

9/23/15 - Week 39
Christmas Shoes and Smiles: Last Week
Wednesdays in the Word
Beth Moore: Built Together #3

Randy: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Randy Robison. My parents are taking a needed break. So I asked Miss Sheila Walsh to join me this week. Sheila, glad to have you!

Sheila: I'm thrilled to be here, particularly on a day where we're introducing the master of all masters of Bible teaching.

Randy: Well, that's quite a compliment coming from you.

Sheila: Oh, gosh! Whenever I do any of Beth's Bible studies I'm moved by two things: How profoundly personal she is in what she shares, and yet the incredible depth of what she shares.

Randy: Yes! After listening to Wednesdays with Beth for years now, I still watch the program and I go, wow! That is great. And it is the depth.

Sheila: The thing I love is how much she studies. She puts in so much work and you're going to be the beneficiary of that right now.

Randy: Let's take a listen. This is Beth Moore.

Begin video clip

Beth: Listen. I ran the word *build* in my Bible software so I could see every single place it is used. It's definitely a concept in the scriptures but you need to look up also built up, all the different forms of the word *building*. But I just looked up the word *build* and so it appeared in my E.S.V. 137 times. But I found it so fascinating that the very first time, the very first mention of the word *build* in all of scripture happens to be so telling and it's in Genesis 11:4. Maybe you're familiar with the building of the tower of Babel.

It says this:

"Let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Isn't that interesting? Very first use of the word *build* and it's "let us build a place for ourselves. Let us make a name for ourselves."

So here's what God does. He says, "No, I'm going to put a challenge on you that is going to go against everything your flesh would want" because your flesh would just want to be a rock star, not a rock stack. Your flesh would want to be scattered out there where you don't have to answer to anyone, nobody holds you accountable, and you don't have to put up with people that in your natural man you would not even like. So I'm going to challenge you with this: That you, as living stones, are going to be built in as a holy priesthood into a holy temple to the Lord to make a name for my glory alone.

I'm going to show you something. I want you to glance back. Do you still have something there in First Chronicles 22? It's been a while since we've been there but turn back there with us if you would please. First Chronicles 22 and I want to show you something. First Chronicles 22:11-13.

This is David, he is charging Solomon with the task of building the great temple for the glory and the majesty and the fame of God. So he's giving him the charge. He's brought together all the materials, made all the preparations and so now he's going to give him this commissioning. And in verse 11 through 13 of First Chronicles 22 it says this:

Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you. Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God. Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

And he's telling him over and over again, he says it again down in verse 18:

"Is not the Lord your God with you? And has he not given you peace on every side? For he has delivered you..."

He calls him again and again, "Be strong and courageous." Let me tell you something, this is parallel number two. Parallel two is this: Our individual God-ordained works should scare our flesh to death. I want to say that again. Our individual God-ordained works, whatever you're doing here on the planet, that he put you in this generation and positioned you in your sphere of influence on planet earth, whatever you were called to do by God, that if we really got it, it would scare our flesh to death. That's why David has to say over Solomon, "Be strong and courageous."

If you've gotten any history in the Word of God, do those words sound familiar at all? Because they come right out of Joshua chapter one when God said to Joshua and he says it three times in that first chapter, "Be strong and very courageous. Do not be afraid. I am with you."

In Deuteronomy 31, I believe it is, Moses says it over Joshua before Moses is taken off by himself and dies. He says to him, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. The Lord is with you." Listen. If we only got it, if you got what you had been called to do, if you understood and if I understood the true impact of it, it would scare us half to death. Whatever you're doing on the planet at this hour is going so take courage to do it. It will take courage to do the will of God. It will take bravery to fulfill your calling. It won't be something you can just do in your flesh. It won't be something you can just do by routine. It won't be something that you're just so talented at, it takes no real work for you. No, whatever you were put on this earth to do, if it were you naturally doing it, it would scare you to death and it would scare me to death.

