

4/1/15

Week 14 Mission: Rescue Life

Beth Moore: Delivered from the Tomb, #2

Wednesdays in the Word: Volume 3, session 4

James: It's such a joy to be here. We've got friends here from Canada, from Alberta, and from Saskatchewan and just so many people are such a blessing. I don't know where you're from. I'm James Robison, Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. We're Texans. We speak Texan. You probably couldn't understand that we speak Texan. Betty, you have a little country in your voice.

Betty: I do! Just a little bit. [Laughing]

James: She was born in east Texas. She was born in Lufkin and I was born in Houston. We met in Pasadena, a suburb of Houston and we have now been married 52 years. Do you y'all think that's pretty good that we've been married 52 years?

[Cheers & Applause]

It's really big.

Betty: I think I'll keep you.

James: What a woman she is. You know you think that. Well, Beth Moore is talking about resurrection power and I mean Beth is such a blessing. She will bless you. How about you welcome Beth Moore? Here she is.

Begin video clip

Beth: But one thing occurred to me. It must be entirely unnatural for Jesus to leave anything dead -- because he came to bring life and life more abundantly. And there will be a day when the dead will all be raised because it is the nature of Christ Jesus, the giver of life who is eternal to bring things back to life.

And there is somebody he is wanting to bring back to life today. I want you, with every bit of this in your heart and mind, I want you to go with me to John three, verse 16. John 3:16: For any of us who have been raised in church, this is without a doubt the most familiar scripture we have. For any of us who went to Sunday school or Bible classes of any kind as children we learned this verse first of all and could say it by heart. But maybe it is only in a context like this that we can get a little bit of a fresh impact of what is happening here because it says in John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Listen -- to his only son. It is interesting because in the two accounts, the one where the widow in Nain has her one and only son, and God has his one and only son in John 3:16, the same Greek word is being translated. It is a word that is said like this: monogenes -- monogenes and it means to be -- that mono, that M-O-N-O, the only one; the rest of the word means: Of its kind -- the only one of its kind.

I wonder if when Jesus went over that day and when he was there at the house of Jairus with his only daughter, and once again when we see him with a man who has a demon-possessed son that says, "He is my only child," all of these are translating, that wonderful word *monogenes* which means: The one and only -- the one and only.

Over and over again when Jesus encounters someone who is devastated over something that has happened to a one and only, he responds dramatically. I wonder if that is not just coming from his whole being of compassion toward us in all of our needs but specifically because of the tenderness over the one and only.

I want you to remember that moment, if you are familiar with it, when Jesus hung on the cross looking down at his mourning mother and he looks over at his mother and says, "Woman, behold your son. Son" -- he says this to John the beloved -- "Son, behold your mother." Because he is so heartbroken over her own loss.

Look at these passages. When we tie them all together when God said, "I'll tell you what I gave you, I gave you my one and only -- my one and only! So that you would never die an eternal death but you would be with me forever. For God so loved the

world that he gave his monogenes, his one and only that we would not perish but have everlasting life.

I just wish that we could see the depths of the love between the father and the son that says, "There is no other like him to me. I gave you the dearest and the best that I have. Nothing is more precious to me than this. I give you Jesus." That is some kind of love.

I want you to turn with me to Acts chapter two, please -- Acts chapter two. These words came up in my prayer time last Saturday morning just kind of getting to sit before the Lord. I'd gotten to sleep in a little bit on a rare Saturday, home.

Keith had already left that morning to go to the shooting range and do a little bit of competitive shooting. So I had the whole morning to myself and I love to be able to relax a little bit and just kind of tarry with Jesus for a little while. So I was taken with these passages. It is such a beautiful context when we see the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; perhaps you're familiar with it in Acts chapter two, when he pours out his spirit on his sons and his daughters right there on the day of Pentecost.

But it is the verses right after that that Peter brings in his sermon that captivated my fresh attention. I want to read them to you. Acts two, verses 22-24: It says this: Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know -- this Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Verse 24 -- this is what got me -- God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it -- it was not possible for him to be held by it.

I want you to see a couple of things in play here. When it says in verse 23, whatever your translation uses for this that he delivered Jesus up according to the definite plan. That word *definite plan*, one of those Greek words that translates for the will of God, the definite plan of God is a word that means after deliberation and after counsel.

I want you to know that before the foundation of the world the father and the son had been through the entire plan and agreed to the entire plan with complete foreknowledge before God ever said, "Let there be light." That's why Revelation can call him "the lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world" because it was as if Jesus and the Father were together. Of course, they were together.

When the first man was created and before he ever breathed a spirit into that lifeless body, can't you imagine that he might have looked at his son and gone, "Do we really want to do this thing? Because once we breathe this eternal soul into this body right here, and once man is alive on this planet, we're completely committed to the plan in advance, deliberation, counsel. Not an afterthought, not just an emotional reaction to our sin, they went in with the full and definite plan that Christ would give his life so that we could live.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. Here's what I want you to see. In verse 24 it says: God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death.

