

7/10/14
Week 28: WFL
Kelly Magouirk

James: Okay!

[Laughing]

Hey, Betty! Look out there. Go ahead.

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much. I'm about to lose my voice. You don't let me talk enough -- I'm losing it!

James: Don't say that -- that I don't let you talk enough because many of you say, "Why don't you let her talk more?" When you can't see in the cameras I'm saying, "Come on! Come on!" Trying to get her going.

Betty: Anyway, thank you for joining us today! I'm Betty and this is James.

James: We are really excited about having our guest Kelly. We heard her story at Gateway, which is the church in Southlake where we go and there are several different campuses. This was quite a remarkable story because we're hearing the story of a girl who has been a several time felon, been to prison several times, had some real issues. And the story just -- well, it really overwhelmed us.

We were just -- everybody -- I think that weekend there were 25,000 people that were attending Gateway that weekend and it was just a joyful testimony! They showed the story and told it.

Then all of the sudden Robert Morris, our pastor says, "Now I'd like you to meet this young lady."

And she comes walking out on the stage and the place just exploded because people were so grateful at what had happened in Kelly Magouirk's life. And she was

grinning over here because she said, "The name is not too easy to say." But it was something like Magouirk and you try to do it.

Well, this is Kelly. Welcome Kelly to *LIFE Today*. Kelly, we're so glad to have you here.

Kelly: Thank you so much.

James: We loved hearing your story. I think Gateway Church actually does a remarkable job when they do their video presentations. They did such a good job, I say, why don't we just show that but we really wanted to talk to you. I want you to start before what we heard because you'd been to jail, been to prison; you were kind of a multiple-time loser and you had some real issues. But you had issues before the drug issues and those things that got you in jail. Tell us a little bit about Kelly's journey.

Kelly: Well, I grew up in a really small town in southeast Texas, and a normal childhood for the most part. My parents divorced when I was eight and I think divorce is traumatic in general when it happens. It really, I think that's where my just bitterness kind of started.

So we moved around a lot, me and my mom and my brother. We moved to a new town probably almost every year; she had a new job. So I was very adaptable and this performance-driven thing was started in me. I just wanted to be accepted. I can remember from a very young age just wanting to be somebody else. I would look at my friends and fantasize about having their life. Everything about myself from my hair, my skin, my height, I hated. So I tried to stuff that down with just being good at things, either being smart or athletic.

So we moved to the Fort Worth area and I started high school. This is where my life really started to take a downward spiral; just relationships, different crowds and this is also when I started doing drugs. The funny thing is I tried to hang out with the popular people and never really fit in with them. But the drug culture didn't care what kind of jeans I had or how much money my parents made so I felt accepted. It wasn't necessarily the drugs that drew me but I had a place to belong; I think the attraction after using drugs was that it made me feel like somebody else. I was welcomed in the community and I really just dove in head first. It wasn't a slow progression it was a whole lifestyle change. Any kind of goals or dreams I had of going to college or just -- went away totally and I was only concerned about getting my next fix or high. I would think oh, I'll never do that drug, I'll never go there and then I would find myself there and think, well, this isn't that bad. It's okay. At least I'm not doing this. Always made excuses for, it's okay, it's all right, it's not that bad.

Betty: Justifying it a little bit.

Kelly: Yeah! And even after the first felony charge and the arrest from shoplifting didn't matter. It was like the lower I got, the more I didn't care, and the more I didn't see a way out. After the first felony, I told everyone I was arrested for a misdemeanor, which it wasn't. No one really knew the depths of my drug addiction. No one knew that I had meth on me all the time; that I would go in the bathroom every couple hours, no matter where I was and do meth. I did a pretty good job at making it look like I was okay on the outside, I held up a job. I was going to school, but people could start to see the downward progression.

It was -- I don't think my mom or anyone wanted to believe what was really going on but it was very obvious that something just wasn't quite right. So I was on probation for the first felony charge, still could not get off drugs. I mean I only had to stop doing drugs for three days before I went in to report and give a drug test and I couldn't even do that. So I would go in, I would provide a dirty drug test, and then I would have to go to jail for the weekend. So I would go to the jail and it just didn't matter.

Then I got another felony charge while I was already on probation for meth again and this time I was in jail for eight days and everyone found out what I was originally arrested for. So now the secret is out that I'm a meth addict and no one feels sorry for me anymore because I've been lying for years. So this made me feel sad that now I'm busted but it didn't make me change.

So I was placed in rehab and had to detox off of everything. The day I got out I started using drugs again. So I then had to go to jail for three months, it was part of my probation. And this was really the longest I'd ever spent off drugs since I was 15 and I was 22 at the time. And the emptiness that I felt is indescribable. I mean I would go to sleep and just wish that I didn't wake up. It's like I had the weight of all these years; just like I couldn't handle it.

