

2/17/16
Week 8: Rescue Life
Wednesdays in the Word
Beth Moore: Fun with Jesus #1

James: Hey! Thank all of you! Thank you so much. It's good to have you here. If you're ever in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and visiting from out of town, we tape normally several programs on Tuesday night and we'd love to have you come.

I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I are thrilled to host *LIFE Today*. We're really glad that you share this time with us. Some of you actually try to share the time every day. And I want to say as sincerely and as directly as I can how grateful we are that you grace us with this time in your life to let us share life; and then not only to let us share life with you as Beth Moore is going to do. In a moment she is going to talk about having fun with Jesus. That it can be a fun journey. It doesn't have to be like church makes you miserable. Our relationship with Christ can be so exciting.

But we want you to know that because you watch *LIFE*, it is very likely you share life; that you look out and see a need and you find joy in meeting it. We're going to give you an opportunity to help us rescue some children from sexual trafficking where they've really been taken as prisoners. And it is one of the most heartbreaking realities, and yet we can literally pierce that darkness and offer the incredible hope of a new way of life, a new beginning. And that you, somebody just like you, make that possible. I want to say thank you.

As a matter of fact, if you're watching for the first time, you're going to be blessed by Beth, I promise you, but I also think you're going to be blessed when you find out how effectively you can bless. So we're glad you joined us.

Would you welcome Beth Moore? Here's Beth!

Begin video clip

Beth: I thought to myself, what if I knew I only had a little while longer and could just talk on some of the only things that I would want to say in the last little while, what would those things be? And one of those I want to share with you in this series.

Now I have to tell you this because it begins with a walk that I took just a few days ago. Now for those of you on the other side of the screen, you could be anywhere in the world but I come from south Texas. And you need to know that we have summers that are in three digits; and I'm talking about a humidity, you could feel like you could cut with the sheers, the garden sheers, to even try to walk through. We live in some kind of hot and stuffy environment. So there is no one happier on the planet than somebody who lives in the hot humid south when it firsts begins to be fall and the first little cool front comes in with a little less humidity and something happens.

Listen! With all the road rage that takes place in Houston, Texas in the hot summer, all of the summer on that first day of fall, I don't care if the rest of you have these gorgeous autumns -- I don't want to hear it because you -- you cannot be happier than us. You cannot be happier than us. We're like we get at a four way stop, "No, after you!"

"No, after you!"

"After you!"

Driving down the freeway. By all means roll down the window, "Go in front of me! Please!" We're in the best mood ever.

So I just could not wait to get outside. We live out in the country and have these woods by us and so I walk very often in those woods. But let me tell you I walk every day I'm home in those woods but we have very, very snakey, swampy woods. I do mean we have lots of snakes; and I do mean we have copperheads, we have coral snakes, and we have water moccasins. Where I live in south Texas, we don't have rattlesnakes but we have lots of other poisonous snakes and it is something we just deal with on an ongoing basis.

So I brought this to you for a little bit of a visual because when I go for a walk I don't care how hot it is in the summer, I don't care if I have on workout gear with a tank top, these kinds of things are on my feet. Now I wanted to bring you my very own because I have some that I wear constantly but I'm having to borrow Janice's, my good friend Janice that works with *LIFE Today* so that you could see them because I could not get them in my suitcase, you can imagine. So I have some exactly like these. I also have some that are camo down here and zip up the side. I just want you to picture it.

So there I was with my snake boots on, I'm going tell you about this stick in just a moment, and I was walking through the woods and I just began to skip. I do mean skip. I mean the kind of skipping you would do when you're a little girl in first grade and you just learned how to skip. I mean that kind of skipping. Then I just started singing. And then I just started saying all manner

of thing to Jesus. I mean I was throwing my arms out like that just skipping through the woods. I was so delighted. Everything was so heightened to me. The greens were just greener than ever. The air was cool and fresh. And it was the biggest blast.

What I want you to understand is that I truly believe that I would not have gotten this message on my heart by the Holy Spirit had I not taken off skipping, not just walking, but in my snake boots, there is something of a paradox about wearing your snake boots to skip in the woods as happy as can be. That in all the snares and dangers and toils, we're going to skip through the woods.

