

2/9/16
Week 7 - WFL: Last week
Steve Scott

Randy: If there were just a few words that could radically change your life, would you want to hear them? Good news! There are. We have a guest here today who is going to share some of them with you.

Sheila, glad to have you with me.

Sheila: Any time that your darling mom and dad need the night off, I'm happy to be here.

Randy: Well, good! There are some pretty good things we're going to talk about today. What's the book you're holding?

Sheila: Well, it's called *Jesus Speaks*; it is 365 days of daily guidance and encouragement straight from the words of Christ. This is going to be a life-changing program. Why don't you stop just for a second, call a friend, someone that you know is kind of lost, even in their spiritual life, because I really believe God is going to speak something powerful and personal to you right now. But please, would you help Randy and I welcome our guest Steve Scott?

[Cheers & Applause]

Steve: Good to be here. Thank you!

Randy: Do you want the first question or do I get it?

Sheila: Honestly, when I read, I know that your first book that was where you took all the words of Jesus and you arranged them alphabetically, like if you were looking for what did Jesus say about comfort? What did Jesus say about anxiety? When I looked at it I thought, this is one of the most brilliant ideas I've ever seen. Where did that... what was the Genesis of that for you?

Steve: Desperation. I always hated and you're not supposed to hate the words of Christ but I hated Matthew seven where Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will enter the

kingdom of heaven. But he who does the will of my Father in heaven will enter. For many will say unto me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not cast demons out in your name? Did we not work many wondrous works in your name?'"

And he said, "And I will declare unto them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me you who practice lawlessness.'"

I hated that because he didn't debate them and say, "Oh, you never did that or you never..." No! He just said, "I never knew you." That's the end.

I used to think, how am I ever going to have assurance when these people did these things in your name. They thought they were saved and then they hear that.

That ends at verse 23 in Matthew seven. I never went to the very next verse but the very next verse starts out with the word therefore. So that means that everything he just said about this terrifying glimpse of the judgment and professing Christians is about what he's about to say.

He said, "Therefore, he who hears these words of mine and does them, I liken him (in comparison to these others) to the wise man who build his house on the rock. And the rains fell, the floods came, the winds blew and beat against the house but the house stood firm for it was built on the rock." And for the first time I realized that the rock, and this analogy, was not Jesus Christ. The rock here, according to Christ is hearing and doing what he said.

And to make sure we don't mess that up he says, "And he who hears these words of mine and doesn't do them, I'll liken him to the foolish man who built his house on the sand."

When I saw that I said, "Lord, so what you're really telling me, my assurance doesn't come from a prayer that I prayed when I was 16 years old. My assurance comes from building a life empowered by your Holy Spirit, empowered by grace but building a life on hearing and doing what you said."

Randy: But you're not saying this salvation comes through works.

Steve: No, not at all. I'm saying that if I'm saved I'm going to follow Christ the way that he wants to be followed. I'm going to love Christ the way he wants to be loved. And he said, "Follow me." And the way we follow him according to him in this passage and a whole bunch of others is to hear and do what he said.

Listen to this. He said in John 14:21, he said, "He who has my commands and keeps them, he it is who loves me." And listen to the promise...

Randy: How many commands did Jesus give?

Steve: 153 that I've counted -- 153 commands. He says, "If you love me you'll keep my commands." Listen to the promise! "He who loves me my Father will love and I too will love, and I will reveal myself to him."

And Judas, not Iscariot said, "Lord, are you going to reveal yourself just to us or to the whole world?"

He says, "Anyone who has my words and keeps them, he it is who loves me, and he who loves me, my Father will love and we will come to him and make our home, our camping place with him."

So the promise for intimacy is to those who will hear what Jesus said and do it. The reason for doing it, when I saw that, I said, "God, how am I supposed to order my life according to the words of Christ? You said so many things about so many things, where do I start?"

That's when I believe he said, "Organize my words into subjects."

I thought wow! Then I could see anything through the teachings of Christ. I could see doctrines, teachings; whether or not something is good for my time or bad for my time. I could see everything. I could see the Father through the eyes of Jesus. I could see Peter and Paul and Moses and Elijah through the eyes and words of Christ. So it would change everything.

So it took two years. But at the end of the two years the Lord had allowed me to organize those 1900 statements into 225 topics and then that became the basis for everything in my life that has followed. My life is now focused on the teachings of Christ. We shouldn't say what would Jesus do because none of know. But we can say, "What did Jesus say?" because it's right in front of us.