Would you see that word *pangs* of death? Whatever your translation says right there for pangs of death, this is P-A-N-G-S in my translation. You know what? That is a very odd usage of a word. Because that word *pang* normally refers to the pangs of childbearing and of labor. And it is used here for death. So there is an irony and a paradox that is in play here that is very hard for us to see in the English language because in other places in scripture we'll see that word *pang*, we'll see it used for somebody that is in the pangs of an increasing labor.

What an odd thing here because the tomb, in this context right here, is being compared in this one little way, the tomb is the womb and that while Christ's body was inside that tomb, that there were just the pangs -- I mean he was coming out. That tomb could not hold that body -- it could not hold that body! I picture that as they're waiting, of course to the third day, can't you imagine that the God of all time who is himself timeless, is just like looking at his watch going, "Okay, I said three days. So I'm going to stick with the three days but this is the longest three days of all of history." Anybody know what I'm talking about?

Now Christ is doing things in the spiritual realm but that body that had been inhabited by the very Son of God was dear to him and he was going to raise that very body up from the dead. I love the fact that in John chapter 20, we are told that Mary Magdalene, in the very first of that chapter, she got to the tomb while it was still dark on that Sunday morning -- while it was still dark and he was already gone. It was like God, "It's morning enough for me. It doesn't have to be light for me.

[Laughter]

I'm the God of the morning. I say when it is morning. I don't care if the sun is not up; I'm getting the sun up. Amen? I'm getting my own son up. I know how to do this. I'm going to raise the son all right and when I raise the son I'm going to call it Sunday morning." Somebody say, "Amen."

What a beautiful thing because it was just like that tomb was like whoo -- whoo -- whoo! I mean when it could no longer bear the body of Christ in it without life it burst forth, the stone rolling away and out walks the body inhabited by the living Lord Jesus Christ -- when a morgue becomes a delivery room.

Listen. I don't know what has broken your heart and what loss has come to you but this I do know, I do know that God wants to come to the tomb of that loss in this season of your life, meet with you there, minister his own presence to you there, and bring a delivery out of that tomb. This I do know that God can bring new life to you; that he can raise you from this death. He can bring you forth from this grief. That I do know -- that I know according to his Word. He is the God of resurrection.

Listen. Sometimes your miracle is that you lived through it. Maybe you did not get them back in your arms but here you are and you have lived through it. Maybe it's time not to just draw breath, not to just force one foot in front of the other but maybe it's time to let him come and touch that stretcher that you're on and bring you, beloved of God, back to life.

I don't know if anybody is with you but I wish they could just put their hand around yours and I wish I could do that with you right now and just remind you that you are still warm. Your heart is still beating. You still have life in you -- you still have life in you. You thought it would kill you. I say this with tremendous compassion -- I've been there. I thought something was going to kill me -- and you thought something was going to kill you, something precious to you, something that was so dear to you, maybe a one and only in your life, and God so gets it because he went through exactly the same thing. But I say to you today, you are still alive. It did not kill you. And it is time -- it is time for you to rise back to your feet and live out a fresh delivery that God has coming out of this season of death for you.

Only God can bring life out of a season of death. I am praying with all of my might that he is about to birth something brand new in you. Anybody been through a death? Well, the thing about Jesus is that he can't leave death well enough alone. Something alive has to come from a tomb.

I don't know what you've been through but I know this. If you would let him, he will bring something very much alive out of that death. If you will let him, he will turn that morgue that you feel like you've been living in in your heart and in your mind for so many months and perhaps for so many years, he can make that very morgue a delivery room for you. It will not replace what you've lost but it brings forth a resurrection for you. There is still life for you. You are still drawing breath. There is still blood in your veins. May Christ come minister a living resurrecting presence to you. Anybody?

Listen, our God is so faithful. He will not do you wrong. Let me tell you, that day when that mother took that one and only son home, she no longer had just one one and only in her life. I promise you, that as she thought over that day and she relived it in her mind, a whole new man had walked into her existence. It was no longer just my one and only son, there was this one and only man -- this one and only savior -- this Jesus of Nazareth that walked in and made everything different and he will make it for you. You still got breath to draw, you still got life in your lungs, and God is about to birth something brand new in you because that is what he does with resurrection -- new birth, a new day, a new breath.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! I'm telling you, Beth, you are so gifted. I found myself with such gratitude for life.

And, Betty, you may not know this but for some time now I've been saying something to my heart, sometimes when I wake up, sometimes as I'm about to go to sleep. It is kind of like I just sort of touch myself here on the chest and I just say, thank you, heart; 71 years just faithfully, you beat out life. Then I find myself saying, I want to beat out the life and love of God with every heartbeat. I really think that's a good prayer; that if these vital organs are designed by God to maintain life and protect life should we not as the body of Christ and as believers share that life? -- Every breath, every moment? I want to because in it I find life.

Betty, we're rescuing right now precious girls, and women, and a lot of them, who are traffic prostitutes in brothels having babies; and their little girls will reach an age, nine, ten, eleven or twelve, and the predator intends to take that little girl and traffic her. And these mothers know that. Sometimes they'll throw the mother out and keep the girl. We're talking about something really evil.

