

5/5/16
Week 19: WFL
Katherine and Jay Wolf

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*! I'm Betty and this is James.

James: I'm telling you what. We know heartache. I think most of you know, a lot of times you look at us, "Y'all are just so happy. Everything is just perfect." Well, she lives with me so everything is not perfect. But I'm a fatherless kid, grew up without a home, and had a lot of hurt. We lost a child. We've had a lot of heartache and we face some challenges. We spend our life trying to lighten the load of people like you and many who watch, and the hurting around the world and we find great joy in becoming a comfort and a source of help.

This young lady and her husband, absolutely, the two of them, two expressions of miracle power as clearly as anything I've ever seen in my more than 50 years of ministry. The name of their book is called *Hope Heals: A true story of overwhelming loss and an overcoming love*, Katherine and Jay Wolf. We had them just over a year ago. She was not too far from having a child that some would have thought you're not going to have. Well, she did and baby is well. And she's back.

Would you welcome back to *LIFE Today* Katherine and Jay Wolf? Please, we're glad to see you.

Katherine: Thank you! We're glad to be here.

James: We really like y'all.

Katherine: We really like y'all!

James: Any time you know you're coming through the area, save us a little airline fare or something, but you know you're coming this way, call Bruce and say, "Hey, we're coming back through." And we'll bring you in because we believe that you'll have something to share.

Katherine: Okay! Let's do!

James: How are you doing? How's the baby?

Katherine: Well, he's doing great. We had a baby almost nine months ago. John Nestor Wolf, our miracle baby named for my neurosurgeon, Nestor Gonzalez who saved my life eight years ago.

James: By the way, she talks loud. She had a stroke and so she has to. She has to to project, is how she does it. So she's not trying to be a loud blonde.

[Laughter]

This girl is so full of God but this is how she projects. Now me, I'm just -- you know me.

Betty: You're just loud.

[Laughter]

James: It's really the truth.

Katherine: You are right about that. I used to really want to be very gentle and soft-spoken, have a quiet sweet spirit. I just realized no, the Lord can use my boldness, my loudness. He's not only in it for this kind of gal. He made us all and it can all be channeled for Jesus regardless of what flavor.

[Laughter]

James: You had quite a set back; was it eight years ago? What happened?

Katherine: Almost eight. Right Jay?

Jay: You tell it.

James: He said to us, "I want her sharing." By the way, get a close-up of Jay because I believe that the glory of God is on this guy.

Katherine: I agree!

James: And really it is. It is the countenance of Christ. It really is.

I've told Ben Carson, "Ben, you don't have to pray for that gentle kind sweet calm spirit all the time." I can honestly say when I look at someone like you I say, "Lord, I just want -- I want that!"

So your love for her, your unshakable support is just incredible inspiration. You said you wanted her to talk. What happened eight years ago?

Katherine: Almost eight years ago, it will be eight in a while. And I had a massive brain stem stroke out of the clear blue nowhere. I was 26 years old, perfectly healthy. Didn't even have a general doctor and felt funny, collapsed; ended up having a massive brain stem stroke, nearly dying. And then had 16 hours of micro brain surgery to survive; then spent 40 days in I.C.U.; another two and a half months in a different part of the hospital and another two years in rehab hospitals. All total, it was over a two and a half year ordeal before I was able to move home again. During that same time my baby, who was six months old when I had this stroke was growing and became a two and a half year old by the time I became fully able to reengage him.

James: How long before you could talk?

Katherine: Before I could talk? -- Almost six months really. And before I could eat again 11 months and five days -- but who is counting?

[Laughter]

James: And you had birthday cake tonight. You just said, "I have to eat little bitty pieces."

Katherine: That's right! Exactly. If you can believe it. Celebrated a birthday, I'm 34 and I'm able to eat birthday cake. I'd like to say don't wait to celebrate because you never know what's going to happen in your life and you might as well enjoy every single moment that God's given to you because we are not promised another minute. So might as well eat the good stuff first, especially if you ever go without it for any period of time at all.

[Laughter]

Skip right to the sugar!

James: Katherine, you're just a joy. That's why I want you to talk. That's why he's so happy.

Jay: That's right! I just listen.

James: You're living with a miracle! Isn't that what you feel?

Jay: Absolutely! I think we all live out like it says in Corinthians the death and the resurrection of Christ in our bodies and yet, literally, I'm living out this picture of new life every day. It gives you joy. It's profound. It's a mess too. It's not one note, there's a lot of challenges.

