

5/18/16
Week 21: WFL
Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh
Wednesdays in the Word
Beth Moore: Filled to the measure
Beth 4-4

Randy: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm Randy Robison. My guest host is Miss Sheila Walsh.

Sheila, always good to have you.

Sheila: Great to be with you.

Randy: We have got a special thing for you today. You may not know this. The teaching that Beth is teaching today is called "Filled to the Measure." She tells a story, we call it "the hair brush story" around here. And that's actually what I called it; part of my job around here at *LIFE Outreach* has to do with digital media. Did you know that this story that Beth tells in this show is the number one most viewed video clip on YouTube out of anything that *LIFE Outreach International* has ever done?

Sheila: Well, having watched it, I'm actually not surprised. It's funny and it is powerful.

Randy: It is! I've seen it a dozen times now and honest to God, every time I see it I'm like uhmm! Because God uses it, I think to just get our attention and say you know what? If you'll just obey me you will experience things you never thought you could and it will be glorious. So, over three quarter of a million views on YouTube so far.

Sheila: And if you've ever wondered, Lord, can you use me? I'm not a preacher, I'm not a singer, can you use my life? Then I think this illustration from Beth will show that if we're simply obedient God can do things that are unbelievable.

Randy: Absolutely! Let's take a look at that right now. Beth Moore, "Filled to the Measure."

Begin video clip

Beth: I want you to note something because here recently, in study, it hit me afresh what he's saying here. Look at the very middle of verse 17.

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

All right, listen carefully. Paul is praying that you and I, together with all the saints listening in, all the saints seated here, may have the power. In other words, I believe that the implication of this, and I found it in a couple of different commentaries, is that this kind of grasping that this segment of scripture is talking about is not something that comes naturally to us. We need a supernatural unction. Isn't "unction" a great word? Everybody say "unction."

Audience: Uction.

Beth: This is "un..." There's some power to "unction." You and I need a supernatural unction of God to grasp hold of some of this. This is never just going to come to us in our "day in day out." I believe that God doesn't just have us here today talking about it, he wants to give it to us. What if, as a direct result of our Bible study today, we went to our work place, we went into our relationships, we responded to people around us and inside our homes with an entirely new unction of the depth and height and breadth of God's love for us? What if that happened? What if supernaturally that happened to us today? I want that!

I want you to notice something else it says that I'm just all about. Verse 19:

"...and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--"

Christ has invited us to know what really cannot be known. To experience something that really cannot be explained. That we can't even make proper testimony of because it's bigger than our mind can put to terms. To know something beyond knowing, that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. This is what we're going to pinpoint throughout the series. What it means to be filled to the measure. Everybody say "Filled to the measure."

Audience: Filled to the measure.

Beth: I hope to prove to you, scripturally, that what you need as much as anything in your entire life, particularly if you already know Jesus Christ -- Then what you need, and what you're after and what you're yearning for, is to be filled to the measure. Not a touch and not a taste. I'm talking about as full as your little temple could possibly be with a filling of Christ and everything he brings to you. I'm talking about being filled.

I want you to think something through with me and I'm going to repeat it over and over until we get it. I want you to hear this sentence. And I want -- this is one of those things I think you

can take to the spirituals bank, I'm so sure of it. Listen carefully to this statement: All excess is rooted in emptiness. Let me say that again. All excess is rooted in emptiness.

I hope we're going to see today, we're going to get some explanations. Do you ever just want to go, "What is my problem?" Surely it's got to be somebody besides me that has these kinds of conversations in the mirror? They just – opens up the little vanity in the car and go, "What is wrong with you?" Have you ever just gone, "What kind of idiot are you?" Just talking to yourself. Talking to yourself.

I hope we're going to be able to see today that one of the things that keep getting us over and over again is that we've got this empty thing in us some place and we cannot get satisfied. All excess is rooted in emptiness. I want you to say that back to me. What did I say?

Audience: All excess is rooted in emptiness.

Beth: Did you hear that? Did you hear that? We live in a culture of excess and it has only aggravated what has long since been a human dilemma. And that is that man looks to be filled. Nature abhors a vacuum. There is something in us that constantly longs to be filled. That sense of emptiness will be the death of us as much as anything else you and I ever experience. An unsatisfied soul is a stronghold waiting to happen, I promise you that. If you don't tend to it, if you've got this thing out there, this dissatisfaction, this emptiness in your life, if you do not tend to it with God it will turn into a stronghold. Because we are looking, we have something in us that is desperate to be full.

The excess that is promoted on every billboard, advertisements, commercials... This constant thing -- Everything that advertisements tell us boils down to one thing: you are not yet satisfied. Is that fair to say? You see, they can't sell us something if we're satisfied. So the entire attempt of a billion dollar marketing industry is to say to us and reaffirm over and over again, you know you're not satisfied with that car. There's a newer one than that. You know you need more.

