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WFL: Last week

Beth Moore: Encased in Grace #5

James: Thank all of you! Hey, we appreciate you! You're so kind. Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison.

Betty and I thrilled to present Beth Moore. We have Wednesdays in the Word. At Beth's suggestion too, we've been bringing in some other teachers to share because she said, "I want to do that. I love to share." But she is talking about *Encased in Grace*, Betty. She's really going to kind of cut to the chase in a lot of ways and show you just how powerful grace really is.

How about you give attention to Beth Moore? Would you give her a good welcome? Here's Beth.

Begin video clip

Beth: One thing we are trying to get straight is how loved we are by God. Just a very simple concept, Jesus loves me this I do not know.

[Laughter]

That's the problem. We're singing something that we're not convinced of because we're living out of our true belief system. Our true belief system is not what's coming out of our mouth, it is what is coming out of our action and our behavior. We are living out of our true belief system and how it departs from what we are saying is where we've got this space between our theology and our reality. Those things need to converge because God's Word is for real living!

Listen -- he knows the real stuff we're dealing with in our homes. I have problems! I mean real ones! In our family over the last year we've had heartbreaks and great disappointments. I've asked God, "Why did this happen here? What happened here?" My girls have gone through tremendous heartbreak over the last year too -- very, very different kinds but extremely deep. In my family, we've got the real kind of problems just like you have.

And God's Word, it is not this archaic book that does not apply to our here and now. It jumps off the page. It is a living word; this is what separates it from every other book, even every other religious book you could possibly find. These are living words -- the breath of God on the page. So when I'm reading it, it is living revelation. It jumps off the page and into my experience. And literally, the very filling of the word, even if I never use it that day, it is putting strength, iron in my soul, strength in my bones. We love the Word of God around here.

And just so you'd have a word of testimony from me, you could not have met anyone more broken of mind that was still walking out on the streets than I was; just broken in such bondage to victimization. And then stupidity -- has anybody just followed up victimization with just pure stupidity? I don't have anybody to point to for that one; that one just comes right back to me. I have to take responsibility for it. And I've been to those places, I know what it is like to think you've finally out-sinned God's ability to forgive you and you cannot do it! You cannot do it! You cannot out sin his grace for you. You cannot make Jesus stop loving you no matter what you do; you cannot hide from him, you cannot get away from him. He loves you.

And listen -- if you're sitting on the other side of that screen hearing this, he has come for you. Amen? Because we're letting him mess with us over our confusion between the law and grace. I want to give you a little bit of foundation here so that you know, in case you're new to the terminology we're not talking about the law, our civil laws in our government. We're talking about legalism that says, "I've got to do a certain thing, behave exactly this way. I've got to be perfect or Jesus will not love me." And it is a lie! It's a lie! And in knowing that there is nothing we can do to get rid of him. We live under his favor. That when we receive him as savior, we become a child of God; we live under his unmerited favor. Nothing we can do to earn it. When we get that

mentality into our heads, that's when our behavior starts changing. That's when bondage begins to break. That's when dominion loses its power over us by way of sin. That's what we're looking for.

So we're in the book of Romans for a lot of our series right now so turn with me to it. I want to recapture where our baseline is through this series in Romans chapter six. I want to read verses 6-14. This will come out of the first half of the series, 6-14 and then I want to look back at Romans four just a little bit.

Let me tell you just to catch you up to speed, in case you're new with us, we're building five points together and we've already built three of them. Let me tell you what they are.

Number one: Some things in our lives need to hear the words... can anybody tell me what those two words are?

Audience: No longer!

Beth: No longer. Some things that have had mastery over us and dominion over us need to hear a very loud "no longer." I want my insecurity to hear "no longer." I want my fears to hear "no longer." I want my addictions to hear "no longer." I want all of this stuff that wants to hold me captive to it in sin, I want it to hear the words "no longer." It does not have authority over me. I'm giving it the leash. It cannot take it over me because I'm in Christ.

Number two is this: A life no longer enslaved cannot be lived under the law. This is the biggest concept we're dealing with in the entire series because what we're learning is that as long as we live under the heading of the law -- we've had two captions put over us up here above where I'm standing: We've got the law and then over here we're talking about standing under grace. And that the more we stand over in law the more legalistic we are and we think it's going to make us better because we live under it: No, you can't mentality. No, no, no, no, no! Listen -- we are created in the image of God; a God that in him is every yes and amen, Second Corinthians 1:20. We have a natural compulsion toward a yes. We're people in the image of God looking for a yes.

Anybody know what I'm saying? So when we begin to find that God is going, "The only reason I will ever tell you no is because I've got a better yes. Ever! Ever!"