James: A lot of guys would say, "This is too big of a challenge. I'm out of here." Nothing in you leaving that I see, Jay. It is all over the place. What I see is that you not only love this girl you love the Lord that manifests through her, but you just love the Lord. The love of the Lord is in you, which is the kind of love that is long suffering and that endures and that never leaves. It's just there. It's all over you. Do you see it in him like we do?

Katherine: Absolutely! And it is so clear in so many scriptures. I think it is Second Corinthians four that talks about "We are hard pressed on all sides but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed."

Then it goes on as he's referencing to say that "we always carry in our bodies the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus might be revealed in our bodies."

I love that passage that this picture of what we are manifesting and living out every day, that actually we're all living out on the inside of our bodies -- all the brokenness and these issues is a picture of the beautiful life in Jesus that is broken down but not ever destroyed.

Betty: And that is the hope you're talking about in *Hope Heals*.

James: When you say *Hope Heals* tell us what you want us to get out of that.

Katherine: I should let you tell it and I'll tell too.

Jay: I think, we all have wounds. A lot of ours are on the outside. We have plenty on the inside too but we all share that woundedness in our lives and so the question becomes how can we get healed? I think that question reverberated so personally in our lives. We just realize it was a message we all long for. The world and the church alike want to know, can God use this suffering that he's taken me through? Is he even there? Why would he do this? All these questions resound when we go through painful things in our life.

God calls us into redefining everything in our life, redefining it in a person, and that person is Jesus Christ. So when we talk about hope healing we're not talking about human spirit, we're not talking about this resilience. We're talking about the hope that we're anchored in. Jesus has gone before us beyond the veil. We are anchored in the future that has not yet happened. So we see these storms around us and yet we can have this peace that's transcendent because we are

founded, we're not going anywhere. That is hope that really allows us to take that next step of really healing, of being aware of our losses and wounds and grieving those but knowing that those are not the end of our story.

Katherine: What is so powerful about this notion of hope healing you is there is so much less attachment to the here and now of what's happening in my personal myopic view of "This is the worst day ever, this is the worst thing ever." You have this sense if you believe that your hope has healed your soul, the most broken place, then you're less attached to the outcomes of the here and now. You have the ability to look at your situation and say, "My soul is healed. Jesus has healed my soul."

So I may not get my physical healing on earth and I don't put God in a box. I may be healed in 30 years or 60 years or in heaven one day, it is a little irrelevant when because the broken thing was my heart when this happened at 26 years old. But what healed was that place, that feeling, that hurt soul, the need of God to come in and say, "No, I'm making this okay. In fact, much better than just okay. I'm making this like your call. This is your ministry. This is the beauty I'm using. I'm taking the worst thing that's ever happened to you, Katherine and Jay, and I'm making it beautiful."

It's the story of Joseph in the Bible. What Satan intends for evil, God uses for tremendous good and ultimately, for us to steward for his glory. We have this amazing opportunity to use this horrible thing that happens and leverage it for the kingdom. And what could be better than that?

James: Nothing! If everybody would just realize that. I want you to...

Listen. If you wanted this couple in your area and I'll just go ahead and say it, maybe your church. But maybe you would think beyond even just your church and just think, his church. And what this couple could bring, you might say, "I wonder if two or three of us could get together?" Or "Maybe our auditorium is really suited for this and we'll invite some other churches." In other words, we want the church to be part -- we're part of the church in our church -- and we want to share it. If they wanted you to come share, would you like a one-time meeting or like a day or an evening and a morning? What's good for you?

Katherine: James, we like it all!

[Laughter]

We like -- here's what's awesome about our story, our book, our ministry, our lives is that we embody what the world is so desperate for, which is the reason to get out of bed in the morning

and say I can go on even when life doesn't make sense. So an auditorium, sure! Interpersonally, sure! A coffee date -- awesome! Whatever --

Jay: On the Internet. We have a big digital ministry. It's brilliant! You can reach out to people hurting across the world so effortlessly. So thank you for that.

James: How would they contact you? Give your e-mail address.

Jay: Our website is: HopeHeals.com. And then we have our book coming out so we have *Hope Heals* book.

James: Yeah, this book is out now. Here is what I want you to say. Listen to me. Go online, get the book. I want you to get it because if you'll just give a cup of water in a minute and say, "I want the book," we'll send it to you.