But here's the beauty. We can set them free. Yes, we can. I can't imagine a person watching that wouldn't want to say, "If we can, if we can free them let's do it!" Watch. Listen. Yes, we can. We can set them free. Listen!

On the mission field:

Announcer: If brokenness had a face it would be Dalene's -- her spirit, her will, her body. All at the cruel hand of sex trafficking.

Dalene: After my mother died, a lady came and told me she would raise me like her daughter. But instead, she sold me to a brothel to pay off her debts. I have scars from the chains they put on me. They force me to service eight to ten men each night, and we are not allowed to eat or drink unless we do. If girls are disobedient, they're sent away by boat and they never come back. I haven't felt love since my mother died. I want freedom. I want to not live in hell anymore. This life, it is like hell to me.

End of clip

In the studio:

Betty: James, as I watched that, my first impression is I want to go and wrap my arms around that precious girl and wipe her tears and say "It's going to be okay. Someone is coming to help you. You're going to get the help that you so want. You're going to get that freedom that you ask for."

We can do that through our sharing of our love and our hope for them that we give them, that God has put in us if we'll just all join together and make a place, a safe place for these precious children to go away from all the abuse and the prison and all the lies and everything that they're told so that they can imprison them and make them do what they want them to do and destroy their precious lives. I hope you will join with us.

James: She said it's just like hell and it is because she is a prisoner. This is not something she chose to do. She hasn't felt loved but she is about to because you're going to love her. Like Betty said, I want to love her.

And the thing is that our mission workers, these are the most beautiful people who will go in there in that pain and put their arms around, with our help, can actually reach them and rescue them and then we are able to restore them. There's so much that we're not able to show you. A lot of times we can't show you the mission or relief workers' faces because then they become a target. When that gets out and our programs online worldwide, not just on networks but you can watch *LIFE Today* any time by going to LifeToday.org and click up today's program or any other program on there if you missed one. So if you see these people, then it can endanger them.

So many of the programs that we shoot and I don't know because I didn't see someone else there but there could have been a hidden camera and she's just telling her story to somebody listening. Much of the footage we do have we have to do it that way. It's a dangerous thing yet people plant their life there.

So here's the thing, you hold the keys to her prison. And if we give the workers the resources not only to maintain the centers that you've built, we're completing some more now because you've helped us in the past to be able to do that. But right now

we've got thousands -- thousands that we see that we can get if we can raise the funds, and the average is \$128. So if you could give \$128 we'd be able to send the resources. That's what we're waiting to do; we're just like releasing a river of love but we have to have the resources, you provide them. Betty and I do our part, don't ever wonder, not only by going all over the world, but by ourselves giving; but we can't do it all, we have to do it together.

So if you will dial that number or if you'll go to LifeToday.org, just go there, that's the easiest way, take your bankcard or dial the number and make the gift God puts on your heart. If you could give \$1280, as an example, that's ten rescued; would you do that? -- The \$128?

But you may say, "I can't do that." \$64 doubled we've got it; \$32 and three others join you, we've got it. Do not excuse yourself and say, "I don't have enough." You've got the key so please right now make the gift God puts on your heart.

We've got some things we want to send you to bless you. We've got the songs and praise of freedom, we've got a book that helps us preserve freedom, and a beautiful painting by Thomas Kinkade that will be sent to you framed. We want to say thank you, but you're setting these precious girls and children, sometimes their children that are now about to be trafficked. Would you please make that call? Please do it! Or go online and make the gift God put on your heart. You're giving life -- you're giving freedom. Thank you so much for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children created to be happy, loved, and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators, their spirit and bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse. Through *Mission: Rescue Life* you can reach out to save children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved and you can restore their lives with hope for a future.

Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their destiny forever. With gifts of \$64 or \$32, we will combine your support with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of sexual slavery.

With your gift of any amount we will send you the *Songs of Freedom* CD, a collection of ten uplifting worship songs that are sure to become a favorite for your quiet time, drive time, or personal worship.

In addition to the CD, you'll receive *Indivisible*, a powerful soul-stirring book by James Robison and Jay Richards.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may 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: When we set these precious women and children free we want you to have the Songs of Freedom, this is fantastic. It is one of the finest praise tapes. We produced it. We worked with Integrity Music to produce this for you who share freedom. This is how we protect our freedom with understanding of the times -- really important!

I hope you remember stream, lower case: Stream.org. Google it. Go there and go there every day -- several times through the day. We want to give you understanding of the times so that you not only have understanding but understanding of the will of God, and the way to accomplish his purpose with his wisdom in our day to address every concern you've got effectively: stream.org. And then put on Facebook the things you see so others go to the stream. Get people going there because we want to lead people out of darkness into the light of his truth.

Thank you so much for helping. Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*.

Announcer: Be sure to visit stream.org, a rich and lively source for breaking news, analysis, and entertainment! Stream.org