There is not a single thing he has ever asked you for, a single area of obedience that when he's ever said, "No, I don't want you to do that," that it wasn't because that no was going to keep you from a brilliant yes. He's a "yes" God. "Yes" to an abundant life. "Yes" to freedom. "Yes" to security. "Yes" to competence! I mean can we just talk pure competence here? Do you know what would happen out in the world if the world began to see Christians as people who are competent? I don't mean arrogant. Competent!

In our workplaces, in how we serve, and how we love, we're competent, effective people. We're not going to do that over there under the law. We're going to do that under grace where we've got a yes on us that we live by the yes of God, yes I have so much for you today child! Yes, I have victory for you. Yes, yes, I have freedom for you!

Number three was this: It's time we see our lives under the heading of grace -- under the heading of grace.

Let me read our key scriptures Romans 6 starting with verse 6-14: We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer -- those are our two words -- be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died for sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Verse 12: Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

Let me pause here for a second and talk about what could be the expectation for us as human beings occupied by the Spirit of God. One of the keywords we want to work with is the word dominion; when something has dominion over us, mastery over us. As long as we're alive on this planet this side of heaven, you and I are going to be --

we're going to have flaws, we're going to fail at things, we're going to sin, we're still going to be confessing sin and being freed from it and cleansed from sin but we can very well be out from under slavery to sin. That's what you want to be looking at specifically, where we are dominated by it, held in mastery over it, where we are in bondage to sin whether it is an addiction of some kind, compulsions of all sorts of self-destructive kinds, all sorts of substances, pornography, sexual addictions -- when we've got this thing in us. God was put really putting on my heart not too long ago that people are just driven to steal -- just driven to it. I've never even had the thought come cohesively to me before; there are people just addicted to theft and thievery; to get away with seeing what they can steal. Bondage to sin; that we can very well be out from under and were meant to be in Christ.

In verse 10: For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you must consider yourselves dead to sin, verse 11, and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Now 12-14: Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

I want you to see those words because they become the driver of the weeks we have ahead in our series: For sin will not have dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Flip back a couple of chapters to Romans 4 and let's just read those first couple of verses. In Romans four it says this, verse one: What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

So it's telling us, listen, you want to know what God credits as righteousness in us? Our faith when we come to him and say, "I believe you. I believe what your word says about you and I believe what it says about me and the work you have done in my behalf.

And it says in these beautiful words in verses five and six: And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted to him as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one who God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

If someone doesn't think that is good news, you are not getting out enough.

[Laughter]

That he does not count it against us -- that he forgives us. This is so scandalous that some people are trying to get their loved ones away from the TV because they're just convinced that the way they're going to get out from under their sin is to stand over here under legalism and be better, and it doesn't work. Our freedom is under the grace heading where we know we have the love and favor of God that cannot change. Nothing we do, nothing in our behavior, nothing can change it, nothing can dent it, and that is where I am freed up from my shame to stand in the power of the name.

Now, listen -- we've been talking in class together about our spiritual neuroses and we have been putting some labels on it and taking some tests to see just how we score on it and it's been so interesting to me to have some discussion with some of these. I would love to hear from you about it. As long as we're talking about these kinds of conditions, I thought I'd throw out the word eccentric to you -- eccentric in case any of us are a tad eccentric. Because I did a little looking and we're just doing spiritual metaphors here but you know what that word eccentric means? That "ec" is the word - - what you see when you see an exit sign; it means to be outside of. "Centric," the

center -- to be outside of the center; part of the definition of it is located elsewhere than at the geometrical center.

Here's what you and I are learning. In Christ everything is eccentric if it is outside this geometric circle right here. Everything that's circles the cross, where those cross bars cross, that is our center -- right there where Jesus was on the cross, that's where our center is. If our center is anywhere else but the cross of Christ, we're under the law, and we're enslaved. And we're finding our freedom because we are under grace and not under the law.

Now here's what I'm just convinced of. I want you to see verse 20 of Romans 5 -- Romans 5, verse 20. It says this: Now the law came into increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Think about this where it says "the law came in to increase the trespass." It makes us more aware of what it is we do that falls short of the glory of God. It was useful, it was good! It was good! We just don't live under it. We live under the power of the cross.

So what I want to suggest to you is this. That under the law, as long as we stand over here, sin increases in us. We think we're going get a grip on it by just doing good things but the more we become defeated at it the more shame we bear, the more we get into our head we'll never ever be able to get this together and all it does is crush us under its weight.

Romans 6:14 is our key verse. It says these words and I want to emphasize one word in particular: For sin will not rule over you because you are not under law but under grace. Sin will not rule over you because you are not under law but under grace. That's what the Holman Christian Standard Bible says and I love it!

