

8/26/15
Week 35: Christmas Shoes and Smiles
Wednesdays in the Word
Beth Moore: Let God Rebuild Your Life, #3

James: Wow! If only I could convince you how exciting it is to us to get to share time with you. Betty and I have been spending a lot of time with a lot of people who love God but who really take him so seriously they love you and they just care so deeply.

When you get around people that just want to help wrap God's arms around a world of hurt it really lifts your spirits. It makes all of us want to do our part sharing his heart, God's. And I just pray you'll join with us.

I want to remind you, now listen to me please, this is the gift that prayer brings about, the stream -- stream.org. I'm prayerfully asking you, I want you to make it a habit to go there through the day, more than once, the news is updated, news that matters to people who care. Stream.org, go there every day and forward things to others. Now you like Beth Moore? Do you all like Beth Moore? Do you all thank God for Beth Moore?

[Applause]

She's a gift from God. She's going to be a blessing to you because God is going to do a work in your life. The title that she calls this is let God rebuild your life. I spoke at Gateway to the family group they have there recently and a young pastor that he said, "I listened to you since I was a teenager. You helped shape my life."

But when he introduced me he said, "God is going to restore your life. It is not like restoring a car." He said, "It takes you beyond where you ever were before." That's where God takes you when he restores you. Let God rebuild your life.

Here's Beth Moore. That's what she is talking about. Watch.

Begin video clip

Beth: There is something I want you to see. It says, "Building yourself up in the most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God." Keep yourselves in the love of God. Now how do we do that? Because we know that at no time can we be in less

loved of God than we were the moment before. It is impossible. He loves us completely. He loves us infinitely. He loves us unconditionally, and never let that thought lose its hold and its awe in you. It's an incredible thing. You don't know anybody else that just completely loves you unconditionally. I mean there is just flat out nothing you can do to run Jesus off -- nothing you can do to get him to betray you or to reject you. That is some kind of love. So we know we can't -- that we never leave his love.

But he is telling us to remain in a mentality, especially when we've been shredded, especially when we feel torn up, especially when we feel torn down, that there's no more important time to keep ourselves in the mentality of I am loved by God -- I am loved by my God. No matter what, no matter where I've been, no matter what has happened to me, no matter what kind of past I come out of, no matter how foolish that was this morning, no matter how foolish that was yesterday, this I do know, as torn down as I feel, I'm loved by my God. I will keep myself in the love of God.

I told a young man not very long ago that was going through such a difficult time, such a mighty, mighty young man of God. Have you ever known -- you just saw someone so gifted, so powerfully gifted that they had just enough edge to them that you kind of were afraid the enemy was going to get a target on them. Just open enough where you thought, oh! And especially because I am the age that I am, I know what it is like to be had. I know what it is like to not see a hold coming and to fall headlong into the bottom of a dry well. Anybody know what I'm talking about? I know what it's like.

So when I look and see younger brothers and sisters that I know the enemy is after with everything he's got, one of the things that I'll think of, and I wrote this young man and said after a deep, deep hurt had happened and after he had just, in his mind, blown it in every way and blown his calling to bits, "Keep yourself in the love of God. That as you heal up, every single day you echo that over and over again."

Listen. I just say this to you. I hope you always have somebody around you that's going, "Your God loves you. Your God loves you. Your God loves you. Your God loves you." I hope you have somebody doing that. But you know what the Word of God says? You can do it with yourself. Because the Word of God says it is true. You don't have to have anybody give you permission to feel loved by the God of the universe. You just already are -- you just already are. We keep looking for other people to affirm us.

Listen. When nobody else is around, you can still look in the mirror and go, "This I know, based on the authority of the scriptures, I am loved by my God and nothing I have done has run him off." Anybody getting that with me? It doesn't get any better than that. It doesn't get better than that.

There's this wonderful time, many of you may be familiar with it but I just love it. At the very end of first Samuel in chapter 30, verse six, David is beside himself. The enemy has come and come against the people that have gathered around him and followed him. All the men were off fighting a battle and the women and the kids were taken. They've been kidnapped. They're just all completely beside themselves. And it says in verse six of First Samuel 30: And David was greatly distressed for the people spoke of stoning him because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God -- strengthened himself.

