

12/9/15
Week 50: Fall Mission Feeding, last week
Wednesdays in the Word
Beth Moore: The Mark of God #4

James: Good looking folks! Some of you are saying, "I'm glad you can't see me. I just got up." The program airs all through the day around the world. As a matter of fact, if you're on satellite, you can normally get us seven or eight times a day. So don't ever say there's no spiritual refreshing available -- it is.

I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. This is *Wednesdays in the Word*. And when we started this teaching series, and day, outreach, we started with Beth Moore. We called it *Wednesdays with Beth*; in the word with Beth Moore. Beth said, after years of touching people all over the world, she said it has been such a blessing to her as a teacher and to people, she said, "Why don't we let some of these other truly gifted teachers do this and let's have *Wednesdays in the Word*." And that's what we've done; Christine Caine's been a tremendous blessing, Lisa Bevere and others that speak to you. And Beth wanted that; that's her heart.

Right now she is teaching a final -- let's say the final message of a series on *The Mark of God*; and where he takes your scars and turns them into signatures, like a great masterpiece, a portrait. And Beth can do it; can't she?

Betty: Yes, she can!

James: Would you welcome Beth Moore? Here she is.

Begin video clip

Beth: I want you to think about the eyes of the father looking throughout the whole earth and there is this one hill where these three crosses are and his son on the one -- His one and only beloved son.

Now listen. I'm not making a biblical point in what I'm about to say because it would be putting things together that cannot be assumed. I'm just saying it struck me as I was thinking about this that on this globe at that moment when Christ Jesus gave his life for us on the cross, that there,

God upon his throne looked down upon the earth and X marked the spot. This is the mark of redemption and salvation. This is the payment paid. This is the mark that bears the gospel throughout the entire globe.

Turn with me one page to John 20. This is after the resurrection. John 20, verse 20 says this: *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."*

Verse 24, this is powerful: *Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came.*

Can everybody just say bummer! That would be like -- would you not feel like left out? And they're all like telling him. That would put you on the defensive.

So it says: *So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"*

But of course, he is going, "Well, I haven't." So what's he going to do but kind of have to big talk here? So he says back to them:

But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Eight days later...

I propose to you eight days had never gone by any slower.

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he looks over at Thomas because Thomas is the one that has missed him thus far; the big talker that goes, "listen, unless I just put my hand in that mark, I'm telling you, I will never believe. And it says in verse 27:

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said something to him that is so beautiful for us, this side of the cross, this side of the completed canon because he says: *"Blessed are you. You believe because you have seen me but blessed are those who have not seen and yet they have believed."*

That would be us! That's a beautiful thing for us. They got to see him but he said, "Blessed are they that believe and they have not seen."

That's such a beautiful thing because isn't Jesus good to take this doubter and even use his doubt to bring about the most climatic point in the gospel? -- My Lord and my God! To bring somebody to a point, everything the gospel of John is about ends up in those words, "My Lord and my God." "Blessed is the one who has believed." "My Lord, and my God!"

Do you remember we're building the name mark, the word mark? We've got an M and an A, somebody tell me what our next letter is.

All: R!

Beth: Here's the beauty of it: Resurrection makes marks out of wounds.

Because Jesus was on the cross with wounds, but when he came forth from the grave he came forth with marks and that's the beauty of it because the resurrection of Jesus means that no matter what we've been through, that wounding, no matter how it gashes, no matter how we have hemorrhaged from that place in our hearts or even in our physical bodies, he can take that very wound and it becomes a mark, and it becomes a mark of Christ himself.

I've got to tell you, my father-in-law has something called wound care. You know there are nurses and practitioners that deal with open wounds that have to, for whatever reason, whatever kind of surgery, they have to remain that way either for a set period of time or maybe for the rest of their lives. My father-in-law went through a tremendous amount of radiation for cancer and it meant that one part of his body just flat out did not and will not heal. So he has to have wound care.

I've thought a lot about it because we thank God for him. He has to have it and has to have it for the rest of his life. But I thought to myself, we could get really wrapped up in, "I've got to keep this wound and never let it heal because I get a lot of attention over it." Anybody?

Because listen, in my small group... Have you ever known there to be a small group -- women, please enter in with me -- where one woman remains the focus of attention. You've been in this small group for ten years. She always has been and she has every intention of always being.

Because see, we're really supposed to take turns; you know what I'm saying?

[Laughter]

And minister to one another. Other people have needs too.

But see, she's gotten accustomed -- gentlemen, this will be harder for you to understand, but she's gotten accustomed to the attention. That's not a gender thing, that can happen it's just that you might not think in small group Bible studies as much as we do where women are a little more emotional about their care for one another but where you just get a lot of attention with it. And so we just keep that wound because why would I want to get well? -- Then I won't get all that? Let it heal. That's the message today. Let it heal.

Go through it with Jesus and then that resurrection power of Jesus Christ takes that wound and turns it into a mark that bears his very signature.

Here's K. We've got to end up our word mark, M-A-R-K, our acrostic. And here is your K. Keep the mark deep that professes your God. Keep the mark deep that professes your God.