But what I want you to do is pray. Somebody needs hope to heal. Think about somebody right now, "I'm going to get it online." Or run to the bookstore or use your car; I don't care, just get there. Get the book. Maybe get one for several people God puts on your heart and get it to them. This is ministry! Because they've got something to offer that's better than what Betty and I got to offer. It's not better in the sense that we all know the Lord but what they've been through, I mean this is the real deal. This is the glory and grace of God in what looks like a very difficult, impossible situation but all things are possible with God. You don't have to just bear it and grind it out and keep a stiff upper lip and let the rough end drag. Doesn't that sound like a hoot? No! That's like a lot of religious folks. We're talking about life.

So get the book. But there's the address. Invite them. Here's what I want you to do. You pray about the setting you put them in. Now you listen to me. When they come, you ask God to let you give them the biggest love offering they've ever gotten in their life. No, I'm serious with you. I'm as serious as I can be. I'm dead serious about that.

Katherine: No, you're so sweet!

James: I don't want one church to have them and say, "Well, they'll take care of you at the next place." As far as you're concerned this is it.

Father, get these people listening to me right now. Understand what I'm saying is important because this is a couple you have sent, filled with your spirit. So let people watching say, "You know what? I'm going to be a part of that incredible miracle of God and I'm going to spread it." In Jesus' name.

Thank you for doing that. Get the book.

Katherine: James, I have to tell you this. My mentor/hero in life is Joni Eareckson Tada but I'm sure you know her.

James: She was here not long ago.

Katherine: So Joni wrote the forward for our book. You can't beat that. And in it she talks about and writes in her forward and endorsed what she's given us that "If you suffer in this life," which the implication is that's likely everyone, "you now have a guide." That's what she wrote in our book! Can you believe that? "That you now have a guide." I was very struck that those were words from Joni Tada. She knows a little something about suffering and personally recommending it to other people.

Jay: And she's been a guide to us too.

Katherine: Exactly! It's --

Jay: Help it forward, we call it. In Second Corinthians one, you give the comfort you've been given.

James: Well, do y'all love this couple?

[Applause]

I want everybody up here in the audience and right here in front, I want everybody in the audience who went to school with her stand up. Out here, come on, stand up. Everybody that went to school with her stand up out here. Now you all were sorority sisters right?

Katherine: Yeah! Go Zeta!

James: Isn't this beautiful?

[Laughter]

We're so glad you're here. Thank y'all so much. Aren't y'all proud of what she's doing? Would you again say thank you Lord for this incredible gift for the hope that heals?

I want to say to you that I wish you could sit in the room with them. We're doing the best we can. Family room, when the Lord led Betty and me to sit here like this, I was in stadiums and

coliseums, it's where I lived. I'm standing there in Cowboy Stadium of the 100,000 people in a Greg Laurie crusade, which we helped support and promote, and I'm standing there and everybody said, "I remember when you were always up there preaching James." I said, "Let me tell you something. There is not even this much desire to walk right up there because God called me to the family room to invite you in the family room and help you get to know the Father."

Would you all agree you have seen the Father's love in this couple right here? Have you seen the God the Father here? See we have a tendency to make a hero out of people too often rather than the Father that's the one to be glorified and honored. I've just spent my life loving, being a servant, and this precious girl sitting by me and we love you.

I want you to get this book. But here's what I'm going to ask you to do. I want you to offer hope that heals and provides the kind of miracle that's even greater than the one you say she might have hoped for, the one she spent -- we're talking about the miracle of like almost raising someone from death or disease to life because hey, the cure is perfect. It's not hope that is not attainable and that brings the very hope that you had to reality. It's giving life because the love of God. I want you to watch and see if you don't want to be the miracle needed.

On the mission field

Announcer: It is a known fact that a person can survive without food for a long period of time if they have access to water. But without water a person may not live more than a week.

The irony for these mothers is they can provide water for their families but in so doing have suffered the loss of one or more of their children to a waterborne disease. Why? Because they did not have access to a clean water source.

Open captions:

If I had more money I could have paid for medicine to save my daughter's life. Even though we are poor, if we had clean water I feel there would be hope for my other children.

Announcer: What a tragedy for mothers who must live each day thinking will this be the day that one of my other children gets sick and dies? Unfortunately, that day comes far too often for mothers in villages like these throughout the world. With your help, this year *LIFE Outreach International* and our partners will reach a milestone of 5,000 completed wells. Our question now is can we together press forward and provide more water wells so mothers don't

have to live in fear that this might be the day another child of theirs dies simply because they don't have access to clean water.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We have focused on 15 nations where the situation you saw there is just evident, undeniable reality. What you heard in that mother's pathos and heartache was a prayer, a heartfelt desire that this tragic occurrence be ended -- and it can be with love. And the fact that God has given us, many of you who are watching *LIFE Today*, you and I prayed that we could drill a well every time we had the emphasis on it. When we started, the wells were \$3600 and then the costs with the petroleum increase and other things around the world, it went up to an average of \$4800. It could go up again with petroleum where it is and the cost of fuel, it likely won't. But you never know. But when it went up we were still able to do it.