I love that he tells the people, that David tells the people, "Listen! Solomon is young and inexperienced." Think how faithful God is. How often he entrusts so much of the leadership of the church even to the young and the inexperienced. I tell you even today I'll look back. I'll probably get back to my hotel room and think, why did I say that? Well, you can imagine when I look back and something I taught at 29, I'm just going, "Why did I say that?" Anybody know what I'm talking about? Last year, "Why exactly did I say that?" -- Because young and inexperienced.

I was thinking about something that just blessed me so much. Some months ago we had one of those big professional shredders come to the ministry so that we could just get rid of a bunch of papers without just dumping them intact into the big garbage bins. So we brought in a big shredder and so we were compiling all of these ledgers, all of these records, all of these papers that we just had no further use for but it just weren't for public knowledge; getting them all out there to be taken care of. I looked at one of the ledgers for job descriptions and with one of the young women that was working for the ministry at that time, one of her job descriptions it said over to the side, "Feed the fish."

[Laughter]

"Feed the fish." It meant, it wasn't like it didn't mean like when you answer the phone like, "Feed the fish." Like when you send out tapes, feed... no, we had like goldfish and it meant sprinkle the fish -- sprinkle the fish food in the fish tank. Feed the fish. So I mean, she just like faithfully fed the fish. The reason why I bring this to you is because today she directs the entire ministry because she was very, very serious about how well she fed the fish. Anybody getting that with me? Because that's what it takes when we do it right there.

We're being built together, that was our first parallel into this holy dwelling place for God. Our second parallel, our individual God-ordained works would scare our flesh to death. The third one is this. Parallel number three is this: God is more than with us. His spirit is in us. I want you to just get that with me if you're in Christ. God is more than with us. His Holy Spirit lives within us. This was the miracle and the beauty when he told his disciples in John 14 and John 16, when he taught them about the Holy Spirit and said to them, "Listen. It's going to be a good thing in John 16:7 that I go because when I go, I can send the comforter to you." Right now he is with you but then he says, he will be in you. Over and over David says to Solomon, "The Lord is with you. The Lord is with you. Your God is with you. Your God is with you."

Sometime ago I just threw out a couple of questions on Twitter to see how people would answer it. It was so intriguing to me as I looked at their responses. Here were the two questions that I threw out. Number one was this: What would you do if you believed to your core that your God was with you? If you were truly convinced into the marrow of your bones, you thought, my God is with me. What would you do if you were convinced to marrow of your bones that your God was with you?

And then here was the second question: What if it turned out that you were more important than you thought?

[Laughter]

Anybody? What if it turned out that you were really more important than you thought? It was the most interesting thing to see how people responded. For one thing, they did not like, a number of them did not like being asked what if it turned out that they were important? Because they wanted to say back, "No one is important but God." We all get that. No one is like God. God sits alone upon his throne. He is infinite. He is all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful. But listen. He has entrusted a lost world to our care and to the caring of the gospel through the power of his spirit and by the authority of his Word. We are important on this planet in this hour. You are important in your neighborhood. You are important in your home. You may be the only believer in your home. You're important in what you bring to the mix on planet earth at this hour.

I just thought it was so interesting. Someone else said to me an answer I found intriguing. She said, "I would love to think that I was the best at something for God -- that I was the best at something for God." I totally get what she means; to bring my best offering and to be the best at it for God. I get that in every way. Don't misunderstand what I'm about to say. But I just want to bring this point to the mix. Why, in order to do something that would really matter, would we have to be the best at it? You have to be the best worship leader that ever led worship? Or can

you just lead worship with all your heart, with all your soul and your mind and your strength? Do we have to be the best teacher? -- The best disciple? The very best at this -- best singer, best writer, best everything -- best everything. No, we don't! Let God just fill us with his spirit. Let's bring him our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. Listen. We don't have to be the best to do the good. Let's do some good while we're here. Listen. We can get so completely paralyzed in trying to be the best at something we never do any good. Let's just do some good and not worry about who is best because all the competition is absolutely killing us. What if we believed our God was really with us?