So I got out of jail and my mom had started sending me little Joyce Meyer things while I was in jail and there were people praying for me and -- people that didn't know me -- because this kind of shook everybody up.

James: Well, would you read any of them?

Kelly: I did!

James: Why did you read them?

Kelly: Well, you really don't have that much to do when you're in jail.

[Laughing]

You don't! And they'll give you a Bible. That's the only book they'll let you have.

James: I hope that continues. You never know.

Kelly: And people would kneel by their bunks and pray and so I thought, okay, I'll pray. It's not a bad idea. But there was no connection because growing up I really thought that only old people went to church. I never knew someone my age that loved God and made it look appealing. I never knew a Christian that had something that I wanted. So I would read these things and then I got out and I moved back in with a guy that I had been seeing before. He wasn't a meth addict so I kind of rationalized like well, it's okay. I'll just do my best to try and not go back there to the way I used to live. And I'd been out of jail for three weeks and I was going to start working again.

In the world's eyes I was doing much better. I'd been off drugs. I was going to start making money and... But this -- out of everything I had been through, this was my rock bottom, which is funny because it is not where anyone would have thought it was. I remember I was sitting on the couch and I glanced into the kitchen and the guy that I was living with and his buddies were all about to do drugs. And this is the first time I ever heard God speak to me, and I didn't even know that God really spoke to people. I didn't know that he was tangible and relatable. I was sitting there and I looked over into the kitchen and God said, "Choose me. Give me everything. I'll never leave you. I'll never disappoint you."

I was so empty that it was like, well, okay. Sure! Let's give you a try. I got up and I packed a backpack. And I told the guy that I was living with that I was going to be moving out. I said, "I really can't explain it, I just can't live here anymore."

And that moment, I always think of the "Wizard of Oz" because my world went from black and white to color. I feel like that's the day that I woke up and came alive and felt like I had never felt before; just such a peace about -- such a love that I'd never known at all. I will never forget that moment. I didn't just get saved, I am set free. It wasn't... The testimony of the drugs is so awesome and I don't want to make that smaller than it is because it is amazing but to me, the getting over the anger and the

bitterness and knowing my worth in the Lord, because I didn't believe that for so long is such a bigger testimony than "I used to do drugs and now I don't." The peace in my heart that I believe I am who he says I am is...

Betty: Don't you think probably those things that are really big is because that's where the root of it was, it's where it started?

Kelly: Absolutely! Absolutely it is! I have such a heart for women and I'm in the beauty industry so I think it is so awesome that my -- the way I want to communicate beauty and help women know their beauty is not the superficial way that the world says it is because that's an area that I've really struggled to okay, I have to be this. I have to look like this. I have to do this. Knowing that that's not where my value comes from and to lean on that is just to -- it's so validating.

James: What happened? They reported in one of the stories that they did at Gateway, you looked over when you were at church who was by you?

Kelly: Well, it was my meth dealer.

[Laughing]

And it was one of those emotional mornings anyway where I was just so grateful that God had chosen me and saved me and set me free. So I was already sobbing and then I feel a tap on my shoulder and I turn around and it is my meth dealer. And I just lose it. He has gotten clean and is married and has children and so just to...

[Applause]

James: Hey listen, that's the greatness of God. And you know that inner beauty is what makes everything else different, and it heals it all. The joy -- I remember when she walked across the platform up toward Robert and 25,000 people were cheering, we could see the joy of the Lord in her, which is one reason we wanted her to come here.

Father, I pray for everyone watching today who feels empty and overlooked and unimportant. Please help them know how much you love them. Listen to me. Look at me. Look at me. He loves you so much! He died for you. For you! And he was raised to live in you, and to give you life. Ask him to give it to you. Turn it over just like Kelly. Give him a chance. Let him in. If you'd like someone to pray with you, dial that number.

I'd like to send you a little introductory study that I wrote for you. It has a little bit of my story, my journey; it's called *Knowing God as Father*. Then it leads you into a very simple Bible study to tell you about God as father and friend, Jesus living in you. Just call and say, "I'd like to have that."

Have someone pray with you. Say, "I don't want to be the same. I want God to fill my life with love and peace and meaning, value and worth" -- and he will!

Kelly, I'm so grateful for what God has done. Our viewers, who know the Lord, they love to do what we're trying to tell little children in this little touchy-feely book that is really about *Children at the Well* learning to draw from the water of God's love and life when they're little children; this probably starts with a three or four year old up to a seven or eight year old.

Then the *Women at the Well*, the 32 refreshing devotions from women that have been here, of course, including Betty and our daughters and so many, Beth Moore and many that you know and love.