I love the King James rendering: David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. I hope you always have someone to encourage you. I'd want to. I want to. Many of you are sitting next to somebody you have mutual encouragement with. That's a beautiful thing. But what if nobody is there? What if nobody is there? Do you have a relationship with the living Lord Jesus Christ through his Word to where you know what is true about the way he feels about you? Do you know it?

Because listen, sometimes there is no one there. Sometimes nobody is going to come along and encourage you in the Lord. Sometimes there is not going to be somebody there to go, "You are really a wonderful person of great value. You are highly esteemed." All of these things would be true but nobody is there to say it.

Could you know it is true based on the authority of the scriptures? That's what I'm asking you. Building yourselves up in the most holy faith. Knowing that what he says is true. Being able to rehearse it in our own ears; saying it with our mouth, believing it with our heart, "I know my redeemer lives. I know my redeemer loves me, has given his life for me, been raised from the dead in my behalf and left a tomb empty for me. I know my God loves me." Sometimes a wound doesn't heal just right until it gets hit again. Anybody? Been hit in the same place over and over? And then one day you go, "You know what? I think I'm ready to get over that now."

[Laughter]

"I think now since I've been back in this cycle about five times, I've been hurt in the same way over and over, had the same taste in men, the same taste in women, the same taste in relationship. I've been doing this same thing, this same wound over and over, and then one day it gets hit again and you think, maybe now would be a great time to start getting over it.

Just here about a week and a half ago our bird dog --

James and Betty, and Keith and I are all dog freaks. And Keith and I have two dogs; he has a bird dog and I have a border collie.

Our bird dog was just sitting kind of rolled up in kind of an odd way shaking on the couch. My grandkids were over, my kids were over, so a lot was going on. So I had not noticed that anything was wrong. But Amanda looked over at her; I'd been getting supper ready and just been active with the kids. And Amanda looked over and says, "Mother! She's hurt!"

And we looked carefully at her and she had -- I'm not going to really describe it too much to you. Well, I probably am. But I mean I am talking a gash this big in her side; that we have a gate, we have a really old iron fence in our backyard and the gate is one of those kind that you pull it up and you slip it into a slot like this; that's how you open it and close it and this portion is pointed. Somehow, this is what happened to her because it was exactly that height and it happened to one of our other animals. It's just going to have to be totally redone to keep it from happening.

But she obviously pushed it through and when she did, instead of waiting for it to open, it kind of had tension on it and it just ripped right through her side. And it was awful! It was awful! Honestly, it was so grotesque that I had to sit down. I thought, honestly, I'm going to honestly have a glass of water before I can even deal with the dog.

We took her to the emergency animal E.R. Because why? -- Because it never happens when your normal vet is just simply open. No, no! It has to be to the tune of you know how many dollars. Well, because it had been a while since she'd been out, by the time they took us, we were there about two hours before they ever took us in. By the time the vet saw us she said, "How long has it been?"

I said, "Well, I'm not positive but she'd been running out on our acres, it had been two hours before we ever realized she was hurt. She had been in the house since then, but she had just been kind of curled up. We didn't know anything was wrong. Then she'd waited two more hours until they got to her.

And so by this time she goes, "Well, that's the bad part of not being able to get her in right away."

I said, "What do you mean?" Y'all stay with me here for a second.

She said, "Well, what we're going to have to do..." And she said, "She won't feel it because she will be completely, this will be completely deadened," but she said, "Notice that that skin is already curling under." She said, "It's not going back together, it's curling under." She said,

"What I'm going to have to do is I will have to go back around it and I will have to then cut the edges all over again and give them the signal to heal."

It was like, you've got to be kidding me.

She said, "Then at that point, with it cleaned out and re-cut, I can sew it back together and it knows, it will begin to heal itself."

It was fascinating to me -- fascinating because I thought, how often does that happen where we just let a gash go? Instead of letting him tend to it and it's not until its cut again that we go, "Now I'm ready to lay still, let you do what it takes, to pull my hand away, and invite you, get to this wound and heal me."

Some of you were just convinced that you were going to have to live with this thing, this mental stronghold, this addiction, this very destructive way of life, this career infidelity for the rest of your life. That is not true in Christ -- that is not true in Christ. You can -- you can find wholeness in him. You can find healing for your mind and healing for your emotions. I want to turn you to scriptures I love so much. In Isaiah 61, before we conclude -- Isaiah 61.

