

1/28/15

Week 5 WFL

Beth Moore: The Mighty Hand of God #2

James: Thank you all! Thank you for being an encouragement. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Betty and I are thrilled to always tell you that Beth Moore is about to share and she is talking about the mighty hand of God. Does she just have a natural gifting of God that the zeal and enthusiasm she has is contagious?

Betty: Absolutely! You don't have to be around her very long until it catches. It jumps all over you.

James: It gets all over you. Betty has written kind of a compilation of things that God has done in her life. It is a 40-day devotional guide. Really, she's talking about *Free to be Me* which is her story in the book that's her life story. And of course, interestingly, I'm quite a bit of that story. We'll give you an opportunity to get these books and to have an opportunity to give someone a cup of water. I think you're going to like that. Here's Beth Moore talking about the mighty hand of God. Welcome Beth.

Begin video clip

Beth: So number two is this: Jesus gave flesh and bones to the outstretched hand of God.

Tell me what number two is.

Audience: Jesus gave flesh and bones to the outstretched hand of God.

Beth: Do any of you remember when he said to his disciples, "Listen, if you have seen me, you have seen the father." He came -- God taking on flesh to dwell among us. So I want you to just try to get this with me. Over the hundreds of times in the Old

Testament that the hand of God is referred to, the hand of God, literally, flesh wraps around the very hand of God and comes to dwell among people on planet earth. It is fascinating to me that his hand took on the glove of flesh.

I want you to try to get that picture with me because the hand is a very, very fascinating instrument. I don't know when the last time you really thought about what you've got going on here but even if you've got a pen in your hand, you're doing some kind of fascinating engineering every time you write something down. Every time you do something with these appendages, when you fixed your daughter's hair or you build something at home or at work, or you paint something, something fascinating is going on here. And he created the hand and then he came and filled up the hand; this mighty outstretched hand of God.

In your one little hand you've got 27 bones. Anybody? 27 bones! You have got 206 bones in the human body but over half of those are in your hands and feet.

Now just get this with me because here this young teenager, Mary is told that she is going to bear the son of the Most High God. The Holy Spirit would pass upon her and she would bear the holy Son of God. So picture this because when she has him, by the time she can pull herself together enough to think, God help us mother! God help us mothers. We know what that is like. By the time she can have a clear thought, what was she doing? She was looking at that hand. One of the first ways an infant will involuntarily respond is to eat. But to voluntarily respond in communication with someone else will be the reach of the hand. One of the first things we do is let that tiny little hand wrap around our finger.

Think of all this because she is holding the infant Christ, he is wrapping his tiny little hand around her finger and that hand had cast and flung stars and planets into the sky. It is just too much! It is just too much! The hands of Christ, the construction of his hands, he had formed man from his hands and here he is.

So here is what I want you to do with me over the next little while. I want us to look in the gospel of Mark. Turn there with me. You're going to start even in the first chapter.

We are going to look at a series of places in the remaining part of our emphasis on the hand of God. We are going to see the hand of God through the hand of Jesus Christ when he specifically in the gospel of Mark took his hand to something because I've prayed that that will have a whole new meaning to us as we have built that acrostic, that we know our hand is about... the hand of God upon us is about holiness and anointing, and it is about the name of Jesus, and it is about doing mighty deeds. And we're going to watch what happens when Christ who could have just thought it and it be so, instead stretched out his mighty hand. That's what I want you to see. It is over and over in the gospel of Mark. I wish we could look at every single time it comes up.

But I want you to look first of all, Mark chapter 1:40-42. We would have already seen it with Peter's mother-in-law when he raised her up from her sick bed. But I want you to just, if you would, focus with me on verses 40 through 42 in Mark one. It says: And a leper came to him imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

You want to know something really odd? I don't have any kind of big statement to make on it. It is just very, very interesting and intriguing. The Bible never speaks of healing leprosy; it always speaks of cleaning it -- being made clean. Now let me tell you, I don't know if you've ever been near a leper's colony but I have because there are some in India. Let me tell you, even driving near it, even through the air-conditioning in the car with the windows rolled up it is an unimaginable odor; just the pure skin just rotting on those bones. It is horrible! And it is so isolating to them.