Sheila: Wow! I think for me, going through your book over the last couple of days, one of the most revolutionary things for me, and I'm actually ashamed because I've been a believer for a long time is that I actually began to see that Jesus is telling us, "This is how you can obey the Father the way the Father wants to be obeyed." That's huge!

Steve: It's how we can love the Father the way the Father wants to be loved. This was huge for me because the other verse that I hated, you're not supposed to hate the red letters but these were too convicting; was Jesus said in Matthew 10:37: He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. He who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

I used to cry out to the Lord and said, "Lord, you know my heart. I can't lie to you. I love my seven kids, I love my grandkids, I love mom and dad, and my sister and my wife more than I'll ever love you and I don't know what to do about it!" And then I found out, I love my family emotionally.

God says, "Love me by hearing and doing what my son said." That's his love language.

So now I'm here out of obedience to the Lord, away from my family. So now without changing my feelings, I'm loving him more than I love my family because his love is different than...

Sheila: See, that's profound. I think most of us have struggled over that passage.

Randy: It sounds like betrayal.

Sheila: I know because you want to but you think, Lord, if I'm going to be honest with you, and you already know my heart. But I think that is such a brilliant way of illustrating because I always think emotions don't have brains. Sometimes I wake up and I don't necessarily feel godly but I love the fact that obedience to God's Word is the way of living a way that honors God and shows him that we love him.

Steve: That's the purpose of *Jesus Speaks*. Jesus made 21 promises -- 21 amazing promises exclusively to the people who would abide in his Word. He promised discipleship. He promised that you will know the truth. He promised that you'll be set free from the mastery of sin. He promised intimacy. He promised revelation. He said, "If you'll abide in my words," he says, "you will never see death."

See my mom, she loved the words of Jesus Christ and when she died, she just fell asleep in a hospital bed and woke up at his feet. It was a page turn. That's all it was! So she never saw death. My dad wasn't a believer. He went through the agony -- the agony, the true agony of dying separated from God and God's light and kingdom.

And what *Jesus Speaks* did, the reason I did this is I have grandkids and when I realized all the promises that Christ makes to those who will abide in his Word, I wanted to give my grandchildren and anyone a gateway to the practice -- we don't abide in the words of Christ anymore; it's a lost art. Yet, it's where all of his promises lie. So I wanted to go ahead and make a gateway that people could begin to abide in the words of Christ every day.

Sheila: I think we've got it back to front. Because the thing I saw through this is that every one of the commands of Christ, it's not to limit us, it is to liberate us which I think is glorious.

Steve: The commands of Christ are not like the commands in the law. The commands of the law are meant to point us to Calvary, see our desperate need for a savior, see ourselves as we truly are which is lost sinners. Yet the commands of Christ, they're threefold in purpose.

Number one: They turn the light on. He said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of light." He turns the light on so we can see the world and all of its values in the light -- how worthless it is so we can see life as God really sees it.

Number two: The commands of Christ reveal the will of God for any given moment in our life.

And number three: They empower us with grace to do his will.

But *Jesus Speaks* isn't just about the commands. *Jesus Speaks* really, it has 700 red lettered statements and it is printed in red so you can see those statements. Every day starts with a red letter statement and then there's an entry that's based entirely on the teachings of Christ. It doesn't get into author opinion. It is in the voice of Christ, much like Jesus calling, but the difference is it's only what Jesus said. It all reflects what he said. Then each day ends with another red lettered verse that underscores that day's message.

Randy: Let me ask you this, because you touched on something that is the most difficult thing for me to discuss with other people and that is those who have lost loved ones who did not know Christ. Are there any red letter words for that?

Steve: Of course! Jesus says, "Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy-laden." Our message to the lost is look, Jesus isn't sitting up there with a hammer ready to slam you in the skull. Listen to what Jesus said. He said, "The Father's passed all judgment unto me." Then he turns around and says, "And I'm not going to judge anyone." He said, "However there is a judge for those who reject me and my words. Even the very words I have spoken will be their judge."

The neat thing is we can tell the lost and we can tell Muslims, we can tell gang bangers there is no -- people are responding to this. We've had about 100 people going through this book and this is nothing about religion. This is all about knowing the Father.

In fact, I loved what Charles Stanley said about the book. Charles Stanley said that he is certain that the people who read this will grow in their intimacy with the Father through reading the words of Jesus Christ every day.

Sheila: Which is actually a different -- a lot of people talk about getting closer to Jesus. That is a different thought that through the eyes of Jesus we would become closer to the father.

Steve: Well see, that's why Jesus came though. He said, "I came to reveal the truth about the Father." He said, "Everything I say the Father commanded me to say and how to say it." He said, "I do exactly what pleases the Father." He was all about the Father.