We're learning in this present series that grace is power. Grace is not our permission to stay in sin. And this is with a gets us all messed up because it's the reason why we want to move a loved one out from in front of the screen on a subject matter like this

because we're so afraid they're going to think this is license to sin. Grace is power -- grace is power! Grace is not our permission so stay it is our power to go. Anybody get that with me? If we would get this through our heads and if we would just let him release the power of it in our persons, grace is the power I've got to be free out from under it. Grace is what gives me the power not to stay in my sin but to be able to say good-bye to my bondage and leave it.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy do we need that amazing grace. Let me just pray for you.

Father, what Beth is saying, we all need. We don't ever reach a place where we don't need the amazing abundance sufficient grace. And so often, we find ourselves moving over into a sense of condemnation, lack of worth or value or hopeless helplessness sometimes. God, would you help us to really take hold of what Beth has shared and the grace that you offer us freely and so fully in Christ? For every person watching, who just needs to receive your grace, let them know how much you love them, how sufficient you are to cover every sin and to lift them out of despair and defeat. In Jesus' name.

The telephone number that you see there is always there as a prayer line. Don't hesitate to do what many will do, they will call and say, "I need to experience a measure of grace. Pray with me about something," because we want to do that. The telephone number is paid for by love and I hope you'll call.

Betty, this is our last week now for the emphasis on drilling the water wells. We really need a miracle outpouring. I think I told you we've got a matching challenge for 68 wells in Angola in desperate need. Would you please help us? I want you to watch. I want you to look in on a scene that I know is going to move you. Listen to the loss but listen to the request and the hope that is needed here and you and I can provide that. I think you're going to want to. I think you'll actually be excited about it. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Every day over 4,000 children die from a water-related disease.

>> My name is Bun Toeun. I know mostly I don't have clean water. I use water that everybody uses, even the cattle. I have four children, but two of my boys died. I worked hard to get the money for the hospital, but it didn't matter how hard I tried. My two babies died. My dream is for clean water. If I would have had clean water to drink, then my two children wouldn't be dead today.

>> In the 60 seconds it took Bun Toeun to share her story, three more children died from contaminated water.

End of clip

In the studio

James: In the 60 seconds for her to tell that story, three more... Betty, she said, "my dream, my hope, my dream -- clean water."

Betty: James, there is a mother that had four children, two of them she's lost; one of them because of the contaminated water. She knows exactly what killed them. And yet she has to continue to give water to her other two children because there's no other source. She would do anything to have saved her babies. She tried but she had nothing to turn to, no one to turn to but now she does if we will just step in and drill those wells and bring them some clean water so at least those children will have a chance in life. They will have a choice to drink the clean water or the contaminated. Which one do you think they will pick? I know! Please join with us and let's help drill these wells.

James: I don't think we have to show you all the sad stories of what happened to get your attention. We show them because that is the reality. And what we wanted you to hear was her request, her hope. No, we can't save the children that are gone but we can give life to the ones that are there. She is actually making an appeal for children and

for mothers all over the world. In the areas where by the grace the God, we're drilling another 500 wells, we've got 68 targeted to drill in Angola.

Betty, I'm looking here at the exact amount of money that some friends gave to be a challenge: \$326,400 that if you would help us with those 68 wells, which means if you would give \$4800 to say, "I'll provide one of those," we'd have two -- and we really need it. This is our last week to really secure the rest of the funds. And all we need to happen is for each person watching to simply do what God has put on your heart -- that's all!

Would you be an answer to the heart cry, the request that she made? Would you say, "I want to keep other children from drinking that kind of water in different places and give them a future"? It is a simple dream and we can fulfill that dream, that heart cry. If you'll dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check. Make the largest gift you can.

Please remember, if you make a gift of only \$48 that's huge because it will give 10 people water for the rest of their life. A gift of \$144 gives 30 people water for the rest of their life.

And remember, for Angola, it will be matched immediately. Would you please go online? If you don't go to the phone, go to LifeToday.org and make the gift. We have some special gifts to send you to say thank you, to bless you and to bless children that you love, and your own family and friends. We want to be a blessing to you and we thank you for blessing others with a gift of life and clean water. We will share the love of God. You will have demonstrated it. Thank you for your gift.

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."

This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

James: Well, we're anxious so send you the material that will bless you. I can't look at this book and not smile, *Children at the Well: The joy of clean water*. Because when little children go through this book and they see the stories, they are going to want to help others. That's going to be a blessing for you to watch.

I want to remind you this is the last week and we really need a miracle outpouring to drill the wells that God set before us in the areas of need knowing that we've got a matching challenge to match what you give to help us with those wells in Angola. Thank you for going online or for dialing the number and using that card, that bankcard like a check. Thank you so much for your help. God bless you!