

11/25/15
Week 48: Fall Mission Feeding
Wednesdays in the Word
Beth Moore: The Mark of God #3

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today* and *Wednesdays in the Word*. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: We're thrilled to have you join us, and all of you who are here. If you have never come to one of our tapings on Tuesday night we normally tape several programs with people that you would enjoy hearing and getting to know and be real close to them. Do you all agree that the presence of the Lord is here and you really feel like you're in his presence when you come? And it would be a blessing to people just to be here. *Wednesdays in the Word*, Beth Moore is the one that inspired that. Join with us and she said, you've got to expand it to bring in some other great teachers that are anointed and let's share them and we do it. But this is Beth and she is talking about the mark of God. Would you welcome Beth Moore? Here she is.

Music

Wednesdays in the Word volume 4, session 4

Beth: I asked you earlier what you've been most scarred by. Think of ways that has left a signature on you. I don't doubt like whose signature has been left on you.

I come from a background of abuse so I know what it is like to be misused, and for so much of my life I bear that scar -- I bear that scar. So in a way when I thought, listen, this is one reason why you want to deal with your stuff, because I actually do not want that man's name written in my skin. You know what I mean. I'm speaking metaphorically here but is anything getting this with me? Somebody's betrayed us, somebody's rejected us, and we just continue to bear that scar, that feeling of that some of the people that have hurt me most, it's like I'm walking around with them with their name branded by an iron on me. Why would I want that? Anybody?

Anybody had a partner betray you in business? Still so angry about it. In a way here you are trying to get him out of your head and it feels like he is branded on you. His signature is just written on you. An ex- perhaps, a bully, somebody who rejected or betrayed you. Here is what

this series is all about from this point forward, I am proposing to you that every one of those scars, every one of those signatures of someone who did you wrong and hurt you in a way that has lasted a very long time leaving a mark, every one of those signatures can be turned into the signature of Christ on your life -- every one of them! You do not have one that cannot -- not one that cannot -- not one that cannot. From your worst abuse, from the worst thing you've ever gone through, the worst thing that has ever scarred you, nothing is beyond God taking it and it becoming a mark of Jesus Christ.

This is what I'm talking about. That you get through something, work it through with Jesus to such an extent that it becomes an identifying mark of him instead of the mark of the other human or circumstance. In other words, when you think back on it, it now not just reminds you of that person that hurt you or that situation that hurt you, that car wreck, you look back on it and you think, "Oh, I remember breaking my arm all the way through like that. I remember -- that is when I got to know Christ the way I know him now. I tell you what. This doesn't just remind me of a car accident, this right here reminds me of Jesus. This is when Jesus and I started something together that completely transformed my life. Anybody tracking with me in this? This is what we're talking about in this series.

Here's the deal. Some of us are still so very much wearing the stigma of our past -- a stigma of pain, a stigma of shame, and it needs drastically and dramatically to be turned into this signature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So here's the deal. So we have all been scarred. Let's all say it together. I've been scarred.

[Audience Repeats]

Say I've been scarred by life.

[Audience Repeats]

So here's the thing. Here's the scar, we've got them, we've got them, that's all there is to it. But we can either become marred by them or we can become marked by them. It's going to be one or the other and I want to propose to you, you get to make that decision. If you will trust in Christ, nothing gets to just mar you. No, it does not! It gets to put a mark on you that identifies you with Christ in such a way that it becomes the sign of intimacy, of a true heart knowledge and mind engagement with the living savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we've been building an acrostic together so I need you to tell me what those things are. We've been building an acrostic of the word what? Mark. And so we've got an M and what was that M?

All: My life bears indelible marks.

Beth: My life bears indelible marks. We've all been marked up by living on this planet. But here's A, and this is important.

All: A mark leaves a signature.

Beth: A mark leaves a signature. But we get to decide if we would allow Christ to work with us so intimately and so personally, and through the power of his Word and through the power of his spirit that we're just not marred by it but we're marked by it. And that signature of somebody else or some other circumstance gets to be rewritten into a signature of Christ. That that "marked" for us means that it goes from being a mark of who hurt us -- is anybody listening to me? -- to the mark of who healed us. Anybody? That mark gets to go from the mark of who hurt us to the mark of who healed us because listen carefully -- listen carefully, something happens between a wound and a scar and it is called a healing. One way you know if it is still a wound is if you press on it and the thing still hurts. A scar was not supposed to still throb. Something happens in there -- a healing.