I've laughed with y'all. I told them before class ever began, there is a reason my name is Moore. I've told you this before. Because we are so prone to addiction throughout my family that if a little is good, more is a whole lot better. Cause more... and more and more. And our culture has deceived us into a depth of emptiness that is excruciating. All excess... Tell me again.

Audience: ...is rooted in emptiness.

Beth: ...is rooted in emptiness. Now, my area of excess is not necessarily yours.

We all have that area in our lives where we are prone to not be able to get enough. Mine may be entirely different than anything that you experience, but you've got your own thing going. Amen? I want you to think it through because emptiness is why we can't eat enough - we can't

starve enough - we can't drink enough - we can't exercise enough - we can't sleep enough - we can't stay high enough - we can't smoke enough pot - we can't diet enough - we can't look good enough - we can't shop enough - we can't serve at church enough.

Now I know serving my church is an extremely important part of my believing life. But I am saying this, sometimes we will stay busy to keep from dealing with our own "stuff" before God. And we're trying to fill our emptiness with our activities, and it's miserable. Emptiness is why we can't work enough, we can't make money enough, we can't watch enough, we can't have enough sex, we can't surf the web enough, we can't stay busy enough, we can't be on our blackberries enough. There is a reason why they call them crackberries.

You know carpal tunnel syndrome -- they are now treating people for that. It's something that is happening to the thumbs from working a blackberry. I'm all about a blackberry.

I'm just asking, what is it we really need when we need to work 24-7? What is it? What is the feeling of self-importance that we're after when we need to know that people are trying to get hold of us? We've got so much access now through pagers, through instant messaging, through email, through our cell phones, through our blackberries, that God forbid that we just wouldn't answer it.

Do you ever get one of those emails that say they've given automatic notice back to them that you received it? And you just want to go, "I want to have the right as to whether or not I'm going to take a minute right now to respond." Am I speaking to anybody? Because we will get hold of one another.

Part of that is that need to feel important. We have to tell ourselves that through other people needing us, through other people contacting us, through other people calling us, we have to make ourselves indispensable so we can feel better about ourselves. It's what causes people to work into the night; men and women who hardly see their children because they are desperate to feel like they are important. All excess is rooted in emptiness.

One of the most important things that we learn as a believer when we study the concept of being full in Christ is that satisfaction does not come with our salvation. We are not immediately completely satisfied to the full measure of the presence of Christ in us. Yes, at the moment we receive Christ as our personal savior his spirit comes and takes up residency. But the word of God is clear that you and I can quench his presence. We can quench his spirit, or we can be filled to the measure with him.

But the word of God tells us in Ephesians, I want you to glance ahead, Ephesians 5:18, watch this parallel. It says in verse 18,

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

The King James Version says,

“Be ye filled.”

In other words, you aren't just in a compulsory state of fullness in Christ. If you and I want that, if you and I want to be filled to the measure with the spirit of Christ in all he brings with him (the gifting of Christ, the love of Christ, the compassion of Christ, the supernatural ability of Christ, the fruit of Christ) we're going to have to seek it.

There are so many people, so many Christians that thought that that was going to come in one immediate package and stay there every single moment of every single day and we end up thinking to ourselves, “I really thought this was going to be it. But frankly, Jesus is not it either.”

Oh yes, oh yes.... Somebody say, “Oh yes!”

Audience: Oh yes!

Beth: Oh yes, he is! He said, “You just keep me way down here, when I came to fill you to the measure.”

I hope that what the Holy Spirit is going to do in every single one of us today is dissatisfy us with anything and everything except the full measure of Christ Jesus. That is what we're after.

Now, I want you to notice something with me, because the parallel of the metaphor that is being used -- all scripture is not only God breathed, it is in context. One scripture is supposed to be next to the one before it, and next to the one after it.

Now if you look at the parallel that Paul is drawing, he is saying

“Do not be drunk with wine, but be ye filled with the spirit.”

What is the comparison between the two? Be under the influence of another power.

So he is saying, “You want a drink of the spirit, not a drink of something else that can influence you some other way.”

We want so badly to feel better. Don't we? Or maybe just not to feel at all. He said “Be filled to the full measure with my spirit. Be filled to the full measure with my spirit.”

Have you ever thought, “What is it that drives us to do some of the bizarre things we do?”
Have you ever thought about it?

Not long ago I was in Target getting some pictures developed and while I was there I heard this bizarre sound. I heard this man just singing at the top of his lungs. I could hear the music behind him. Because I was raised on Stevie Wonder, I certainly recognized the song. And as I

was listening to it, because it was so odd to be coming from the aisle of the Target, so I looked at the woman standing there at the counter, and went, “What is that?”