So I want you to see in your mind this leper coming to Jesus and it says that he kneels down before him and he literally, he implores him. This is a begging he is doing, "If you will! You know you can make me clean." It says Jesus was moved with pity and he stretched out his hand and he touched him. He didn't have to touch him. He could have just said it and it was done. But it was the touch -- it was the touch that said, "You're worthy to me even in all of your uncleanness."

I cannot tell you what it means to me to know that Jesus Christ is clean enough for both of us. Anybody else? I've got to know that. You need to know that today. Jesus

Christ is clean enough for you both. So when he touches you, you become clean -- you become clean! Because what he touches, he cleanses with his holiness. And it says: Immediately the leprosy left him and he was made clean. Glory! Glory to God!

I want you to look a little further in Mark chapter seven, verse 31. I'm going to read you an account that I'm just fascinated by right now and I pray that you will be as well. But I'm going to intentionally break it up into parts so that you won't look any further. Let's sit on a little part of it for a while and then we'll take up the next. Mark 7, verses 31-34 and then we'll hold on it and then read 35 to 37.

It says in Mark 7, verse 31: Then he (Jesus) returned from the region of Tyre and went through the Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment and they begged him to lay his hand on him. After taking -- I'm at verse 33 -- after taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." Ephphatha -- "be opened."

Okay, here is the part I want you to see because this, to me, is the joy of Bible study when you read a passage enough to where one word sticks out and you go, why is that there? And there is a word here I find very, very interesting. It says he takes him - - they come begging him to lay his hand on him because he is deaf, he's got a speech impediment. 33: He takes him aside from the crowd privately. Let's just get to this in a minute -- puts his fingers into his ears -- what in the world is that about?

[Laughter]

And then go with me to spitting. And then we've got a whole new scenario here.

But this is the part that really gets me. Verse 34: He looks up to heaven and he sighs. What is that? What is that? Because I mean like, about to perform a miracle, stretching forth your hand, you're going to go... [sighs]

[Laughter]

I mean, we know it wasn't a bother to Jesus. He wasn't bothered by him coming. So when I sigh I'm usually frustrated. What in the world is he sighing about? Lord, this is -- Jesus, this is awkward. So awkward time -- there are awkward times for a sigh; this is an awkward time for a sigh.

Unless we see where it's used, that very same Greek word or a form of it is used in other passages. Now if you'll look in your N.I.V. or your N.A.S. or your King James Version or your Holman Christian Standard, they all have "sighed" or "deeply sighed." The lexical term for it is *stenazo* -- *stenazo*. I'm going to spell it to you just in case you like words like this: S-T-E-N-A-Z-O: *Stenazo*.

I want you to hear, the reason why I'm bringing up that Greek word is it is used several times in the New Testament and I want you to hear exactly where; I'm going to read it to you. You can write down the passages and where they belong as I read them. First of all write down Romans 8:23. Then write down Second Corinthians 5:2 and 4. And then I'm going to come back and read to you Romans 8:26. Write that down. Leave something here in Mark eight because I think you're going to want to see these Romans passages. Turn with me to Romans and have it wide open.

Now what are we trying to do? Well, we're trying to see where this word is translated in other places in scripture to help us understand why in our context of all things Jesus decides to sigh before he performs this miracle completely. What is that? Why the sigh? And it is so, so fascinating.

Look at Romans 8:23 and look at this wording. It says: And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

I want to read that again. And not only the creation, but we ourselves -- we're told all creation groans -- we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the spirit groan inwardly as we eagerly wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Do you see that word *groan* in many of your translations? That is the same word *stenazo* -- *stenazo*. That is a word that is translated here to groan.

Listen to Second Corinthians 5:2-4. It says: For in this tent (and the Apostle Paul is talking about the physical body of man) for in this tent we groan (there we go again, that's *stenazo*) longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, for while we are still here in this tent we groan (that is a form of *stenazo* again) being burdened -- not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

Now stay here with me because then we begin to understand a little bit about why that word would be used in that context when someone comes to him with that kind of an issue, that kind of special needs, that kind of pain that they've lived through -- through the deafness and through the speech impediment, not being able to hear what they're saying but not being able to make what they're saying understandable to the person who can hear. Talk about isolation!

