

7/1/15
Week 27 WFL
Wednesdays in the Word
Beth Moore: Jesus and the Man with Demons, #4

James: Thank all of you! Thank you. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison and my wife Betty and I are glad you joined us on *LIFE Today*.

We've got a series of devotionals for every day of the year, "Every Day a New Day." They actually reflect the seasons of the year by the cover and we take you through the entire year just giving you some spiritual insight in the word, giving you an opportunity to journal which is one of the reasons a lot of you enjoy watching and listening to Beth Moore not only in her incredible seminars and wherever she's speaking and sharing but right here on *LIFE Today* all around the world. Beth is talking about the battle we have spiritually.

Betty, the book that really made her famous was breaking free where Beth really brought to the forefront the fact that we're in a spiritual battle, that there's spiritual warfare and we really need the armor of God and the divine enabling of God in order to overcome but also to get out of the ditch, which she says sometimes we fall in it, sometimes we're thrown in it and sometimes we dig it ourselves and get in it. But we all need freedom because we're in a fierce battle and that's what she is talking about. I hope you enjoy what she is sharing.

Welcome Beth Moore. Here she is.

Begin video clip

Beth: Luke chapter eight, verse 26. I'd love to read all the way through 39: Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes and had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, son of the most high God? I beg you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him.)

Everybody say "many a time."

[Audience repeats]

(It had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

We talked about the isolation in our last series, when the enemy has his full way.

Verse 30: Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

One of the oddest moments that you'll ever find in all of the New Testament but I do think it bears notice that when the enemy has his full way, when this herd was infiltrated by all these demons, isn't it interesting that they went off a cliff? If you ever want to know what the enemy wants you to do with your life, it would be to go right off a cliff because they had nothing to hinder him. They had no voice, nothing they could do with that legion, they had their full way with them and went right off that cliff. Anybody know what it is like to be standing right on the edge of a cliff thinking if anybody even breathes on you, you will go over. And I've got good news for you today; you are not going over that cliff, in Jesus' name. Somebody say "in Jesus' name." No! -- Because he has come to save us from the edge of the cliff.

Verse 34: When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.

Now needless to say they've lost their livelihood so they're fairly upset.

Verse 35: Then people went out to see what had happened and they came to Jesus.

They wouldn't have had to do that today, it would be on YouTube. Amen? Like they'd already -- we'd all be watching. It would have like a million views within the first week.

And it says: Then people went out to see what had happened, verse 35, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus -- do not forget this part -- clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

Anybody? This is not really the heart of where we're going in this present series but I do think it is cause for pause; that literally, our restoration and freedom could scare people worse than our bondage. We can be in bondage so long that the people around us are used to our bondage. We are scarier to them when we are free. Anybody? I need somebody. I need somebody because there are people that are so afraid of what people do when they are freed up and do not have that kind of bondage and those kinds of chains on them. They have no idea what to do with a whole person.

Verse 36: And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them.

They asked Jesus to leave because they were so afraid of the deliverance of this man "for they were seized with great fear," it says.

So he got into the boat and returned. By returned it means went over across the lake and went back to Galilee.

Verse 38: The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away saying, "Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

So in the first half of our series we looked at it from the perspective of this. What would an environment look like if the enemy had his full sway? We ever want to see... What would an environment be like if he just got to do everything he could possibly do? You are looking it. Now you might say, "Well, he would have killed him." Well, I am not so sure about that. He is a murderer, the Word of God tells us, Jesus told us that in the gospel of John. We know that for a fact. But I'm not sure he is for doing it really early on because I think he loves to torment people.

See the whole family was torn up because they couldn't subdue him so everybody was upset because he had been put out of the family. He's living around the tombs. See, there is a great impact of somebody in complete torment because it not only torments the one person but everyone who loves them, everyone in community with them, they are also tormented. I need somebody to say amen. Anybody know what I'm talking about? So I'm not just sure he wants to kill us off immediately. I think he gets a whole lot of ground out of tormenting a whole group of people with his activity. I think that's what we're seeing here.

We established four basic points and they were these. I'll give them to you. Number one: Where Satan has his way, people live among the tombs.

We talk about how we cling to things that are long since gone and dead in our lives -- dead relationships -- our dead past - whatever it may be, still clinging around things that are dead and lifeless, instead of being out in the light and with the life of the abundance of Christ.

Number two is: Where Satan has his way, people have no voice. That's huge in the narrative; that the enemy had taken over the voice of the man.

Number three: Where Satan has his way, people feel outmatched.

Number four: Where Satan has his way, people are out of control and out of community.

But in our present series we're going to talk about, especially one dimension of what happens when Jesus has his way. Somebody say out loud: When Jesus has his way. [Audience Repeats]

Listen. If you want life to begin for you just say to him today, "Have your way." If you want to see him begin to do something dramatic, when we just throw open our arms to Jesus and say to him, "You have your way." It is about to happen.

End of clip

Announcer: Still to come!

Beth: You've come to Bible study today to get some new clothes!

[Laughter]

Some new clothes! I like me some new clothes.