And the wonderful thing is he made over 125 statements about his relationship with the father.

Randy: So daily devotional is the format? Oh, man, where do you even start? What's a good one to read here? What do you think?

Sheila: But you know actually, I looked up and this is a little corny, but I looked up on my birthday, which is July the 5th. And you talk about others want to weigh you down but I want to carry your load.

I think that is so powerful because my heart, I'm 59, I gave my life to Christ when I was 11. My heart is to share the good news with others. I've had the privilege over the last 20 years of speaking to over five million women with Women of Faith but so often I feel weighed down because I want to be able to care and to carry but I read something like this and Christ is telling me something really liberating.

Steve: That's going to happen every day that you read it.

Randy: I want to hear what he's telling her.

Sheila: Well, it's just simply that when he talks about others want to weigh you down but Christ is saying, "I want to carry your load." It is very much like that, "Come unto me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me because my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Steve: His yoke are his words. That's how we yoke ourselves; that's how we harness in next to Christ is through his Word. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The Apostle John said, "The law came through Moses but truth and grace through Jesus Christ."

What the goal of *Jesus Speaks* is to show people, number one: Christ is alive. He's not sitting on a throne in heaven divorced from us. He said, "Wherever two or three are gathering in my name, he will be in their midst." He is alive and active right now. What this book does, one

pastor of a mega church told me, he said, "Steve, this is going to be the number one evangelistic tool of our church."

I said, "Why do you say that? It's written to believers."

He said, "Yeah, but Christ comes alive and people see that he's active in our daily life." It really comes through that way because Christ wasn't talking to dead people. He was talking to people that were alive.

The Father is the God of Abraham. Abraham is alive. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and they're all alive. But Christ is alive and he wants that intimacy. Listen to this.

John 17:3: And this is eternal life.

What? Christ is going to tell you what it is. "And this is eternal life that they might intimately know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."

We come into that intimacy, it is promised in John 14:21 and 23 as we begin to abide in the words of Christ.

Tommy Barnett when he read that saw a whole different angle that I really loved. He said, "It says in John 15:7, Jesus said: 'If you'll abide in me and my words abide in you, ask anything you want and it will be done unto you.'" Why? "For the Father is glorified that you bear much fruit." He knows if you abide in him and his Words abide in you then God's going to transform your life and you're going to begin to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit like never before.

You cannot know Jesus apart from his Words. You cannot know the Father apart from Christ. Christ said, "Only the Father knows the Son, and only the Son knows the Father and those to whom he chooses to reveal him." Do you want to know the Father the way Jesus knows him? That's what you get. That's what you get when you begin to see what he said about his Father.

Sheila: That makes me think. We should all buy a case of this to give away because our nation is in so much trouble and we do not need religion, we need relationship -- we need Jesus.

Randy: It's because of the words of Jesus that we started doing what we're doing now with the water wells and what we do around the world in all of our mission outreaches, really, when Jesus said, "If you just give a cup of water in my name."

Steve: That's July 6th!

Randy: You know the all the dates?

Steve: He says, "If you give it the least" -- "a cup of water to the least of these," he says, "it will not go unrewarded." So he rewards those who give to the least.

Randy: You know what he says? When you've done it unto to the least of these you've done it unto me.

Steve: Hallelujah! What a savior!

Randy: So that's why we do what we do. I know you and Sheila have seen a lot of what we've done around the world in giving a cup of water. In fact, let's take just a minute because there are some new places we're going into doing the same old proven thing in different areas in sharing the love of Christ to more people. And so let's take a look at this and see what we're doing with Water for Life.

On the mission field

Announcer: In a remote Amazon village, vastly unfamiliar from the world we know, lives Ticcoya. This young mother's world revolves around her children, and their care has driven her on in a world that is arguably one of the world's most challenging to live.

Open captions: The water of the river is filled with parasites. It makes us very sick. My son became sick from drinking the water. He was vomiting, he had diarrhea, and then he died.

Announcer: Resilience and instincts are a must for survival here. But some battles are never meant to be fought. Like disease-filled water against the immune system of a child.

Open captions: My little boy was a very happy boy, a very strong boy. It hurts for me to remember him.

Here, in our village we bury our lost children under our beds because it feels like they are still with us. I can dream of him running and playing and I sleep over him to cover him with my love. I still feel so sad I lost my son. I try not to let the rest of my children see my sadness. But when they sleep at night, I cry for my lost son.

Announcer: With little choice, Ticcoya presses on, heart shattered, both from her loss and because her situation remains the same -- the same water, their only water.