The thing that has been so gratifying to us is that many of you have said, "We make it a goal every year to drill a well." And then believe it or not we've had a few people say, a few individual churches even and groups, but we've had quite a few couples and business people say, "We're going to drill a well a month." That's astounding!

But it means that there is something in your heart that says, "I want to do something that really works." And when you give people a well, you're giving them water the rest of their life. We tell people that \$48 of the \$4800 will give ten people water the rest of their life; that's how it breaks out. And you give \$144, 30 people water. So if you give a cup of water, Jesus said, you won't lose the reward, the blessing that I have for you, what would it imply to give a well of water? Well, I believe that if you're not giving to get, you're giving to give and bless that the greatest blessing is we just gave all those people answers to their prayers. We became the answer to their prayer. We became their miracle! -- The expression of God's love. And it lasts a lifetime! It is the gift that just keeps giving.

Would you please right now help us drill 500 more wells, one well at a time, in 15 nations? We just have a short timeframe to do it. Betty, I know you're sitting here listening. Did you feel impressed to add something?

Betty: The question that that mother asked there at the last, "Will this be the day that I lose a child? Will tomorrow be the day that I'll lose a child?" I want her to be able to say, "This was the day -- this is the day that hope came in." She was asking for hope. And I got hope for my children because there was a water well drilled so that my child might have pure clean water.

James: And those children rejoice when it's there as though you had just opened up an entertainment park for them. Every now and then the missionaries say, "Okay, you can play in it a little bit today." But it is so precious; they don't let them do that. But a lot of times when we go back to an area where we've drilled a well or some of our team does, they let them play in it because they're still so happy. And when the well comes in you'd think they'd hit an oil well, they got life.

Listen. I'm asking you to go to LifeToday.org right now. I want you to run get your communication device, your laptop, your iPad, whatever you use, LifeToday.org, take your bankcard and say, "I'm going to give the greatest gift I can today; I'm going to give the gift of life." Water for Life, and those missionaries, are going to tell them about the water of life.

Would you do it right now? Or you can dial the number. People are calling that number every day for prayer. Today you're calling the number to be an answer to prayer. So you call the number. Here's my bankcard, use it like a check and say, "Here's the gift God's impressing me and enabling me to give."

If you can give a well, \$4800, do it. You give part of a well, pray that others match it. If it is \$1200, you need three more; \$2400, you need another one. Pray God, match this gift. Remember, most of the gifts come from \$48 for ten people, \$144 to reach 30.

Whatever you can do. Please right now would you be an answer to that mother's prayer? I believe you're going to be and you're going to do it joyfully.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children living in extreme poverty are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution. Mission: Water for Life is one of the most proven and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today you can help establish and drill 500 water wells in remote villages in over 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift we would like to send you Pastor Robert Morris's new book, *Frequency*. As you read you'll discover how to hear God's voice, receive direction for your life and experience a deeper connection with God. With your gift of \$100 or more you'll also receive the Hearing God Daily Journal and scripture pen. A wonderful way to record what God is impressing on your heart and a beautiful keepsake for your daily prayer time.

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 "Majesty" bronze sculpture.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Listen. While we were waiting for you to respond, I got so moved because of the hope that heals. We were talking about healing our broken heart and knowing -- because Mercy Me sang that song in the stadium when we were there, Betty and I, "We Can Only Imagine" -- that's what they sang at our daughter's funeral and our daughter doesn't have to imagine anymore.

Now listen to me. Don't miss the hope that heals. It is so real, and the hurts are so big and so heavy. But it is the blessed hope of the reality of Christ now and forever.

Father, let everybody watching get it. Let them reach out today and say, "I need that hope that heals." Then Lord, let them take it one step further and say, "I want to share that hope that heals"; in Jesus' name.

I want to say again, for all the prayers that you've prayed for me and Betty and the appreciation for the fact that we would try to go on encouraging you when we hurt, thanks for your love. Your love heals.

And to this beautiful couple, I want all of you here again to join and just praise God for Katherine and Jay Wolf and the fact that *Hope Heals*. Would you say thanks to God? We'll send you the book if you help us drill a water well, give a cup of water -- just ask for the book. And then you be praying for us.

Visit stream.org every day for understanding of the times. Make it your home page. God bless y'all! Thank you! Thank all of you for being here!

Katherine: God bless y'all!