I want to show you something. Isaiah 61, I'm going to read verses 1-4 to you. These verses are so precious to me. They're precious to many of you if you're familiar with them. You love them for your own reasons because it talks about what becomes the ministry of Christ in Luke chapter four. This is the job description that God gives to his own son that he fulfills in his earthly ministry, and in his death and his resurrection. But it's so beautiful because it is about setting the captive free and the release to the prisoners.

Listen to what it says. There is one part I want you to see in verse four. But let me get there. The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to grant to those...

Verse three: To grant to those who mourn in Zion, to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit, that they might be called the oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that he may be glorified.

Watch what happens next in verse four, look carefully: They shall build up the ancient ruins. They shall raise up the former devastations. They shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. They shall build it back up. They shall repair it. I want you to stay with

me for just a moment because I want to just suggest to you that maybe a few things in the entire human experience that we can go through are more Christ-like and more like our God than not only when we build but we rebuild; not only when we create but we repair.

I want you to think about that if we had not had a God willing to reconstruct, the world would have ended in the days of Noah. I want to suggest to you that it takes creativity, ingenuity, its own kind of faith to create something, to do a work from scratch.

But I'd like to just push you a little bit further and say there may not be anything that is more Christ-like than when it all falls apart that you are willing to work with God to see that thing come back together. We just move on to the next thing and leave it in crumbles but there is no redemption.

What happens when a people, when a person will go, "I'll take a deep breath, I'm willing to go the work, let's rebuild."

Somebody listening today is rebuilding a business, rebuilding a marriage, rebuilding a home, rebuilding a devastated reputation, rebuilding a body after an accident. It takes a whole different thing than just starting something from scratch because it doesn't just take creativity.

Somebody stay with me here -- it takes commitment -- commitment! A whole different kind of faith -- and that God would do it in the first place but would he do it in the second place? Would he do it in the third place? Would he do it in the fourth place? That takes a whole different level of faith. That takes some perseverance -- some perseverance; that aspect of bearing God's image that can only come from joining him and not just building but rebuilding -- rebuilding.

Here's what I want to say to you as we end. I want you to appreciate what may be one of the most beautiful prefixes in the entire English vocabulary in scripture and those are the two letters R-E. Beautiful, beautiful letters! I just want you to appreciate today the re- in restoration, the re- in renewal, the re- in return, the re- in remember, the re- in rejoice, the re- in reconcile, the re- in repair, the re- in replant, and the re- in rebuild; because somebody is so stuck in the re- of regret that they can't get to the rebuild. This I promise you, based upon the authority of the Word of God, he wants to put you back together again.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Father, I just pray that everyone listening will understand no matter where the pieces

are, if they will let you the master designer direct their steps and their acts, there is nothing that can't be put back together more perfectly than we imagine. No life, no heart, even a relationship that can't be supernaturally repaired or corrected in order to rebuild; in Jesus' name.

You yield the clay to the master potter, let him shape it.

Betty, we've got sitting here in front of us something that we've become so fond of, these little shoes. This is a Christmas ornament. I know this is summertime, you're not supposed to talk about Christmas. Well, you do talk about it if you want to get the resources and have little shoes made for little feet that they never had any shoes all over the world.

Then you want to get ahead of the curve so we can do two things by Christmas, not only send you a beautiful little Christmas ornament, as a matter of fact, we're going to send you a whole box of them, all we've made if you'll just help give the shoes and give smiles because we want to do cleft palate surgery, little kids will smile when they see somebody loves them, sometimes they can't smile very good but we can correct that with love. I want you to look in on an opportunity to love and don't you love seeing what love does?

Betty: I do! These children, when they get these shoes they're just so thrilled. It is like the biggest thing they've ever received.

James: It's awesome! And the thing about it is it saves a lot of lives and health. Watch this.

On the mission field

Ralph: At *LIFE Outreach* we try to help children all around the world in various forms. In so many different ways we want to bless these kids. One of the things we like to do this particular season of the year is we like to bring shoes to their lives.

These guys run around. Their feet are getting torn up by the terrain. They're stepping on stuff, hookworms, all those things that come into their little lives. And this time of the year we just like to bless them with a pair of shoes. I think this is a beautiful thing that *LIFE* does.