But you know what people enjoy doing? Not only drawing from the well but drilling wells. I want you to listen to Tammy Trent. I want you to listen to God. See if you wouldn't like to give a cup of water and refreshing in Jesus' name. Watch closely.

Begin video clip

Tammy: When we walk into these villages they basically are just looking at us asking, "Can you help? Can you do something? We need help!"

>> She is saying like we don't have another one. What to do? We need to use this one.

Announcer: For children of poverty, gathering at a pond or a stream to have fun is not the reason they are there. It's for the purpose of survival. Without water, these children and their families would not live more than a week. And when they have no other choice but to drink contaminated water, illness, and all too often death become the bitter consequence of that inescapable choice.

Tammy: Not one child has ever said, "The water is perfect, the water is great! I'm feeling fine." Child after child, same story, they're struggling.

Announcer: Our mission teams have spoken with heartbroken families from Cambodia in the heart of Asia, to Madagascar on the east coast of Africa, in rural villages of Central America and India, whose children's waterborne illnesses were so

severe they died before anything could be done to save them. So massive is the problem of contaminated water that every 20 seconds a child dies from a waterborne illness.

Tammy: Time is of essence. There's hundreds of thousands of children dying every year because of contaminated water. Let's change that for them. Let's be the change. Let's do something now. Let's not wait 'til it's too late -- 'til we lose another child who can't do anything about it -- 'til we lose another family. We can do something now. We have an opportunity to be life to so many people who need it so desperately through fresh clean water.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I know that we cannot meet every need. We can't heal every pain. We can't even touch all human pain but we can help some. And we've been able to join with you, viewers of *LIFE Today* and friends of *LIFE* all over the world who have literally said, "We're going to reach out with the hands of Jesus and touch those people. We're going to show them love; we're not just going to tell them about it or proclaim it or even preach it." We'll do that but we're going to give them a demonstration of love.

So here's what we've been doing now, Betty, for years. And you and I have had such a joy from the beginning, not only of going and finding the need but also of giving to meet the need.

When we first started drilling wells they were \$3600 for a well. Costs have gone up, they're \$4800. That's still incredibly reasonable; it's almost miraculous as the average cost. But we asked God to let us give a well and we've been able to do it. And sometimes, to be honest with you, we've given several in a year because we said, "God, enable us to be able to do that." We made it a prayer goal but it always starts with just a little.

You can't believe how many people started giving \$48, and then after several years they were able to give \$1200 and they prayed that three join us. We've had incredible stories! Children who said, "We want to help," and they go to raise money for a well, little kids -- little Bible study groups. But what normally happens, couples, individuals will say, "I'm going to do my part expressing the love and the heart of God."

And Tammy showed us all those children all around the world. We're going to join and we're going to help drill a well. This year we're drilling 500 -- we're halfway there! We need to complete the 250 and we've got hard-hit areas right now that's really

serious where there are droughts and terrible conditions and even the meager water sources they had are depleted and gone.

So I'm asking you if you would help us drill a well. If you can drill a well, \$4800; write a check, use your bankcard. Call the number and say, "I'm giving a well." Or "I'm giving part of a well -- \$1200 or \$2400. Please! Or you can go to LifeToday.org and make the gift.

But most of our friends, Betty, most of the money comes from people who give \$48, that gives ten people water, or \$144, as an example, gives 30 people water; that's where most of the support comes. So if you think because I can't give a well, or a fourth of a well, whatever you can do... Think about it, for ten people -- it's a miracle for the children of parents that you saw who had lost their children.

We saw a couple sitting there by little mounds of dirt where family members were buried -- children! Would you dial the number or go online right now please?

Father, I pray every person who can help will do it and do it gladly; in Jesus' name.

Thank you for making that call. We have some beautiful gifts to send you to bless the children you love to help you journal on your journey and to be a blessing in your home. Thank you for giving life-giving water, giving even more than a cup of water in Jesus' name. Thank you for doing 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: We're excited to send you the books that will bless you as you drill the water wells. I hope that you'll really take advantage of the journal. Journaling has helped Betty in her journey in life, and especially since the loss of our beautiful daughter. It will bless you. Our daughter Robin, before she passed away, Betty gave me this and said God told her to. Boy, I can't tell you what a blessing it was. We want to send it to you.

Kelly goes to Gateway where they meet in the Northwest Campus. It is an old, totally beautifully remodeled and it is fabulous Winn Dixie. Well, you can get some real bread and food there now at Gateway. But you feel free to join us at Gateway or find a place of fellowship wherever you are, anywhere on the planet look for fellowship in the presence of the Lord. Join us in saying thanks to Kelly again for a wonderful story, a wonderful testimony, and praise to God for his transforming love and power! Tell your friends about *LIFE Today* and we'll tell them about life now and forever. Thank you for watching.