In the studio

James: Well, we want God's will and God's way. Beth is going to continue this teaching in just a few minutes but it's been so important to Beth and to all of us that you understand doing it God's way is literally sharing his love freely.

I'm going to show you something right now. I don't know that I've seen many things that moved me this much. It's like we just stepped into a setting that was very real and know we can do something about it -- very real! Very necessary! Watch it and see if you don't want to.

On the mission field

>> This is my water. This is the only water I have. Everyone in the village uses it. Even the animals use this water. I know it is bad water. It is scary but what else can I do?

I have to give that water to all of my children. One day about three months ago my two-year-old girl started vomiting. [Crying]

She was sick all day and she died that night. I am afraid for my other children now. They always complain about their stomachs.

We are separated forever. [Weeping] I can't stop thinking about her. It is so painful.

Tammy: I understand pain well and I understand loss well. I know what that feels like to just feel like you're dying inside because there is nothing you can do to change what's happened in your life. I think that's why I'm here at this moment.

I feel like this is why God has called me here even at this moment to ask you if it would be you -- if you would be the one to help her. It would make a huge difference in the lives of this precious woman and her children, other families in this village and villages all around the world. We can come in here and drill them a well that will give them Water for Life. It will change everything in a moment's time. Please don't hesitate. Don't wait any longer. We need your help.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We know what it feels like to lose a child. It is indescribable. And I wouldn't have shown you that, and that precious mother holding two other children if I didn't know we could stop the continuation of the heartache. We can give those children a future by giving them clean water.

Betty: We can. Maybe you've had someone in your life very close to you and you feel the pain that that mother feels. She's weeping from deep down in her heart. She is -- she has other children but she loves them all so deeply and she is concerned she is going to lose them.

But you know what? There is an answer. There is a way, there is hope and that's through drilling the water wells. We can save families like this. The only thing they have is the diseased water but we can give them pure clean water. Won't you join with us? You'll be so blessed as you do.

James: Please do it. We must drill a well right there. I would like to think there are many of you who would say, "I'll tell you what, I'll drill that one." It does cost \$4800 per well and you must understand that it is that cost, because of all of the savings and efforts that our mission workers and relief workers put into it, and the fact that you bought all the drilling equipment for all the different rigs -- you paid for it! And so they're ready to go. And we know that there is water there that we can get. Many of these wells are relatively shallow, maybe 200-250 feet maximum. But sometimes we have to go further but it averages out \$4800.

I think there is someone saying, "I want to drill that well right there. I want to give those little children -- I want to give them a future. I want to stop the heartache. I can't heal what happened there." She is over that little mound of dirt where her little girl is. Let's not let it happen again.

And please know that there are 500 areas like that where the missionaries have taken us to those situations; where the missionaries are there filled with love and say we want to show these village people and these people in this community in this area what love looks like.

So we want to drill 500 wells. \$4800, maybe you could give \$2400 and pray someone joins you or \$1200 and pray three join you. Most of the money that comes for the wells, for the 500 comes from people who give \$48 or \$144. \$48, ten people water the rest of their lives. That's an amazing gift, it just keeps giving. \$144, 30 people -- that's how it averages out.

Would you right now go to LifeToday.org and make the gift? Use your bankcard like a check. Or you can dial the number and use your bankcard like a check; you should always use that card that way, like a check. Please do it! If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're sending.

We want to send you some beautiful gifts to bless you, a beautiful devotional guide, beautiful "Names of Jesus" pens that you have said, we want those because you've used them to witness, and a beautiful Thomas Kinkade painting, a canvas that you will appreciate already framed.

Please right now go online or dial the number and just express not only your heart but God's heart for precious people like that and so many others that we can help. Thank you for doing it.

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 "Every Day a New Day" devotional broken out into the four seasons of the year. This daily devotional features scriptures, inspirational thoughts, a Bible reading plan, and a place for you to journal each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request "The Names of Jesus" pen set; one inscribed with the names of Jesus found in scripture and the other reflecting the gifts of the spirit.

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 request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

Begin video clip

Beth: I have never, not once, taught on what I'm about to teach you now. So I have a little bit of trepidation about it because it is an odd topic. In fact, if you say to somebody, well, this is what our theme was on Wednesdays in Bible study on *LIFE Today*, when you tell them that, they're not likely to want to really tune in if that's all you tell them. You might have to get a little bit clearer.

Because where I want to go with you is to the place where it says in verse 27; would you look with me? When it says: When Jesus had stepped onto land, there he met a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.

I very specifically did not mention this little detail in the first part of our series because I wanted to save it for our entire time here in our present half of our series on the demoniac in Luke chapter eight because this gets very, very interesting.

For a long time he had worn no clothes. We're going to talk about nakedness. But we're not just going to talk about literal, we're going to talk about it from a theological point of view. It is very literal in Luke chapter eight.

I want to remind you of a portion of Genesis two, in verse 25, in the garden when it says that Adam and Eve had been unclothed and were unashamed. That's how it all began.

But here we see a whole turn of events because from that point forward, once the fall happened in the garden and man went for the bait that the enemy, the serpent himself, had set before them, once that happened then it became a covering over that nakedness. So I want you to think with me in theological terms because that's exactly what we're talking about in our present series; that Jesus Christ clothes us.