But what if we stick groan in it? Suddenly, something different happens because now with that in mind I want you to just think about what it is that he takes him to the side, he puts his fingers in his ears. He literally touches, spits and touches his tongue. He looks up to heaven and he -- if we were to use the word in Romans 8 -- he groans. Not just sighs; he is not just in a bad mood. He is not just like well, I'm really tired today. Like one more miracle today!

[Laughter]

But no, he is groaning.

Every time it is used in that context -- when we hear it in Romans 8 and I'm about to read it to you again -- certainly true in Second Corinthians chapter five, it is about the groaning of wearing these earthly bodies. The groaning of it! Think about what it meant for God to be limited to this flesh. Think about the pain of it.

For instance, I have a friend who has a daughter that has had a longtime relationship with painkillers -- a longtime relationship! As it often happens, they were prescribed at first; she developed an addiction then she began to get it through other means.

Listen -- I get addiction so I'm not casting any kind of stone. But when she was trying to come off of it, everything hurt. Everything! Why? Because she was used to having the pain killed. So listen. Can you imagine what it would be like because she'd gone from painlessness to suddenly every part -- your wrist hurts, your knees hurt, your feet -- she was young! But if we can go from no pain to these bodies we would be going like, "Whoo! This thing hurts."

Like he knew what it was to be thirsty. He knew what it was to have to be hungry. I mean, how annoying would that be to be God and go, "We're going to have to stop and eat? Are you kidding me? Are you kidding me? We're going to have to drive through Jack in the Box? Are you kidding? I'm God here. There's something wrong with picture here. I have no needs here and suddenly, I'm stricken with needs!"

So what I believe is happening back in this context is that he is groaning over man's dealing with his own body of flesh. He gets it. I love this.

This is a different form of the word; this is the noun form of the word *stenazo* but listen to Romans 8:26. It says: For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings (form of *stenazo*) too deep for words.

Okay, stay with me. Lord, please help me explain this well. So when we come to Jesus with our need, somebody watching today, no telling how many people, may be dealing with cancer treatment, pain from cancer, the sickness of the treatment. Many other kinds of maladies: You might have a back injury. You might have been born with special needs that causes you continual physical pain. Maybe you've got the flu. Maybe you've got a stomach virus. Maybe your heart is so broken, I know what it is like to have your heart so broken that it feels like pain. It feels like your chest is going to break. It takes on a physical pain.

Do you know that God so enters in that when he prays for you in your pain, he groans -- he groans! Jesus knew what it was like to take on the physical body, to feel what it

was like to be beaten, slashed, to be crucified, to be hung up, to be nearly suffocated in his own blood. He knew what that was like.

So the spirit enters in and intercedes. When you come to him with your groaning, Jesus gets it. He gets it!

End of clip

In the studio

James: I hope you get it -- what Beth said because he gets it. And you know what? He really wants to give you all of him and he can. You can experience the mighty hand of God. You know something else that we can experience? We can be in so many ways the hands of God and we're going to give you an opportunity to get these "His Word is Life" cups.

You know what this is? It's a coffee cup. I mean if Starbucks had these cups they would be successful. I'm not kidding you! It is amazing what people have told us about these cups that we gave years ago.

They said, "We've chipped ours. Please get us more."

Let me tell you something, we're going to send them to you if you'll do one thing that Jesus said is really important, give a cup of water -- a cup of water in his name. What if you could give a well? He said if you give a cup you won't lose your reward. What about a well? I don't think it has a thing to do with you getting riches. I think the great riches is knowing what you've done when you express love. I want you to watch this. Watch it closely!

On the mission field

Announcer: Louesette's story is not all that uncommon in Madagascar. She lives with her two children in a tiny shack in this poverty-stricken village. Louesette and her family don't have the means or access to clean drinking water so she walks each day to a contaminated river. But the burden of collecting this dirty water is no match to the burden of sorrow and grief that pierces her heart every time she goes to the river.