And I have to take my snake stick. This is my snake stick. Keith and I chose this. We found this in the woods because we have a little bit of a creek nearby and it has several beavers that work that creek all the time and they're forever cutting down the forest with their tiny little teeth. This was what was left of a Yaupon. If you were looking closely, you could see the bites all over it. It was just delightful to us somehow.

So we adopted this stick. And Keith made it sort of a game for me. Keith did not want me to be scared of our own woods. Is anybody stepping in that literally with me? Why live there and you're too scared to go out in it? And if you're not prepared you're not going to enjoy that walk and enjoy that ride. So he just taught me, "You're just going to be brave, honey. You're going to be prepared so that when you go out there where there is danger you're ready to go. You don't have to watch your feet because you're feet are covered."

I'm wondering, is anybody working with me today? "And you don't have to worry because you've got your snake stick in your hand."

So I want you to know he has taught me how to kill a poisonous snake. And I get a band on my stick, he owes me one. I say he owes me two. He says he owes me one.

Yes, that is nail polish. Oh, yes it is! It is only fitting. But he does the little rut in it; he carves out the little rut and then he paints it with nail polish for every single time I have killed a poisonous snake with this stick.

Now it has to be with the stick, you have to understand. People ask me all the time when I tell anything about this, "Why don't you use like a hoe?" Well, because I'm not going to get any marks on the hoe.

[Laughter]

I'm just competitive enough that I want my marks on my stick.

About two weeks ago, Melissa my youngest daughter and I were on a walk and we saw a copperhead. We've got a lot at stake. We have lots of dogs, and so this is not just a matter of we're just going to leave them alone. Let them just do what they want. No, they can kill stuff, and they can maim a person. It can either make you very, very sick or you could lose a toe or you could lose all sorts of things so you've got to have your stick.

But I didn't have it with me so I laid down -- I had weights in my hands that time. We were standing kind of up in an area where I wasn't expecting to see one. Didn't have my stick. So I put down a weight close to where it was and I went running to the house --

She said, "Mom, where are you going?"

I said, "To get my stick!"

She said, "We can get a stick here."

"No! I have to have the stick! If I don't kill it with the stick I don't get any credit for it!"

[Laughter]

So now just a few days ago, Keith's mom comes running into the house and she said, "There's a snake out there and it's very, very close to the yard." It was right around where her dog was. So I went running out so I could see if it was poisonous. Sure enough, it was a copperhead.

Keith was home so I went running into the house and said, "Honey, your mom is like all alarmed. There is a copperhead right out there real close to the yard."

We have grandkids, we have all of that. No way can we leave it. He looked at me; I'll never forget it because he looked up from what he was doing. He was home. He was home. He looked up from what he was doing, looked over at me and said, "What you going to do about it?"

[Laughter]

My eyebrows got really high. I said, "I'm going to kill it!"

[Laughter]

He said, "I'm going to watch you."

So he literally went out with me. I got my stick. So I mean I aim -- I aim! I go right for the head. And the first time I got down a little bit low but the second time I smacked that thing right on the head. That thing was dead in three blows.

When I looked up at him, he was so proud of me. His shoulders were so thrown back and he just held his hand up like this and goes, "Give it to me, baby! Give it to me!"

[Cheers & Applause]

I love it when he's proud of me! I love it when he's proud. Nothing makes me happier in the human realm than for Keith Moore to look at me and say, "You are one brave woman!" Because I am not brave by my nature. Is anybody going with me into this lesson? I'm not brave by my nature. So what he has taught me is, are you going to let something drive you out of your own property? Is that what you're going to do?

So here's what I've come to throw at you. Is Jesus the single most exhilarating, exciting part of your life?

I want you to see a couple of things here. I want you to see the call of the disciples in a couple of different gospels. I'll start first by looking at the one in John. Go with me to John, chapter one and I want to read verses 35 through 39.

It says in John 1:35: *The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples...*

This is John the baptizer.

He looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?"

And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come and you will see."

So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

What they knew was that whatever it was about him, where was he going because they wanted to go that direction too. I love that he just threw it out there. He didn't say exactly where he was

staying. He just said, "Come and see." That's how Jesus is. "I'm not going to tell you exactly where we're going. I'll tell you ultimately where this thing goes but for now I'm just going to say, 'Why don't you come and see. Do you find something about me magnetic?'" He might say. "Is there something about me that makes you want to follow me? Then here's what I'm going to say to you, 'Come!' Why don't you just see where this thing goes?"