I told you I was going to ask you a couple of questions. One was: What has scarred you most in your adult life? But the second question is this: Has that scar been rewritten into a signature of Christ? I figured that there are three answers to that. Any one of the three; yes, yes, it has. I can now say I can look back on that situation and go, you know what? Yes, it does remind me of that person and that situation but really, what it reminds me of is Jesus. I cannot tell you how he came for me in that situation. How he redeemed me. How he picked me up. I thought my life was over and look what he did. Really what it reminds me of is Jesus. Our answer could be yes.

Our answer could be no, no! I'm still scarred and when I think about that scar all I can think about is I get that face in my mind right there. I know about that one too. No!

Or maybe a third possible answer is, the penmanship is beginning to change. What used to be so clearly this name, oddly, the very beginning of that scar is beginning to look a whole lot like a J. Anybody? Anybody?

I've got to tell y'all a story. I taught this material about a year ago at a Living Proof Live event in Phoenix, Arizona. We have three sessions at a Living Proof Live. The worship for 30 minutes; then about an hour and a half of teaching. Then we have the whole thing again the next morning: 30 minutes of worship, about an hour and a half of teaching. Then we take a

break, come back for a shorter worship and a shorter session. Then we end with raucous worship.

But in the last session, the last couple of years the Lord has had me going up. He's asked me to go off road instead of having my notes so tightly wound. You talk about somebody that's trying to control every minute of that event from beginning to end -- every minute has got a point to be made. I go in with my notes ready and I try to stick with my notes. I beg God to stick with my notes. I'm like, "You know what?"

[Laughter]

"You see these!"

And he began to challenge me. I had a good friend that said -- I told her one time. She's from a different tradition in the body of Christ, very much a lover of Jesus. But I said one time, "I just don't see responses like that." She goes, "Beth, people are responding. You never give them a chance to." It was true! We have an invitation for them to come forward and we'd have prayer but as far as I wasn't going out and getting testimonies. So the Lord really put it on my heart, third session, go out in the audience.

Okay, now listen. I need y'all to stay with me. I just randomly choose where I'm going to walk. Random. So I was -- it was thousands of people in this arena in Phoenix and so I have a security guard who is with me and I usually give him a little bit of heads up which direction I'm going to head; he just kind of stays about 10 feet behind me. I head up. And so I'm just looking around the sanctuary and I just go. I can't even say that I feel spirit led, necessarily, because I just go like, "I guess I'll walk there." Now I do believe God's spirit is leading that but in that moment, I'm just going pick, and I'm going to go there.

So I pick a random place in the arena. It's even in layers; you know what I'm talking about? So there's this set of seats and then you go up to another floor and you go up to the next risers of seats and then the next. I go -- I keep walking. So I'm talking, the spotlights on me, I'm still talking to the audience. I'm walking up. I get to a place and I wish I knew how many stairs I'd taken. Y'all, exactly the number, whatever it was. Say I'd walked up maybe 34 steps. I get to a step and I turn around like this and so I begin to tell myself. I'm just going to ask, "Does anybody have a testimony?" I always pick an area of the group, "Anybody just want to speak back into this? Anybody got a testimony of a time that you really believe that God has taken a scar and rewritten it into a signature of Jesus."

So I'm right there. I turn like this. About three, I'm going to say four, I'm going to get it in my head, about four people down I look over here and a young woman, her eyes are this big and

she is holding her hand up like this. I mean like she looks like I cannot even tell you -- like she's seen a ghost. She holds her hand up like this. So I immediately, she is the first person I see. So I ask her to stand up. I always have them stand up, come over to me. They tell what their name is, where they're from, and then they give us their word of testimony that they have.

Well, when she starts walking over to me I begin to see. She's got on either a sleeveless or a short sleeve blouse and on her right arm, as I live and breathe, was the deepest scar I have ever seen in my life. So deep, I wish you could understand. I wish I could make this really, really clear to you. Have you ever seen a scar that went so deep that literally, the flesh is going like this and then coming back? I mean deep down in and it is almost all the way around.