Open captions:

>> Two of my children have died because of this water and others are sick all of the time. For about a month after my baby died I couldn't come here. I was too sad. But I had no choice. I still had to come to this water even though it killed my two children.

Announcer: Even though the pain of Louesette's loss is reawakened with each scoop of deadly water, she longs for the day of never having to return to this river for her drinking water.

Open captions:

>> Our whole village dreams of getting a clean water source. I wouldn't have to worry about my children's health and I would be in peace for the first time.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Dear Jesus, I want you to give her peace. Let us be an answer to her hope, her dreams, her prayer, her need; in Jesus' name.

I have been saying to those of you who watch us, if you watch many times you'll hear me say if you want your prayers answered, your prayers, seek to be an answer to someone else's prayers. Well, we can be.

We can be an answer, Betty, to her hope and her prayers. We can drill a water well in her area; in all the little village area around, we can drill them a well. We have targeted 500 areas for this year.

Now think about what I'm saying. Because of someone like you doing what you can to give a cup of water or a part of a well, you've drilled 4,000 wells to change everything for the people in those areas. We're asking you to help us touch another 12 countries, 500 areas and drill wells. Could you drill one? The average cost remains -- I don't know how long it will stay this but it remains \$4800. That's the average. Some wells we

have to go deeper, it's a little more expensive. Some will be a little shallower, it's a little less but the average is \$4800.

If you can drill a well I know you'll want to -- if you can give a portion of a well. We ask our friends to pray about giving \$1200 and pray three join you or \$2400 and pray one joins you and we've got a well.

Betty, most of our viewers will give \$48 and that gives ten people water basically for the rest of their life. How would you like to make a \$48 gift that gave ten people clean water, for ten mothers like that? You can. \$144 triples it; that's 30 people water for the rest of their life.

Now we're going to send you some gifts to bless you. We're going to send you cups that people have asked for. These are wonderful coffee cups. They are so comfortable and so nice, it's the only thing Betty and I use. We actually, if we go out of town we'll take a couple of them with us; they're just that nice.

People have said, "Can we get some more? We have friends over now and we'll tell them where we got them." Yes, you can. All we're asking you to do is make a gift to help us drill those wells. We're asking you to make a gift of over \$100. We're going to send Betty's devotional book, her life story, which I thank God I'm included in, 51 years we've been married and we went together several years before that, *Free to be Me*. It will be a blessing. We're sending this to just say thank you for whatever gift you make.

If you can give a well or a large gift toward the well, we're sending you the beautiful, beautiful painting by Thomas Kinkade; it is hanging here in our studio. It's a canvas and it is beautiful. It is "The Forest Chapel," and I'm telling you, it's inspirational.

If you will simply go right now, please get your bankcard, go to the phone, dial the number and make the gift God put on your heart. Use that card like it's a check. You can go online LifeToday.org and make the gift. Whatever God leads you to do, please make that gift today. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing it. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're sending in. Thank

you for being an answer to a mother's prayer and a miracle for her family.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children 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 exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 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 you'll receive the brand-new *Free to Be Me* 40-day devotional where Betty shares the challenges, victories, and insights God gave her while struggling through fear and insecurity. You'll also receive Betty's book, *Free to Be Me*. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request *LIFE's* inspirational coffee mug set featuring encouraging quotes and scripture to brighten your mornings for years to come!

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I really hope that if you can you'll, of course, make a gift and ask for the coffee mugs. You're going to love them if you don't have them. If you've got them you'll want more -- I know you will!

But get "The Forest Chapel" by Kinkade; it is hanging here in our studio. It is just beautiful. It comes framed just like you see it. It's a canvas and we're asking you to

help us drill a well by making a gift toward a \$4800 drilling for the well of \$1200 or more. You give \$1200, pray three people join you and we've got a well. You may be able to give a well. I know many of you are praying to that end. I thank you for it. But whatever you do, we thank you for it.

And to you here in the audience, thank you so much for being with us. Thank all of you for watching *LIFE Today*!