She said, “Oh, don’t mind him. He comes in every day.” She said he goes over and puts on Stevie Wonder every single day on exactly the same machine. It’s got a little microphone with it, and he just karaoke’s Stevie Wonder. Every day! What makes a person do that? What makes a person glance at his or her watch and go, “Oh! I almost missed my karaoke!” What makes somebody want to go to Target and sing “Isn’t She Lovely?” Why?

Aren’t we bizarre? See, I’m just bizarre in other ways. Like, for instance, here recently we’ve had some remodeling done on our home because I would not leave my home.

Keith said, “It’s time for us to either move,” after several decades, “or we need to remodel.”

Well, we’re going to have to remodel because I raised my kids in that home. I’ve had enough change; I want the same house! So, I’ve got some new covers for my bed. And the very first time that my friend who helped us do the décor, because I have no clue how to do that -- I can walk into a house and say, “Now isn’t that pretty,” but I have no idea how to make that happen and she can make some of that happen. The first time she put these decorative pillows – I have never had decorative pillows like that. I don’t care about decorative pillows. It’s just not something I care about. I don’t care about a fancy house. It is just not something I care about.

So she puts the pillows on the bed, and she immediately – they’re kind of fluffy – and she hacks them right in the middle. She goes – there’s two of them – hack here and hack here. Every time I make up my bed, I put those two pillows on there and I go hack, hack. Not one time have I put those pillows on my bed without hacking them.

My daughter, Amanda, says, “Mother, why is it you hack the pillows?”

I said, “Because Vicki hacked the pillows the first time she put them on there.”

She goes, “May I hack the pillows?”

“Yes, Amanda, you may hack the pillows.” But I had this overwhelming desire to go back, because I thought, “I didn’t have my morning hack!”

[Laughter]

Why are we so bizarre? You have your own “stuff.” What is it that causes us, what force within us causes us to be as bizarre as we are? What’s driving you? What is it that is driving you? Because here is what I want to suggest to you: you and I are a vacuum looking to be full. So if we keep the Spirit of Christ quenched in us and we just go for him for about this much – we’re just kind of working him in.

See, we very often just try to placate God. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? Like, I need to give him his 15 minutes, like he's relying on it today. Do you know what I'm saying? He's going to need this today! I need to throw God a bone. Do you understand what I'm saying to you? Because God needs this from me.

God does not need it. He's going, "Do you know, really, it was you that needed me! I'm doing fine today, you're not doing well, but I'm doing fine today!" We're never called to make God feel better. God feels fine, and so when we do this, when here is our vessel and we just go to God for about – we've got about this, going. We're going to look throughout the course of the day to fill that baby up because we can't stand to be empty. Am I telling you the truth? Is that fair? We can't stand that. Is there any feeling like it? Any feeling like it?

I have a precious friend that does our make-up and gets us ready here for the broadcast of *Life Today*, and she's recently, just unexpectedly, I mean almost in a heartbeat lost her man. As soon as I found out about it I thought to myself, "Goodness, the thing about the way life works is it's only after you've been with them 30 or 40 or 45 years – By that time you don't know where they start and you finish, and where they finish and you start, you've been with them so long, if God's given you those years.

I thought, "Whoa." The emptiness of that.

I went through a season here recently, it's been finished about a month and a half I guess, where the enemy just tormented me – tormented me. If he could get me alone, he just tormented me. I've gone for years and I'm telling you it was something that he just – it was just a new ploy, a fresh attack. And Keith could walk in the door and suddenly it would be like the enemy was bound and my man was loose. Do you understand what I'm saying? But I could just feel this emptiness. What is this? What is this?

I think God wanted me to know. It's the feeling so many people are dealing with day in and day out; walking into an empty house. Or maybe – this is tricky – your house and your lives are full. Nothing quite like the despair that happens when you know you've got every reason on earth to be happy and you still feel empty.

At least if you don't have it yet, you can think it's because "I don't have a man. That's what's wrong with me. When I get him all my problems will be solved." And that, girlfriend, is a lie.

[Laughter]

Amen? Good, wonderful. But that does not solve our problems. Somehow when we think we've got everything we wanted and we still feel the same miserable way... You talk about depressing, because then we have to face that it is inside of me. Precisely! It's exactly what Ephesians 3 is saying. He wants to minister to our inner man that just yearns and starves to be filled.

What I want you to know today is that most of us are walking around on spiritual starvation and we are headed for trouble because we are going to look to get that thing filled, one way or the other. See, if this is all I've got going of the spirit that day, that season, what am I going to do with this? What am I going to do with this? I'm going to show you a couple of things we're going to try to do with it.