Open captions: I look at my other child and wonder if she will die also.

End of clip

In the studio

Randy: I do want you to get Steve's book, *Jesus Speaks* because his Words will change your life. But I've got to tell you something, I want more than anything to get them water. It is not right. A mother should never have to sleep over the body of her son.

Sheila: The thing that's so heartbreaking to me about that story is the Sophie's choice of that mother. It's like do I give my child water because if I don't she'll die of thirst? Or do I give her water knowing it might kill her? No mother should have to make that choice when you and I can make a difference.

Randy: We can! And Sheila, I'll tell you, I've knelt down beside graves, graves that were smaller than graves should be. This is not right. This is an injustice. As believers, we should do justice.

Let me tell you how we do justice. We take that cup of water in Jesus' name and give it to those in need. The great thing about what we're doing is it is not just a cup of water, it's a water well for life! The average cost of a well is \$4800. Some of you can actually drill -- some of you could probably drill ten. And frankly, I wish you would. Some of you, you're like me. I need ten other people to join with me to do that -- or 100 other people.

Let me just tell you. This is the last week we're asking you to give but I'm absolutely asking you to give. Why? Because it is a joy -- it is a joy to share the love of Christ with those desperately in need. Those who will die without the water -- literally water but also, the water of life of Christ.

Steve, I want to give people your book if they will ask for it and if they will participate in the outreach. Is that okay?

Steve: Amen! Well, I want to tell you and your viewers that I am so grateful because I can remember clear back to my first appearance on this show in 2006, we were drilling water wells. I can't do what you do. I can't do that. But the fact that I have a way to do that in the name of Christ through your organization, my wife and I are thrilled, my kids are excited about it.

I just want to say to the viewers, you're probably like me, you can't go to Peru. You know our company went to Peru and dug a well and the kids prior to were going four hours down to get

water and four hours back -- no time for education. Just putting a well in that village meant that they could get an education because now they all had eight hours a day.

So it is not just the health but the neat thing is just think about Jesus' request that we give a cup of water in his name and it won't go unrewarded. You and I can't run down to these countries. I don't have time to go to Africa and probably most of you don't, but we have in you an arm that can go for us. The father is sending you and he lets us join in that ministry.

And I'm so grateful. And I hope you will join in time because it is life-saving and they're giving it in the name of Christ. These families don't just get the water, they get to hear about the Lord Jesus Christ, something we take for granted but we can't.

Randy: We can do it but we can only do it with your help. Sheila, I know you've seen us do this now for many years. What an opportunity!

Sheila: This is so doable. If you think about the well, yeah, a cup of you might be able to do that and that's fantastic. But \$48 provides clean water for ten children for the rest of their lives. We can do this people. We can't let this happen on our watch.

Randy: Go to the phones right now. Make the best gift you can. Go online, make a gift. Just be a part as we share Water for Life around the world with people in desperate need. Go right now.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice: drink water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

Mission Water for Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 water wells for remote villages in over 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 people; \$48 will help provide for 10 people; \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift we would like to send you James Robison's book, *God of All Creation*. Through his personal observations of animals and wildlife, James shares heartwarming stories and spiritual lessons of God's love and grace.

With your gift of \$100 or more, be sure to request *Majesty*. This beautifully illustrated book teaches you the blessing and significance of the names of God, including Jehovah Rapha, your healer and Jehovah Jireh, your provider.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well.

And you may request our beautiful new “Majesty” bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

James: Betty, it breaks my heart to think about little children like this, so precious, coming here and living on the side of a dump and this is where they get water and it's disease ridden.

Betty: It's just water that can kill them! They drink it, they swim in it and everything alive walks through it. We need to help them!

James: It's really pretty simple but it takes all of us doing our part joining together to give not only a cup of water, as Jesus said, but a well of water. I pray you'll make that life-giving call today. And children and their families in so many parts of the world will receive a chance at life because of the love of God shared through you.

End of clip

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End of clip

In the studio

Randy: If you haven't gone yet, I hope you will go now or later today when you can. Just do something. You've got to be a part. When you do, make the best gift you can. Ask for *Jesus Speaks*. It will change your life. Maybe the life of one of your loved ones.

Steve, I mentioned that all my children got this for Christmas so I want to thank you for that. I thank you for being here on *LIFE Today*. Would you thank Steve Scott?

Steve: My favorite show! Number one!

Randy: Can you come back on Thursday?

Steve: Yeah, absolutely!

Randy: Steve Scott is back here on Thursday. Don't miss *LIFE Today*!