We're just asking for your help that by your generous gift we can provide a little pair of shoes for a guy who has never had his own pair of shoes. So it's really difficult to put in words how much your gift of shoes will change this little guy's life because he won't have to run around in all this terrain barefooted and all the dangers that are there with no shoes. Look at them running right through all that with their shoes. Look at that!

[Laughter]

That's what it's about right there.

Open captions:

>> Thank you for my new shoes.

End of clip

In the studio

James: God bless you, little fella!

Betty, just tell us what it does for you. I want to say a thank you again, not only for standing with me all the years that I went all over this nation preaching and around the world and then you going to the ends of the earth with me, thank you for doing that -- but for sharing your heart. And when you see the children like we've seen and then realize what this can do, what goes on in a mother's heart?

Betty: I think, of course, when our children were small, I'd say, "Okay, you've worn these shoes out. Let's go buy a new pair of shoes." Never thinking, never even understanding that there are some children that have never had shoes, James.

You and I have been over there and we've seen these precious little feet that God loves so much -- he loves all these precious children -- and to look at their little feet and some of them with sores on them and some of them just chewed up because of what they have to walk on, the filthy, dirty terrain that they have day after day after day.

When you put a pair of shoes on their feet, James, the smiles, it's just all the reward we need just to look at their faces. They're just like so surprised like these are for me? Really -- for me? That's what I feel like is coming back from them. It's just like it's the biggest, best gift they've ever had. And it's so much more than that, James. They look at it as a gift like that but I look at it in my heart and say, God, it is going to help them stay well. They're not going to step on that old terrain that has rocks and all kinds of disease that they get in their feet because they don't have shoes to protect them. That's what I think about.

I thank you so much because you've always been so giving and loving in helping us put shoes on the feet of these children. And not only that, but helping us fix some of them, their teeth, James so they can smile and that's the biggest thing! Put a smile on their faces.

James: Well, we know that you have proven to us that you not only love God, you love others

and you express it with an act. You don't love just in word, but you love in deed, you love in action.

You can go to LifeToday.org or you can dial that number. Take your bankcard and use it like a check. What we're asking you to do is help us provide these shoes. This is a tiny little foot and we've got the sizes to reach the different children in the different areas where the missionaries are going to be distributing them.

We start way early for Christmas. So we're asking you to make the gift God puts on your heart: \$36 and you've got ten pairs of shoes; \$144 as an example, you've got 40 pair. What we're asking you to do, please, is give us often opportunity also to say thanks with the little shoe ornaments. If you give a gift of over \$100, we're going to send you not only a new one this year but we're going to send you every one of them that we've had for the last years.

Betty, we have people come into our home and look at the tree and see those little shoes and start talking about it and we begin talking about sharing the love of God; not just talking about Christmas, but about the love of God through Christ and that we can share it with others.

So would you make the gift God put on your heart? We're going to share blessings with you that will mean a lot to you, to encourage you and inspire you around Christmas. But you're going to be giving not only shoes but like Betty said, for the surgeries, we're going to correct cleft palates and other problems to give these children smiles.

Would you go LifeToday.org and give life today? Or would you dial the number, take your bankcard, and use it like a check, how you should always use it? Thank you so much for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it, children needlessly suffer not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children, they've never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

By responding today you can help *LIFE* immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will help provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

With your gift of any amount be sure to request this beautifully crafted green antique shoe ornament, a treasure to place on your tree each holiday season. With your gift of \$100 or more you may also request a special boxed set of *LIFE*'s Christmas shoe ornaments from past years.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries. And you may request our beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: It's amazing that \$3.60 will buy what most people pay \$30 for. These Velcro straps, they can grow a little bit to keep them on and they just don't wear out, just like leather doesn't. It's amazing. It's what love does.

It was a businessman that came to us and said, "I found something. We can get these done -- could we do it?" I want to thank you. And we want to send you the little Christmas ornaments.

Look, whatever you can do, know one pair of shoes is not too little, not for that child but do all you can to help. We want to say thank you. And stream.org -- remember it -- go there, get understanding of the times so we not perish and lose freedom because of the lack of the knowledge of the truth.

Thank all of you for being here. Thank you for watching! Appreciate you being here.