Would you turn with me -- You might as well leave something there as well, because we'll be back. I want you to go with me to Luke 4. The Gospel of Luke, chapter 4. Oh, it is an unspeakable privilege for me to study God's word with you. Thank you so much. This is life to me right here. This is life to me. I want you to know that there is no way I could strongly enough say to you this is not a performance. We're not having a show here. The word of God is my entire life. This is what I live and breathe for right here. I want people to know it is power. I want people to know the deliverance of Christ. I want people to know his fullness. I want people to get out of the trap that continues to spiral them down in a pit, and much of that is we are an empty place looking to be filled.

Luke, chapter 4, I want to take you to a moment in scripture that is so profound as Jesus gives a sermon in Nazareth. I want to start at verse 14, Luke 4:14.

"Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the spirit..."

Let that be us, when we return back to what we're doing. Let us go in a fresh power of the spirit.

"...and news about him spread through the whole country side. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read."

Not coincidentally, the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Now the scroll, of course, I want you to picture that he's rolling it out, he's got the scroll of the prophet Isaiah there, so he's looking there thinking Isaiah. Well, I know exactly where I'm headed. So he looks through that scroll until he comes to the 61st chapter of the prophet Isaiah's inspired words and it says, unrolling it, I want you to picture his finger tracing across, of course he's going to read from this side to this side, because he's reading in Hebrew, so he's looking here, looking here, looking here... Chapter 61. And he begins to say,

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Now this is such a wonderful part, look at what it says in verse 20.

"Then he rolled up the scroll..."

You have to wonder if he just let it kind of go.

[Laughter]

It would have been such a dramatic time to do it.

“...rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and he sat down.”

That’s what he reads, and then he just sits down.

“The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him and he began by saying to them,”

because he had read that he was to sit down, and then he was going to teach, and so this is what he teaches,

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

What if he fulfilled this scripture in our hearing? What if we didn’t just study? What if we experienced the scriptures? What if? Are we just going to stay distant from it, or are we going to sit in this synagogue with him and go, “I want it. I tell you, I want it.”? Fulfill this scripture in me today, in my hearing, in my ears, Lord. What he reads in that portion of Isaiah is his very own job description.

Jesus had all sorts of descriptions through the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 53 is a stunning example of prophecy that was fulfilled to the last detail. It’s also the book where God wrote the birth announcement of Christ and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace; a birth announcement if you’ll ever hear it.

Here in Isaiah 61 we hear the job description of Christ. He is reading his own job description and he says, “This is what I’ve been sent to do. The Lord has anointed me.” “Anointed me,” that is a key word, because that word “anointed” there is “chrío” in the Greek from which we get “Christos,” which is the “anointed one” from which we get Christ.

When we call Christ “Christ,” when we say Jesus Christ, we are saying what in Old Testament terms would have been Messiah. In Hebrew it would have been a rendering from which they come up with the word “Messiah,” “the anointed one,” “Christos” in the Greek. The anointing itself is called the “chrío.” “I have been anointed. I am the anointed one.” He is calling himself Messiah at this point. “I am the anointed one of God.” I want you to see what he tells them. “He has anointed me,” and he goes into this job description. The first thing he says is this, “...to preach good news to the poor.” Preach good news to the poor.

Now let me tell you something. The word of God had plenty to say about the physically poor. Plenty to say about it! Plenty to say to his people about taking care of the physically poor. But in this particular verse it’s not just talking about those who are physically poor, it’s talking

about a poverty of soul, a poverty of spirit. Because it is some kind of poor, some kind of poverty that good news can speak to. You and I have some ailments that the pure word of God can heal. This is the kind of poverty that what I say to you can fix. The definitions of poor are exactly what you would imagine them to be – “destitute,” “needy.” I love one in particular where it says, “beggar.” Someone just begging.

One of the definitions I founds some years ago of this word, “poor,” in Luke chapter 4 said, I’ve never forgotten it, “subsisting on the alms of others.” Remember that I told you that if we do not learn to be filled to the measure with the fullness of Christ we’re going to take whatever is not filled by Christ and we’re going to look to get that thing filled. And we’re going to turn to one of two things. The first one is we’re going to turn to subsistence living -- subsistence living -- which means we are going to rely through the course of the day on what man can give us. We’re just going to walk around like emotional and spiritual beggars.