That's the one you want to keep. You want to get rid of the rest of them but let me tell you something, whatever has marked you with Jesus Christ, girlfriend, guy friend, that's part of your testimony -- that's the word of your testimony. That one you get -- that very thing.

If you want to know where your story brings the most glory to God and the most impact to the people around you, here is where you go. What was it Jesus used in your life that he took from bad to good to make sure that you would know he was God, that he had pursued you, that he loved you and that he could make you whole. That is your story. That is your story! Keep the mark deep that professes your God.

I started thinking about these different scenarios and I'll say this as we close. Just think this through with me. So the whole point is when we go through something so dramatic, something in life has scarred us. We bear it. We go through this thing with Jesus and that signature of Jesus begins to overtake that scar and what we're left with is this, "My Lord and my God! My Lord and my God!"

There's this wonderful place in Second Timothy chapter one where the Apostle Paul says, "I know the one in whom I believe."

Let me tell you something. I know this is going to sound bold and audacious to somebody. You may say, "How can you say that?" But go with me here and I say this with deep compassion and deep love and affection toward you. But I don't just think Jesus Christ is real -- I know you're going to think I don't know how you can say this. Well, just go with me here for a minute. I know he is! I know him personally. No, I have never seen him but I have studied his Word, I have seen His faithfulness. He has kept single promise He has made me in His Word. And what I have not yet experienced, He will keep that promise. He will keep every promise He has made.

Listen. Here's what I know. I'm a stinking miracle! I ought not to be able to put three sentences together. If you knew my real story and some of the places I've been, there is no excuse for even having a mind that has a semblance of wholeness. I know -- I know Jesus Christ is real because my imaginary friend could not have done this for me.

[Laughter]

Anybody know what I'm talking about? No, no! There ain't no imaginary friend on this planet that can do that for you.

So just listen to these scenarios and see if you relate. So you're scarred by the loss of your spouse and Jesus reveals himself to you still bearing his scars. See, that's the beautiful thing. He comes bearing his scars so you know, he's going, "I've been there too. I'm scarred too."

Don't you think it's wonderful that even in his resurrection body he still had them? So we'll always know, "Yeah, I get it, I was scarred too." And you come out of it saying, "My Lord and my God."

Say you're scarred by somebody's rejection and loveless-ness, and Jesus seeks you out and reveals himself to you still bearing his scars. And you come out of that saying, "My Lord and my God!"

You're scarred by a friendship that went totally and stunningly awry. You're scared to get close to anybody again and Jesus seeks you out and reveals himself to you, still bearing his scars. And you come out of that situation going, "My Lord and my God."

You are scarred by surgery after surgery, by treatment after treatment, and Jesus reveals himself to you alive and well but guess what? Still bearing his scars, and you come out of it saying, "My Lord and my God."

You're scarred or betrayed by someone you love and gave your heart to and Jesus seeks you out and reveals himself to you still bearing his scars. And you come out of it saying, "My Lord and my God."

You are scarred by your own endless stumbles into the pit, you're demoralized and shamed and Jesus seeks you out, reveals himself to you still with his scars intact. And you come out of that thing going, "My Lord and my God!"

You are scarred by addiction, secrecy and powerlessness. Jesus seeks you out, reveals himself to you still bearing his scars. You come out of it saying, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus finds you sitting there in the dark backed into that corner, scared to death and so alone and he reveals himself to you still bearing his scars. And you come out of it saying, "My Lord and my God! My Lord and my God!"

[Cheers & Applause]

Praise you, Lord! Praise you, Lord! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

I want to say this to somebody on the other side of that screen, somebody today. You've just been in a stronghold of doubt for years. You know that God is God. He knows what's on your heart. You might as well not said you believed something that you didn't. But I'm telling you, for somebody on the other side of this screen, today is your day to not disbelieve but to believe. It is your day to receive the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. He's already done all the work on the cross for you. He's just calling you to turn away from your own path. Receive him as personal savior and Lord. Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth.

Girlfriend, guy friend, this is your day. You know there is something in you telling you right now, the Holy Spirit is dealing with you this very second and saying, "You know he is who he says he is. You know how much he has chased you down. You know he has pursued you. Today is the day to say it, my Lord and my God!"

Would you pray with me? Father, God, we praise you. God, we praise you. You know, Lord, I'm thinking to myself. If I could go back and script my whole life -- I wonder if somebody could relate to this -- I would write every one of those terrible things out of it. I think it is safe to say, Lord, that if I could rewrite my story and I could script my own, there would not be a single scar. Can anybody relate to what I'm saying? And yet Father, not a single one of those would have been turned into your signature to be able to say this day, I bear the marks of knowing Jesus personally, not what somebody else could tell me, not just what you could learn,

but I've experienced him. I've known his salvation. I've known his restoration. I've known his hope.

So be it, Lord! Do not let us get away with having signatures of all manner of abusive, rejecting, betraying people and events in our lives that are not turned into the mark of our God.

We praise you. We honor you. You are everything to us; in Jesus' name. Amen! Amen! Praise you, Lord!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy! Beth, you say it so well. What a prayer! What a way to close a series. I really do believe God takes broken-up lives, broken-up pieces, and like some puzzle fits them together into a masterpiece -- a beautiful picture of your grace. Beth, thank you for the way you bless us. How many of you in the studio appreciate Beth Moore and the great gift God has given us in her?