I want to throw out to you the top five ways we drain all the fun out of following Jesus.

[Laughter]

What I want to do in this series is this: I want to get serious about having fun with Jesus. Amen? Somebody already is just too hyper, hyper-religious to even be comfortable with my terminology. But listen. You go ahead and do your thing. I'm going to skip through the woods in my snake boots. I am! I am!

Because what I've come to tell you, if I could just say anything I wanted, if I could give a word of testimony, there might be a handful of different messages I would want to give but this is the one that most compels my heart to give to you today. Jesus Christ is undoubtedly the biggest blast of my life. -- The biggest blast of my life!

I'm not here just to give you a motivational speech. I'm not just here to like build you up. What I'm here to do is to challenge you, would you be willing to say, "What on earth are those people talking about? And if that's true, Jesus, I want to know you like that. I want to know, what would make you the most exhilarating part of my life?"

Because listen. You don't have to be snoring to be sound asleep. Somebody? Somebody? It's just -- believers all over the place, masses of believers just absolutely sound asleep in the faith because they have bored themselves to tears.

Now here's what I want to present to you. You and I were made for holy fire. We were made for passion. And so what happens when we drain all the passion out of our relationship with God who has holy passion, who wants to put the fire of the word in our bones, who wants to fill up our lungs with the very breath of his spirit, when we take all the passion out of our relationship with Jesus then you know what? We are so driven for passion we'll just get it a number of other ways: Lust, vengeance, unforgiveness, anger. There are all sorts of cravings because we were made to crave passion. And if we don't find a healthy way to live out that passion then what we have on our hands is a flesh quaking wide open for wherever we can find some kind of excitement. Don't tell me you don't like excitement.

I sat across from a woman not very long ago in a restaurant. I was sitting here and she was sitting just across from me and I watched her face just planted in a romance novel. I mean planted. The expression on her face was troubling. I really thought, you know what? You need to be home!

[Laughter]

Is that all right? Is that all right to say? It was like I don't know what is going on in there but wowzer! I'm embarrassed for you. My face is turning red for you. I thought what in the world?

We've got this invitation to this walk. Let me ask you this. Do you think if we got to the other side of this life and we were in the eternal realm, the new heavens and the new earth, we'll get a chance to talk to all these people who walk with Jesus? Imagine that we would ask Paul, imagine that we would ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, also Mary of Bethany, Mary Magdalene. They were all into the Mary's. I don't know. That's another story. But just think, just think Lydia; I think about her in the book of Acts. I'm thinking in terms of Peter. I'm thinking in terms of John. Even Stephen, Apollos -- go on and on and on with all the names you'd find in the New Testament. And do you think if we would ask them, "What was the most exhilarating part of your life?"

They would say, "Anything on the planet besides 'Are you kidding me?' Jesus! Jesus!"

End of clip

In the studio

James: Beth, I know you watch as often as you can. I know you watch *LIFE* every day when you can and I know you like to check in on the times you're teaching. I just want to tell you, you really are a blessing.

Beth, as you said, all of those individuals you referenced to be able to say the most exhilarating, exciting thing in their life is Jesus. I can tell you, Betty, I've been a Christian, really and truly, I'm sure your life and prayers in some way impacted me even coming to Christ, and certainly afterwards, and then I impacted your life because as a sweet little church girl you realized you didn't know the Lord and came to give your life to Christ.

But I have lived my life amazed. As a matter of fact, I'm writing a book, should be out by the end of the year, *Living Amazed*. I have lived amazed in the presence of God. And the exciting thing about living amazed in his presence is that it's something he invites all of us to do; to live in not only the amazing grace but the manifest presence and power of the living Christ and the

power of his spirit in us, and in the lives of his people. I hope you'll look forward to getting that book but above all, living amazed yourself.

I want you to look in at a situation where you're going to hear the story of a very young girl and it's a very difficult situation. It's one that requires a miracle that only love can make possible. But you and I can release love that transforms and truly delivers. Please watch carefully and prayerfully. Would you please?

On the mission field

Announcer: In impoverished areas of Southeast Asia all too often, girls like 15-year-old Srey Neang fall for too good to be true offers of a better life in the city. It's most often presented as an honorable job but is soon discovered as something much darker.