I started thinking about the fact that it is very possible that we confuse "God is with me" with "God is watching me." Anybody want to go there with me? -- That down deep in our minds and our hearts are we confusing the two? Do we find it very encouraging that our God is always with us? Yes, in us, by way of his Holy Spirit. But your God is very much with you, he is very much for you. But that part of us that kind of gets creeped out is that we think that for God to be with us, that means that he's always watching us. Well, of course, he always sees us. Of course, he is with us. His Holy Spirit abides within us. But I want to tell you like if you thought that you were trying on something at Dillard's and there were cameras that were in the dressing room, that would be creepy. That would be creepy because that's just somebody watching you. And we get this somehow. We think he's after me to swat me with a fly swatter for doing something wrong, instead of my God is with me. His spirit dwells in me.

I've got to show you something in First Chronicles 22:11 where it says:

Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God, as he has spoken concerning you.

This is our fourth and final parallel: Through the Holy Spirit we have everything we need to succeed -- to succeed.

Listen. Because of so much misinterpretation about prosperity at times, and all of the things that can go awry in our doctrine, we have grown allergic in a segment of the body of Christ to the word *succeed*. But let me tell you something, it is a biblical word -- it is a biblical word. You were meant and I am meant to succeed at what God has called us to do -- that our God is with us. He's given us some materials we need.

He's called us together to build this thing together, to be stone upon stone, not rock stars but rock stacks; given us everything we need. And what we want is that when we lay this down and we become part of the great cloud of witnesses in the heavenlies, they're cheering on what's going on down here on earth, that we did our jobs -- that we did our jobs. That we succeeded.

You know what success will be as a church? -- That we gave God an environment through which to show off. That -- that is what it's about. Did we give him the platform to show his great glory -- not our own -- to speak the authority of his great word -- not our own -- to bring forth the good news of the gospel throughout the globe? Did we give him that opportunity stone upon stone upon stone?

I love that at the very end of First Chronicles 22, David says to Solomon in verse 19:

Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the Lord God,

That is what we're called to -- that is what we're called to. You know what? We cannot fix everything that's broken. We cannot talk those who are absolutely bent on tearing the church apart out of tearing it apart. But you and I can be part of the group of believers that builds up instead of tears down; that comes together in the midst of our diversity, in the midst of all of our differences, and sometimes even in the midst of our disagreements, but we say, "We want to be together, stone upon stone, a dwelling place for God, a platform for his glory." That will be success.

But he showed the world his goodness, his grace, his mercy, his salvation on the platform built of our very lives.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: That's what we're here to do. We're here to build up each other, to build the kingdom of God. We want to be those people who build up. That's why we bring Beth and others to you every day on *LIFE Today*. We want to build you up. At the same time, we want you to be involved in building up others and in building the kingdom of God here on earth. We have a wonderful way of doing that.

Sheila: It's one of the things I've always loved about this ministry is that not only do you encourage those of us who are guests or who have the opportunity every now and again to sit in this seat, but the way that you really make a practical difference in the life of others, and the life of other children. This project that we're going to show you is something that is going to move you so profoundly. If you're a mom or a dad, or if you've ever had a mom or dad, this is going to really move you.

Randy: Yeah, and a lot of what we do is emergency relief but sometimes we want to do

something a little more. There is a level of life and death in this outreach, the shoes and smiles. I just want you to take a look because this is something that radically can change a child's life and it's a great expression of Christ at a great time of year when we celebrate Christmas. Watch this!

On the mission field

Kathy: Well, that's awful! That is awful! I can't even imagine just walking around with this toe -- all the dirt and the gravel, it looks so infected. I'm afraid it's going to start creeping up his foot. The thing about it is if he'd just had this shoe on -- just the simple things that we take for granted -- if he'd just had this shoe on his foot, this wouldn't have happened.

Chris: One of the reasons these shoes are so important, walking barefoot, they can contract a lot of diseases so I'm looking at their feet right now and the toenails are completely gone. They feel like the bottom of your shoe probably does.

Announcer: This year, you helped *LIFE Outreach* provide food and water for children all over the world and they're eternally grateful. This coming Christmas season we'd like to put an extra smile on their face by giving them a pair of shoes for their very own. And for children who have difficulty smiling because of a cleft palate, doctors are available to perform corrective surgery giving them a chance for a healthy life.