I want to talk to you about the theological biblical fact that Jesus Christ clothes us. That whom he restores he also robes. I want somebody to get in that with me. I want somebody to go ahead and say "amen" by faith. Because let me tell you something, where this goes was almost an undoing for me. I was so overwhelmed by the compassion and beauty of Christ.

Now stay with me here for a second. Since the fall of man when we're thinking in terms of a theology of coverage, of being covered by God, I want you to think about what the theology of nakedness would be. That would be open in our shame or open without our dignity, exposing our fallen-ness; is that fair to say?

So I want you to think through this for a moment. When was the last time you felt like you had really exposed your folly? Anybody? I need to ask somebody that's got guts enough to raise their hand in this room, and I'm wondering about on the other side of that screen, anybody ever just flat out embarrassed yourself in front of people?

[Laughter]

Anybody? Anybody embarrassed yourself almost habitually? Anybody had a season that you just didn't embarrass -- it was like a season of embarrassment?

It can happen to us in our workplace. We can come under shame. Maybe we've had a demotion at work, been put in a different position, somebody got that hire instead of us. Something happened where we felt shamed. It can happen in the church, it can happen in any kind of social environment. It can certainly happen in a family and often does happen in a family where you feel like you have lost your dignity and you cannot get it back.

If that has ever been you, or if it ever will be you, listen, you need to tune in because this is one of the most beautiful things that you can possibly find in this narrative where the enemy had come to torment and left this man completely exposed in his shame and he is clothed at the end of the scene and in his right mind. I want you to press in to this story with me.

What happens when people want to remind you of your shame? How you've exposed your foolishness or your stupidity? Have any of those? Let me tell you something. I have got some friends that are stuck back in my old life. I need somebody. And I don't care how many years have gone by, we bring up the same thing about me sooner or later when we have a reunion. Anybody? They go, "Remember when..." Actually, I'm trying not to any longer remember when because stay with me here, it's been decades -- it's been decades! Is there no way we let a person move on?

But have you ever noticed that when you get up courage enough to move on in Jesus, you got people in your life that don't want you to. They do not want you to because they feel power over you as long as they can still remind you of your shame.

Listen! We're about to get some robes on. I'm tired of it. Anybody else? I'm tired of it! I'm the new me. I'm not the old me. And I get to put on a new robe. Anybody? So you come to Bible study today to get some new clothes -- some new clothes! I like me so new clothes.

Now look at something. This is what just killed me. Now I don't know if I'm right about this but I'm going to throw it out to you because here we've got it. What do you have up here at the time of the narrative when it says in 27: For a long time the man had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs; he's got a legion of demons. Come on down, we've seen and read what happens when Jesus calls them forth from him.

But I want you to see now in verse 35. It says: Then the people went out to see what had happened and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed -- everybody say "clothed" -- and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

Clothed! Now wait a second because Jesus came to the shore. He gets off of the boat. The man with the legion of demons meets him on the shore. He's been around the tombs. He's got on no

clothes and now they come out. So he's not gone into town; they come out where he is because they've heard the news. But now he is sitting there in clothes when he's had no clothes.

So I ask you today, how did he get him some clothes? How did he get him so clothes? Because I'm going to tell you, there was not a T.J. Maxx of the Gerasenes. There was not a chest of drawers there among the tombs. The man had no clothes. He meets Jesus; he's got him some clothes. How? I ask you, how? I'm just going to present to you, could it be, just would you hear this out of Isaiah 61:10? I've got chill bumps just shooting right up my arms. I delight greatly in the Lord: My soul rejoices in my God for he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.

I just wonder, if Jesus just took off what was on his shoulders and went, "You know what? Wear this." I don't know. I don't know. He knew what was coming; maybe he grabbed something extra. But what I'm going to tell you is this. The man had no clothes and then he was clothed. The only thing that had changed was Jesus Christ. So this I promise you, Jesus dressed him. Is that fair? Is that fair? Jesus dressed him.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy! I want to tell you something. We really, when we're not right with God, I think there is a sense of you just kind of feel naked and exposed and dear God help us. I mean we're the only creation that can blush, that can actually feel shame but yet God doesn't want us to feel ashamed. He wants to take it away. He wants to dress us.

Remember how he clothed Adam and Eve? He wants to dress us and cover us, cover us with his love. We want to help you grow in that love. That's what Beth's doing. We want to help you get in the word every day a devotional, biblical truth, an opportunity to journal which journaling is such a blessing. Peter Lord is the first person to tell us how meaningful that was and sure enough it is.

We're sending you the beautiful "Names of Jesus" pens that will bless you, be a witness. "The Forest Chapel" painting by Thomas Kinkade, it hangs here in our studio. It is beautiful! We have it in our bedroom. It's just fabulous. We hope you get it. And just know that when you reach out and touch someone with love it's really as though Jesus has touched them because we are his body.

Thank you so much for watching *LIFE Today*. Tell your friends to watch. Tell them about *Wednesdays in the Word*! Thank all of you!