Open captions:

>> A man came to us and told us that there was a good opportunity with good pay to work in another province as a maid in someone's home. When I arrived, the people locked me in a room. It was a brothel. I found out that I had been sold. If I didn't sleep with clients I was beaten and starved. When the man came in, I didn't know what to do. Afterward I would just cry out for my mom.

Announcer: The cries of this child are lost in the noise of the city around her. The brutality she's endured has left her utterly demoralized.

Open captions:

>> I am so desperate. If I cannot escape this life, maybe I will kill myself.

End of clip

In the studio

James: No, sweetheart. That doesn't have to happen. Our mission workers are so committed and with the help of viewers like you we've been able to prepare places for children before the predators get them. And then we've been able now, because of your help, to establish areas of rescue where we can get them out and keep them safe where they can't come get them.

To think that somebody would promise her a future and then take her and just make a prisoner out of her, she didn't want to live. The very fact that she is talking right there to us and to our cameras -- oftentimes these cameras have to be hidden cameras. There she was talking to someone that expressed love, our mission team. And so she's sharing because someone convinced her that there are those that care. We believe that.

Because when we first brought the opportunity to rescue girls like that to our viewers, our first impulse was, probably people won't want to hear about it or see it. But I've got to be honest with you, your hearts leaped out with compassion. And you made it very clear to us, "We want to help rescue as many as we can and we want to keep children from being vulnerable to that predation." And so we've been able to establish those safe havens. When I say "we" I'm talking about people like you.

So I'm coming to you in behalf of that beautiful girl and so many she represents now in about ten countries that we're working with specifically right now.

Would you reach out and touch someone with love? Would you, in essence, say, "We'll offer you hope and we'll offer girls that are headed where you're headed a way of escape." Would you dial the number or would you go online to LifeToday.org? Just go there. And would you take your bankcard and say, "I'm going to make a gift of love and life today and I'm going to set someone free."

A gift of \$128 is the average it costs for us to rescue someone and then care for them for a year. Would you do that? Do you know we have many people who say, "I will help rescue ten" because our goal right now in the areas we've targeted is to rescue 5,000 as quickly as we can. Well, we're going to have to have your help to do it. A gift of \$1280 and we're able to rescue ten and give them a new future and train them in a new way of life.

Many of the children we rescue years ago are now teachers. Some of them are college professors. It's a miracle! Would you be a part of that miracle? Would you do that? Would you reach out right now and touch someone with love?

We want to send you a beautiful "Light of the World" candle. I'm telling you, there is no lighting that does this justice. It's beautiful! But what you're doing is more beautiful than we can describe. You're giving people the hope, the future that only love can provide. So would you make that gift?

We have a beautiful bronze that literally illustrates the majestic creative artistry of God. We want to send that to you if you'll help us rescue ten or more. Would you do that?

Please right now make that life-giving call or go online LifeToday.org. Thank you for doing it. If you want to write a check and mail it, make it to *LIFE* and put it in the mail. But call us. Would you call us and tell us that you're putting it in the mail? Thank you for doing that.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children created to be happy, loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators; their spirit and bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse.

Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to save children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved and you can restore their lives with hope for a future.

Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their destiny forever. With gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your support with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of sexual slavery.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you the "Light of the World" scented candle. This beautiful encased in a frosted glass burns with a wonderful scent. Its flame is a reminder of your part in being a light to the world, especially to young women trapped in the darkness of human trafficking. Your gift helps provide them with hope and a way out.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children and you may request our beautiful new "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: There's no way that I can describe how effective your love will be when it is expressed in the area we've talked about.

And there is no way that any lighting can capture the absolute beauty of this "Light of the World" candle. It is the prettiest, Betty, presented I've ever seen. And you'll just have to see it. It is a beautiful scented candle but it's going to represent who we are as believers. When we're together, we become a light, like a city that cannot be hidden. I want to thank you for the gift of love to rescue as many as possible.

Some of you will ask for the beautiful bronze, "Majesty," the glory of God's creation, and you will help us rescue ten or more of these precious children and these women that are in desperate situations. And we want to say thank you.

Thank you for watching *LIFE Today*. Encourage your friends to watch. And thank all of you for being with us. We appreciate you being here.