She walks over to me. Well, I'm already flabbergasted because there would have been one person in that arena that had a scar like that; anybody getting that with me? And that was this one. Maybe not -- but I mean this was like whoa! It was right out there. How many scars could everybody in the room have seen on the jumbotron? It was that obvious. She comes over to me and she begins to tell me a story. Her mother is sitting right there in the chair beside her and her mother is just bawling because when she was a child she was mauled by a dog.

And so her parents, of course, they are such wonderful parents. They couldn't control that she had just gotten in a situation where a dog had attacked her. The dog was on her before they knew what to do. Of course, the dog is removed but the child, that dog nearly tore that child's arm off. It was just unbelievable!

Well, you could imagine, almost incapacitated the arm. In order to repair it she lost so much muscle in here that they had to really figure out ways to strengthen the arm up again. So the dad -- such wonderful parents!

And the dad asked one of the specialists, he said, "Tell us anything. We'll do anything. But we want her to be able to use her arm normally. We'll work hard. You tell us something to do, we'll do it. What would be the best possible thing we could do to build that child's arms up again, and to get muscle strengthened back up in that arm again?"

He said, "Well, you want to know the honest truth?"

He says, "I'm begging you for the honest truth."

He said, "Violin lessons." He said, "It would be the hardest thing she could ever do because," he said, "the way she would have to pick her right arm up would almost -- in the early days be impossible for her to do. Then she would have to get it higher and higher and higher and higher. But in trying to play the violin, just get her violin lessons. If you want to know..." and I'm

putting words in her mouth now, what would be the most frustrating thing they could possibly put her forth to doing, that she would probably feel like for a very long time, I'll never get it. I'll never be able to do this. Put her in violin lessons. And that's exactly what they do.

So they began, I mean as a small child, start her in violin lessons. And she looks at me, tears are in her eyes, her mother is bawling her eyes out over here. She looks at me. I've got chill bumps all over my arms telling you this. She looks at me and says, "I am a concert violinist."

Dear God! Loves Jesus so much. Professes him. Her scar had been taken by Jesus and turned into music -- turned into song. Who can stand that? How can you resist a God like that?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, that is -- Beth, that is powerful! When we can actually see the miracle of scars, hurt, and pain become a signature of God by God, his grace. That's a fabulous story. What a great gift God gave that young lady who had been hurt, so deeply wounded, and a scar. And what a gift. Beth, you're a gift. Thank you for being such a gift.

And all of you who are watching, thank you for your love. Well, thank you for God's love that you allow to flow freely through you. That's really how we're supposed to live.

Betty, we're here by divine appointment and assignment. We're here to be witnesses of his grace and his glory. We're to live amazed at his abiding presence, at his power, at his provision and his protection. He is a shelter and the shadow of the almighty is so critically important.

Now if we realize we're on divine assignment then we're going to literally extend his hands of love and mercy, we're going to see what he sees with his eyes and we're going to feel what he feels in our heart. I want you to look in through the eyes of Jesus and I want you to see what he sees. And then I want you to simply respond as you believe he wants to respond through you in light of what you see. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: Angola leads most African countries in child mortality for children under the age of five. And about half of those deaths are attributed to the effects of malnutrition. There just isn't enough food.

[James interrupts clip]

James: I want to interrupt this. And I want you to look at the child that first walked out there so lonely, and then I want you to look at the next shot of the child.

Now I want you to stop and think about this reality. You may think that's just a little child wandering around through what looks like a desert terrain. Obviously, there is nothing there. There is nothing growing. There's tremendous famine and need. And you see that little child.

I want to ask you this: do you think the God of heaven and earth notices that little child?

Let me tell you something. The God of heaven and earth that lives in me sees that little child and the God that I know says, "I don't want that little child wandering around in that desert deserted land. I want to hold that child." And we hold them by responding as the body of Christ.

Now continue. Watch, listen, and above all hear God. Watch!

[Continue video]

Announcer: For Dominga, a couple of years ago, this statistic became a reality during a food crisis.

Open captions: I really wanted to save my children. Because my son was starving, I journeyed by foot to the hospital with him. Halfway to the hospital, he died. I felt so alone. I tried to save my son and he died along the way. Before I could return home, I received a message: my starving daughter at home had also died.

Announcer: Once again, famine has struck the village where Dominga lives. It will only be a matter of time before her remaining children find themselves in a downward spiral moving towards severe malnutrition.