[Applause]

We're so thankful -- so thankful! Beth, we're in the last week of something that when you first came with us on *LIFE Today* years ago, you started going to the mission field. Your husband Keith went. And you went back several times because you were so blessed.

Well, Betty and I have the joy of seeing our grandson who just graduated from Baylor; and left there to go almost immediately to Africa, to Angola, in the midst of pain. I want you to watch this. I want you to see where Betty and I were when kids were so desperate it was almost more than we could do even to be able to feed them. We saw a miracle. The very people we're trying to save there ultimately began feeding 10,000 people themselves, the ones that were dying.

Our grandson went and he saw some of the things we saw that are still there. See if you don't want to help turn a desperate situation into another miracle where those who need food suddenly can feed others.

Betty has always prayed, and I remember the first time you said this, "I want the line to feed them to always be longer than the line coming to be fed."

That's where you come in. I want you to watch this. You'll see our grandson. I think you'll see Jesus.

On the mission field

James: Wait a minute! I can't get them to stop pressing in on us so I can even get to the soup. These people are hungry! I mean the absolute desperation -- I can't even feed them.

Announcer: Unfortunately, too many children know what happens when the food runs out. They know it will quickly become a desperate situation where they are fighting to survive. Children and their parents end up scavenging for anything to eat to fight off their gnawing hunger pains. Sometimes the children will even eat things that aren't even considered food just to try and feel better.

Bruce: I'm sitting here with this little boy and when I came in I noticed he was sitting here and he's eating dirt. He's trying to fill his little stomach and he's trying to take that hunger away. It won't. I've never seen a child eat dirt.

Announcer: The impact of this type of food crisis is particularly devastating to the youngest victims. Once the effects of severe malnutrition set in desperate parents will try and walk for miles to get help in a clinic.

Chris: This is why we need your continued support for mission feeding because we do know she's been here about a week now and if you can imagine she's gotten better, she's improved. So if you can imagine a condition worse than this. Dear heavenly Father, Lord, I pray over this little girl. I ask that you heal her, in the name of Jesus. I ask that we help all these kids; in Jesus' name.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I just could fix on that little baby's eyes. I would like you to bring them back up where everybody can look at that little one looking up at our grandson. I think those little eyes are recognizing love. That's what I think. -- That precious little child. Betty and I have spent a lot of time that way. We've actually had to walk away from some that basically died in our arms -- too many times in the mother's arms. That's a tough thing to see.

But you know we have been able to save according to the African governments reports to us, more than 10 million of their children. Many of them are teaching in colleges now, teaching in schools. Some of them are actually elected to office now; and they're leaders, they're homemakers, some of them are farmers themselves. And they were dying when love found them.

Betty, when we look down and see our grandson, I see Jesus in him.

Betty: I do too.

James: What happens in your heart when you see him?

Betty: Of course, it blesses me immensely, James, to see our grandson there loving on that precious baby, praying for that baby. I saw hope spring up in that little baby's eyes as she looked at our grandson because that's what they're looking for -- hope! And we can offer that hope when we offer to fill their need which is hunger right now. These children need something nutritional, James, to put in their little bodies. And those mothers are watching closely to say in their hearts, "Someone help my baby. I love my baby. Please, I don't want my baby to die." So I hope you'll join with us as you see the need there and know that you can be part of that hope.

James: You know what I see when I watch our grandson praying? You know what comes to my heart right now? You can be the answer to that prayer. You can be the answer to the heart cry of the mother and the family of that child.

This is the last week now that we're asking you to help with mission feeding and it is really important. We need eight ten-ton trucks; they cost over \$30,000. I know occasionally there's someone who can say, "I can do that. I'll give a truck." Frankly, we need some this week like that. What we really need is everyone with a heart to share to actually do it.

Now think about this. For \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five, or ten children for several months. Where can a single gift keep giving that long on the mission field? Would you go to LifeToday.org and take your bankcard and make the largest gift you can? I'll always ask you, could you help us care for ten? Could you give \$100? But whatever you give, think about it, if it's \$30 for three, it could cover that little one that Chris was praying for. There's a level at which everyone can give. You might be able to give a truck or \$1,000 or a few thousand toward one of the eight ten-ton trucks we need. Several have worn out and must be replaced but we need some new ones for some new regions.

So would you go to LifeToday.org right now? Or would you dial that number, it's always there as a prayer line paid for by love, but would you dial it and let it be a lifeline today? Take your bankcard, and make the gift God puts on your heart. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*, but call us and tell us you're sending it. We need to know it is coming. We have some gifts to bless you but you're going to be giving the greatest gift, you're going to give the gift of life, you're going to share it in love. 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.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, Betty and I say thank you. This is the last week now for us to complete a real challenge. The trucks -- that's big -- over \$30,000 apiece. I found myself praying today, I wonder if there is someone watching this week that can give one of those trucks? We really need everybody to help us.

So go to LifeToday.org or call the number. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. Thank you so much. Thank all of you for being with us.