Can I be that bold with you? Because I want to tell you something, I want to see us set free. Sometimes, until God opens our eyes to what we’re doing, even if for a moment we feel foolish and realize that is what I am doing at work -- that’s what I’m doing at home – Until we can have our eyes open to it we’ll just continue in it. It’s not until we finally go, “Good grief! That is not what I want to do.” It’s what many of us are doing. We’re just walking around with this thing because we’re empty. For crying out loud, we have needs! We do! We are needy people. There is not one of us listening that is not needy. That is just a state of humanity. So, if we do not seek to be filled to the measure with God, here is what we’re going to do: we’re going to walk around with this thing all day begging somebody to put something in it. We just become a beggar to whatever anybody can give us. And we live on subsistence. We’re just subsisting. There is no thriving to it. Because we’re just going to go on whatever anybody gives – We need people to affirm us at work. Am I talking to anybody? We need our kids to tell us how we’re really wonderful. Your spouse –

Now I’ve laughed and said, “Bless Keith’s heart. There really isn’t enough he can say.” Because I looked at him and said, “Was that okay?”

He says, “Yeah.” But why was it just okay? You know what I’m saying? I mean, aren’t we pitiful? Just pitiful. You just have to go on God, because people are just not going to cut it. They aren’t going to give us enough. We might have some good weekly tithers; they’re going to put in their two cents worth. Do you understand what I’m saying? But inside they get to where – can I be so bold – they despise us, because we’re just like a walking need. They’re going to have to build us up again. Maybe they wished we’d get a clue that every now and then they needed building up.

I’ve known passive aggressive spouses and friends -- I’m not just talking about marriage, I’m talking about friendships. Have you ever just – has a friendship just suddenly been over? You’re going, “Why?” Why didn’t they tell you months ago you were wearing them out? Is

that fear? Could we go ahead and open our eyes to this so we could be set free? Do you know what? Our dignity is safe with Christ. It really is.

Remember the woman, the Samaritan woman who went back into town and said, "He told me everything I'd ever said or done!" And she was happy about it. Only Christ -- where you have to look at yourself, and still have your dignity. So, let's still have some dignity here, but let's admit that we have lost some relationships because they just couldn't tell us somewhere along the way, "You are killing me! You are wearing me out!"

You know what it's like, because turn it around. Who is it that is constantly in your face going, "Is there anything you can put in here?" You've got somebody, don't you? You've got somebody, too. Can you turn it around and see it in the opposite, where you're constantly, constantly needed to give affirmation here, and affirmation there, so that that person can feel something inside his or her cavernous soul? Subsistence: just making it, and barely making it at that.

Let me tell you, you will be the most popular person all of your friends know when you start getting filled to the measure with the fullness of Christ. Not to say we don't want to be able to be honest with our friends, and boy, we could really use some encouragement. We could really use a little of -- a hug, for crying out loud. That's good, that's good. I'm saying, staying in a perpetual state of need. Living like a beggar, going from person to person. Is there anything you can do to make me feel better? Is that just fair to say to anybody? Lord, help us, we need you so badly. We'll either turn to subsistence like a beggar holding a cup, looking for givers, or we'll turn to substitution. We'll turn to substitution. This substance or that. We're either going to go to people for subsistence, or we're going to go to substances and behaviors for substitution.

There's another name for substitution: idolatry. Everything we switch out for what Christ came to minister to our souls, every bit of that is an idol. Every bit of that. So, we have struggles thinking of the Old Testament concepts, of their culture, when really we understand this one. We are a culture that certainly understands idolatry. We'll turn to substitution.

I want you to hear some words out of Isaiah 44:20. Jot down that address, but I'm going to read it to you. Isaiah 44:20. Another name, as we're thinking in the terms of idolatry, it says this so perfectly,

"He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot say to himself, 'Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?'" "...a deluded heart misleads him."

The word of God tells us that, above all, the heart is deceitful. That your heart -- if your just going to go on emotion, on how you feel, especially before that heart begins to get sanctified and gets some fullness from Christ, when we're still just an accident waiting to happen -- that heart will lie like a dog to us. Anybody know what I'm talking about? How many bad

relational decisions have we made because of a deluded heart? It says that with this deluded heart we can't look down our right hand and go, "What I'm doing to try to fill my emptiness is one big fat lie!"

It is a lie. It is a lie. If it works at all, it works for a few minutes. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Which is why we have to go to more and more and more and more. It's what's at the base and at the root of every addiction. Because it lied. And now we've got to have more. And we've got to have a little more than we did last time, because then, of course, we kind of adjust to that level, and more and more and more... Subsistence or substitution.

You sit tight right there in Luke 4, but I'm going to read to you some stunning words out of Jeremiah 2, that speak to this perfectly. It says in verse 13 of Jeremiah 2,

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

When we dig our own cisterns it's not going to work. It is not going to work. It has cracks in it every time and everything we pour into it just pours out of it. I love that God and his son, Christ, both compare what they did to water. Because I want you to think of the capacity that a fluid has, that no amount of anything solid could do. If your house has ever been flooded you know what water can do. You know that even though the closet door was shut, water still got under the cracks and crevices and filled up that closet. That's exactly what the living water does.