Open captions: Food has become scarce because there is no rain... As of right now, we have no food. We've spent everything we had on a bag of grain. It lasted us only two weeks.

Announcer: These children will end up in a clinic struggling for their lives, or worse, in an early grave if we don't act to help Dominga and her precious children.

End of clip

In the studio

James: It is so important that you actually understand what's taking place. Here's a mother trying to get a child to a clinic that love, through you, helped establish. It is the last resort. It is where a child that is in the throes of death can perhaps be saved at the last moment. That's where she was headed and she didn't get there. The son died. While she was traveling, a daughter back home starving died.

Now here's what you must understand. We will maintain those literal malnutrition clinics as a last resort because of love. What we're trying to do is to join the missionaries who have found the famished areas of great need and they have established a feeding center there where we can feed them, where we take these orange bowls like this that you thought up because you didn't want them bringing tin cans and plastic bags, and the food burning through the bags and having an old dirty can, you said, "Let's give them heat-resistant bowls."

By the way, we need nearly 80,000 more right now for what's taking place and we're trusting God to give them. We want to feed them out there where we found them, and we've got 400,000. If we catch them there, Betty, they never end up at the malnutrition clinic, the last resort. So we're reaching out where they are in love to save their lives so you don't have to have a story like you just heard.

Now we've got another tremendous need. And, Betty, you have made it to clear not to think lightly of equipment. But we need eight more ten-ton trucks for what we're doing right now to be able to deliver the food. And we have to replace some trucks that have worn out -- and believe me, they use them until they won't go anymore. Betty, that is not something that is insignificant. That's important.

Betty: It's very important! Because without the trucks we can't get the food to the children, along with the bowls. And understand how important these bowls are. We thought at first as our supporters suggest giving them something so they don't burn their little hands. But we found out too, it is marked on the inside so we can give the right levels of food so that it goes further for the children. And the ones at the back of the line don't end up being left out.

I saw that, James, and I thought it was so important to me that the one that stood there the longest won't have to be turned away because we ran out. We need those trucks to get this food to them.

James: Well Betty is exactly right. You can't see this but there are portion lines and when we have more children always show up than you anticipate and so if you give the same amount you can suddenly run out. But you learn to apportion it based on the need and the number. So what our viewers thought up became even more significant than you might have imagined.

So here's what we need. We're asking you to go to LifeToday.org, take your bankcard, use it like a check. We have only a few days left now; we need to raise the funds, over \$300,000 for the trucks and for the other 70,000 plus bowls. We need all of that support but we need the food for the 400,000.

Now think about this: \$30, \$50, \$100 enables us to feed three, five, or ten children for the next months. So there is a level at which you can join. LifeToday.org, use your bankcard, or dial the number there on the screen, take your bankcard, use it like a check. Please extend the hands of Jesus, become the answer to the prayer and heart cries of mothers and parents for their children. And give those little children that seem to be so overlooked, let them see the love and the power of that love expressed through you and through the missionaries. Please make that call or go online and make the gift. Thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Disease, malnutrition, starvation -- all terrible human atrocities being faced every day by people living in remote and impoverished areas of Africa -- and those at greatest risk are the children.

Life's mission feeding program is there able to feed and care for over 400,000 children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. With previous food reserves gone and malnutrition levels in Angola rising due to increased food scarcity, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for our feeding programs immediately. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

Also, please consider an additional gift toward our \$316,000 goal to provide eight all-wheel drive trucks and 76,000 new bowls for the children.

As our thank you we'll send you this soft-covered journal Bible featuring the gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs for your devotional time in the word. With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children please request the complete Holy Bible Journal edition perfect for keeping notes and insights as you read and study.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children, you may request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, we want to send you the holy Bible journal edition. It has the gospels, the Psalms and Proverbs but this incredible beautiful study Bible. We want to send it to you. If you haven't gotten the Thomas Kinkade "Forest Chapel," I hope you will. I hope you'll make a gift that will enable us to get those trucks because it is so important that we're able to deliver the goods. I know you understand that and I want to thank you for your response.

I hope you're visiting the stream. I hope you will not live without understanding of the times, which we're diligently, faithfully trying to share with you understanding and insight so we can make wise decisions. Stream.org -- visit it!

Thanks so much for watching. Thank all of you for being here. Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*!