Chris: Melanie. There you go, Melanie.

Announcer: This coming season, help us provide children Christmas shoes and smiles.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: I love seeing that! Don't you like seeing them smile?

Sheila: The thing that is amazing to me, Randy is I think of what Christmas morning is like in our house, and there is just wrappers everywhere. When Christian was little he played with the box more than he played with what was in it. But the simple joy that came to one of those children who just received their very first pair of shoes.

Randy: And a lot of times it is their very first pair of shoes.

Sheila: It's so little. So often you think, if I knew what Jesus would do, I would do it. This is a no-brainer. You don't even have to pray about this. It's so clear that that's what Christ would

have us do, to reach out to children and to give them a gift that will probably change their life. If they got a cut on their foot and they get an infection their whole immune system is compromised. But a simple pair of shoes, as a Christmas gift, could change everything!

Randy: You don't normally think of shoes as a life or death situation like we do with the water and the food but it actually can be, like you say -- the infections, it's hard to watch. I'm not a big feet person anyway. It's hard to watch but you need to see it because you need to understand that we can do something about it; \$3.60 provides shoes for a child. Your gift of \$36 will provide shoes for ten children. Some of you can give more than that; \$144 provides shoes for 40 children.

And then the surgeries, the cleft palate, the cleft lip. In the United States, we just take care of that when the kid's young but in these third-world countries it is a big deal to go in and do a surgery. But we can do it. And that will give that child the ability to smile. I think it will put a smile on your face too when you know that you've reached out on Christmas to share the love of Christ with these children.

Your gift of \$500 will provide the surgery; a gift of \$1,000 will provide the surgery and will provide 275 pairs of shoes. That's a lot of children with a lot of shoes and a lot of smiles on Christmas. So I hope you will do what you can. We have some wonderful gifts that we would like to give you when you participate.

Sheila: Do you know one of the things we want to do? Barry and I decided and there is another thing we're going to do, of which I think I get to do in another program, I'll tell you about. But we want to pay for like 40 pairs of shoes but wrap a present and put it under our tree, and inside just put a simple card. I want our son to unwrap this present; that he'll see part of the Christmas money went to provide shoes for other children. I think that's great to include our kids.

Some of these kids, they're not waiting on the latest iPhone. A simple pair of shoes would change their life. And how much more do you think you and your family would just enjoy Christmas when you know that you've extended beyond your own four walls to make such a difference? Can you imagine how that will impact the mom and dad to think that somebody they will never meet down on this earth, cared enough about them to take time to send some shoes to their children for Christmas?

Randy: Thank you by the way for doing that!

Sheila: Our joy!

Randy: And thank you for participating. This is the last week. We need to wrap this up, no pun intended. And we're going to help a lot of kids so call!

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."

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

End of clip

On the mission field

James: Well, we literally stopped by the road where I say we knew we would bring them shoes and I'm confident that we will because children like these need shoes -- all over the world. It is amazing. You may say, "Why would they stop and let you take a picture with them?"

Well, the truth is they stopped because I just got out and sat down here on the road and smiled at them. And they came over and started sitting down by me.

Then we explained to the parents through our missionary interpreter that our plan was to come right back to this area, this village and bring shoes. So that is our intention. But it is going to take you making that possible.

I'm asking you to give as many pairs of shoes as you can to put on these beautiful, beautiful feet of these beautiful children. Thank you! Thank you for your help!

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: I do hope you'll call. You can change the life of not just a child for a short time but many children for a long time. So please do what you can.

Sheila: It might seem a little bit early for Christmas. People are thinking, you're talking about Christmas already? But we want to get this done. We want to be able to get the shoes into the hands of those children so that Christmas day really will be a miracle for every single one of those children.

Randy: Absolutely! Please call and go to the web site. If you missed parts one and two of Beth's message you can see those online at LifeToday.org. I want to mention if you have a Roku download the *LIFE Today* channel. You can watch Beth, you can watch the daily show and much, much more. Thank you! We'll see you next time on *LIFE Today*!