I come before Christ and I say to him, "All right Lord, I mean I am a need waiting to be filled." See, that's fair. That's fair. I know I've got cavernous places in my soul. So let's admit that some of the needs people really could provide, many of us don't have those people in our lives to provide them. So we're just going, "God, help me!" That's fair, that's good.

Psalms 90 says,

"Satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love."

That's exactly what we see in Ephesians 3. Let's turn back there right now. Let's take a look at this because I want you to note something. In being filled to the measure that is specified in Ephesians 3, notice with me that it says, in the context of grasping how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, it says that you may know that love that surpasses knowledge; that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Oh, please go there with me. Because you and I don't just need to be full, we need to be full of somebody's love. Every single one of us has an innate overwhelming, not just desire to be loved, but a need to be loved. You are never at greater risk, nor am I, than when we are not feeling properly loved. We will look for that.

You want to talk about an empty vessel? If we do not go to God to get that cup filled, let me tell you we are going to get ourselves into a tremendous amount of trouble, because there is something very real inside of each one of us that not only needs to be full, I've got to know somebody totally loves me. I cannot change that, no matter what I do. It's just there, and it's just huge, and it's enough to go the depths of my need. It's enough, it's long enough. It's wide enough. It's high enough. I've got to know that.

You know, many of these in this studio audience come from around the same area as where I live, so they will be able to testify that we do a lot of "sweet talk" where we're from. I go to all sorts of areas of the country and certainly in other nations where everybody doesn't just sweet talk, they don't call each other "Darling." But we do, not all of us, but most of us. We're sweet talkers. It's just the way we are.

I remember when a good friend of mine one time said -- a dear, dear friend of mine, an artist, a wonderful singer that said to me -- she's from New York City, and she said, "Beth, I need your advice and I do not need your sweet bologna." It was just so -- I said, "It is not bologna! It's just that we find a really sweet way to say it where I'm from." Do you know what I'm talking about?

You have no idea the letters I have received through the years that have said, "You are the only one that calls me sweet heart." I tell you, it almost brings me to tears every time. At least the first 20 times I saw it, it made me just sob. "You're the only one that says, 'beloved.' You're the only one that says, 'You sweet thing.'"

I want you to know something; Christ's affection for you is such. He sweet talks you. You'd be red faced if you could hear it. It's good. It's full, and you need to know it. So you are not just a gaping canyon, looking to fill it. It'll be the death of you. But the word of God is teaching us how to come to him. Before he fills me up, I've got to empty myself out. That's when I'm going to come, and I'm going to bring him my confessions of sin.

I always have something to confess. I'm going to bring him my concerns. I'm going to tell on people that have hurt my feelings. Do you understand what I'm saying? We'll do all of those things. Then after I just empty myself before him, I want to ask him, "Lord you come, you just overtake me." See, the filling of the Spirit is not about a spiritual gift! It's about a state of being. Full! And with that fullness comes power. And you never know what you're going to do with that kind of power. Something beyond you.

I want to tell you a story that I told many, many years ago, that remains dear to me. Particularly because people bring it back up to me over and over again. It's probably the thing I've been asked about as much as anything regarding stories and Bible studies along the years. It's such a statement in my own life, and such a memory of God overtaking me and enabling me to do something I couldn't do. You have no idea how dangerous you would be if you would live filled to the measure with the fullness of Christ.

I was headed off to the east side of the country to Ashville, North Carolina to speak, and I had left fairly early that morning right after I had gotten the girls on the bus. They were probably early Junior High School at that time, my oldest, and my youngest coming out of elementary school. I had had a terrific morning with the Lord. When you're in the throes of that kind of parenting, boy, it's catch where catch can.

But that particular day they had gone off early to school and I had had all morning just to soak him in. I'd been memorizing scripture and I remember very clearly I was memorizing John chapter one at the time. I was on the airplane, and the way I do my memory work is I have to say it. I read it then I say it out loud, then I read it then say it out loud, I read it and then I look away from it and see if I can say it. So I did this over and over again until I got stumped on a passage and the guy sitting next to me completed my sentence. And he was not happy about it.

[Laughter]

He had no desire to memorize John chapter one. None! None.

So, I got to my layover and I was about to go -- I was going into a small town, Ashville, so I was about to move to a prop. I had to go through a part of the airport that was just one large room where you went off into several different halls, down to the smaller planes. For a small airport, in the small part of the terminal it was packed, absolutely packed. Our chairs were all facing one another so there were a set of chairs that were against the wall and I was in the one straight across from them... I was totally immersed in my memory work.

The only reason I am telling you this is I was filled to the measure. I had had a wonderful morning with him and I was filled to the measure.

