more than \$4800 but it's going to do a lot more. But I'm hearing the missionary's heart.

And, Betty, that's why our friends stepped up and said in Angola, "Where they've got such a critical problem, we'll match what people give for the necessary 68 wells of which that's one."

So here in the last days, as we complete this challenge to drill 500 wells, you drill one right now for them and we've got two. Or you give \$2400 and then it's matched, we've got another well. I'm just believing that people want to hold that little family in the arms of God's love and say, "We're going to give you clean water."

Betty: I do too, James. The thing I guess that touched my heart was to listen to one of the parents say, I walk a long way to get this water for them, this diseased water that I know is going to bring a slow death to them but they've got to have water. Let's give them the opportunity to offer them living water, clean fresh water that will give them hope and opportunity to grow up as we love for our children to do. We watch our children, we care for them with such tender love. They do too but they don't have the resources. So please join with us and let's drill these water wells that they can see life in the water that springs from those wells.

James: Well, I want you to -- I don't think the right word is run, I want you to hasten, go get your bankcard. Like you were going to get something that you really wanted. A lot of times, what you really, really want is not really all that important. This is real important. Go get your bankcard, use it like a check.

Call the number and say, "Here's the gift." Father, you lead everyone in what they are to do and enable them to do it gladly; in Jesus' name. If you can give a well, make that \$4800 gift knowing you'll have another one matched. If you can give part of a well at whatever level we have some gifts to send you to say thank you, to bless you and the children you love and to give you devotionals, to give you a life journal that you will write what God says to you hopefully daily. It is an absolutely fabulous journal. I will always treasure this as our daughter, who went to be with Jesus gave me this one time

when I was fighting a disease and it became a way for me to record what God put in my heart.

So we want to bless you. Thank you for your gift. Listen, you can go online LifeToday.org, use your bankcard, if you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail. We need to hear from you. We need to let the missionaries know, "Go for it!" Thank you so much for making the call.

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

On the mission field

Beth: Isn't she absolutely wonderful? I'm surrounded by children just as precious as she is; children that deserve, just like every other child on the planet, to have a cup of clean water. Do you realize that of 85% of the children's deaths under five years of age, 85% of those are from waterborne diseases? It is an absolutely critical need and in many, many places a matter of life and death.

Would you consider being part of this with us? Part of Mission: Water for Life offering a cup of clean water to children exactly like this precious one. Please do what you can. Go to the phone and join us in this partnership to give a gift of life through a cup of water.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I really pray you will be a blessing and get "The Blessing" glass art sculpture. Incredible piece! And know that if you'll help us with those 68 wells in Angola, that what you give, if you could give a well, we'd have two because we do have a matching gift challenge for Angola. So do what you can please! But whatever you give, up to \$326,000 toward Angola will be matched.

Betty and I want to say thank you because this is what grace does. This is what Beth talked about, it's what God does in us. Thank all of you for being here. God bless you and thank you so much for your help and your support in giving life!