So I was sitting Indian style in my jeans and sweater, and I had my Bible open in my lap, and I was going back over it and back over it. Boy, I was getting it. I was all the way down to about verse 18, and boy, it was coming to me. I was having a great time.

Suddenly I see that the eyes of all the people against the wall are watching something behind me. It was like a movie because all of their eyes shifted this way, this big around, and they began to come this way. Whatever it was, it was going right behind me.

I'm thinking, "Oh, I wish I were looking." Or are you like that? I'm a people watcher. I so desperately thought, "What are they looking at?" And I can't wait to look for myself until it comes all the way around here.

Suddenly, in my peripheral vision, I began to see a little of it. It is a flight hostess that is pushing a man in a wheel chair right to the end of my row, and there is nobody between us. And this place is packed. So I want you to know that Jesus went to a significant amount of trouble to make sure that I saw this man.

I wait until everybody else gets more polite, and then I go -- And when I look over at him, he was the oddest sight. He looked like he was not one iota less than about 129 and I'm not kidding. This was the oldest looking person I had ever seen. Not only that, but he had gray hair that was down to here. His finger nails were every bit as long as mine. He was clean, but it was just an odd sight! His pants looked like he had obviously lost a lot of weight because they were just bunched up. I'll never forget how he looked. His head was just hanging down like this and his hair was in streams this long. Whoa! It was one of those times when you think, "That is Howard Hughes!"

[Laughter]

"That has got to be Howard Hughes." You think any moment, "I'm going to have an Elvis sighting." You know, it was that kind of thing.

This is what's happening in the airport today so I can hardly take my gaze off of him. I try to get my face back down and go back to my memory work. This is how much God thinks of us just memorizing scripture but not doing anything with it because the Lord begins to compel my heart. Overwhelms me! Overwhelms me! Well, I have learned, I've walked with him a long time. I knew by now that is scary. God is up to something when he is overwhelming your heart like that.

I just thought, "Oh please, God, no! Oh, please! Please, God, no!" because I'm already knowing he wants me to witness to this man. So I say to myself in my spirit -- and I'm not talking out loud, but in my spirit I'm talking to God, I'm sure my mouth is going -- because I say to him, "Do not make me witness to that man! Put me on the same plane with him, I'll happily witness to him on the same plane. But do I have to do it now?" Because I had that "whoa," "whoa" that now kind of feeling that gets in your soul, where whoa! Where it's like, the Holy Spirit is standing up and going and you're going like this with him; that horrible feeling when you know something is about to happen that you would not have chosen to do.

Now, I'm going to tell you, as clear as I'm talking to you now, the Lord spoke to my heart. There's been very few times I've ever heard God be this articulate with me. And I'm telling you, word for word, these words came into my heart: "I'm not asking you to witness to him; I'm asking you to brush his hair."

“Lord, that man needs witnessing to!”

[Laughter]

“What good is combed hair if a man is lost? And I can tell, Lord, that man – I am your witness, I am your witness, I am your witness, I am your girl! Me! Me!” I’ve got the Roman road! Amen?

Still, in my heart, I mean we’re just having a fight. “I didn’t tell you to witness to him. I told you to brush his hair!”

I thought, “I don’t have a hair brush!” I fix my hair, and then it’s done for the day, until I unfix it. And the brush is in the luggage. Do you understand what I’m saying to you?

So I say, “I don’t even have a hair brush!” and the Lord’s still compelling me.

So I get up, walk over, and I’m thinking to myself, “I don’t even have a hair brush.” I’m supposed to be thoroughly equipped under all good works. I did not have my hair brush.

[Laughter]

I walk over; I get right in front of the man. His head is hanging down like this. I lean down like this and I said, “Sir, may I have the honor of brushing your hair?”

And he says, “What?”

A little louder, “Sir, may I have the honor of brushing your hair?”

He goes, “Well, lady, if you want me to hear you, you’re going to have to speak up.”

[Shouting] “Sir, may I have the privilege of brushing your hair?” To which everyone in the airport goes whoo...

[Laughter]

I can feel every eye just piercing me, just like this, and I was humiliated –

He looked at me and said, “If you want to.”

And I'm thinking, "I don't!"

[Laughter]

I don't want to! I said, "Yes, sir. I would absolutely love to, but my problem is I don't have a hair brush."

[Laughter]

He says, "I have a hair brush. It's back in my bag."

So I go all the way around the wheel chair, his bag is on the back of it like this. I get down on my knees. I unzip this little duffle bag and I started pulling out his clean undershirts, his pair of pajamas... all sorts of things. And as I do, I cannot tell you the feeling that overwhelmed me. I'm just flooded with the love of Christ.

I found the hairbrush; it's one of those real old bristle ones. It doesn't look anything like our brushes do now. When I stood up I began – I went over to him and I thought, "You know, to tell you the truth, this is what I'm good at." I had two girls. I'm good at this.

I just came and I began to brush his hair, and it was so matted that I couldn't even -- so I had to get down to the very bottom of it. I just brushed the very ends of it, and then just a little bit; it took us forever!

I want to tell you, I was oblivious to everybody else in that room. At that point, nobody else was alive to me. I just kept brushing and brushing until that hair was as smooth as silk. I went back around to him and squatted down in front of him and put my hands on his hands – they were on his knees and his head was just like that – and I said, "Sir, do you know Jesus?"

And he said, "Yes, I do."

I said, "Well, of course you do."

[Laughter]

That figures! I wanted to share the gospel with you, but no, you need your hair brushed! He told me that his little bride of so many years would not marry him until he came to know Christ, and he said, "I was just sitting here thinking to myself ..." and he wept, I'm about to cry telling you. He said, "I was just sitting here thinking what a mess I must be for my bride."

He'd been in that hospital for months and he was about to return back home. Nobody had cut his hair or anything. I don't know how long it had been since it had been brushed.

That hostess came and put him on the plane. She came back out and she was crying, I mean hard. She said, "What made you do that?"

I said, "Jesus! He's the bossiest thing!"

[Laughter]

She did need Christ, so I did get to talk to her. He knows what our need is. The man didn't need witnessing to, he needed his hair brushed! When we are filled to the measure with the fullness of Christ, [Whispers] you sweet thing, you cannot believe the needs we can meet. We can do what we know we can't. And while you're doing it, you're just thinking, "That ain't me! That really ain't me!" No, it's God.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: Wow!

Randy: Did I tell you that was a great story or what? Just the way God can use us if we will be available. I think there is a lot of ways we can do that. A lot of times it is going and doing something a little unusual. Maybe it is as simple as talking to a neighbor.

Sheila, I know you've reached out in ways you never thought you would.

Sheila: I think one of the things about learning to obey the Holy Spirit is when you feel that nudge, sometimes it doesn't seem like it makes sense. I'm sure Beth, as she told us, "Lord, what's this man going to think?" But her simple obedience unlocked something in that man's life.

What I love about Beth's teaching is that it shows us that when we are willing to move to do something then God can do something even greater. That's one of our passions. That's what we really want to talk to you about today about this wonderful vision we have to bring clean water to children who are dying because they don't have it.

Randy: Absolutely. Let me say this. Don't use this as a cop out because I'm going to ask you to do something in a minute and I want you to do it. But I think there's also some things you can

do right around your family, your home, your work and you need to do it because it is all about obedience.

But I think there is an opportunity right now in obedience because Jesus said if we will reach out and give a cup of water in his name to someone that we wouldn't lose our reward. Let me tell you, that reward is priceless. It is immeasurable by our terms.

Will you go with me to a place where I think God's calling all of us to reach out and do something? Watch this.

On the mission field

Ralph: Steady now. We're going to home of little Stanina. She actually lost a little sister with the contaminated water here. They use this same water to drink, to wash their clothes, to clean the house, and also washing dishes -- and then they drink the same water. It's a very startling scenario.

She has to walk about two kilometers, about a mile and a half one way, to collect water and then bring it back home to her mother. What she showed me here, I was really surprised that somebody would actually drink this water.

Her little sister died at about three years old from drinking this water. They couldn't save her life. She got so sick and so ill they just couldn't bring her back. She's lost a little sibling drinking this water from the river.

Open Captions:

>> When I drink the bad water I feel it in my stomach. Before my sister died, we did everything together. I now have a broken heart because I lost my best friend. During my sister's funeral I got very sad because I fear that my little brother will die too.

Ralph: It just kind of disturbs your soul when you know that it's a very simple solution -- just a cup of clean water would have saved little Stanina's little sister.

End of clip

In the studio

Sheila: That little girl Stanina is carrying such a heavy load. She's carrying the burden that usually a mom or a dad would carry and that profound sadness she feels at the loss of a sibling and so afraid she'll lose her brother too.

Whenever I know that my son is coming home from college, one of the first things I do is I go to the supermarket and I buy bottles of the water he likes best. When I watch that, my heart breaks for that little girl that simply, the very thing that they need to sustain life, which is to be able to drink water is the very thing that is killing them.

But you and I, we have the privilege, we can change this! We can do this. Our plan, our prayer, our commitment this year is to build 500 new water wells. The thing that's amazing about these wells, I'm learning, is that this is not just some hole in the ground that can cave in. These are amazing wells that can operate without electricity; they're steel based. Children can pump them.

Do you know they last for 70 years? That's why it's called Water for Life because this will do for life -- this will sustain them for life. So we want to do this. \$4800, which I know is a lot for some of you, and not so much for others, will build a well in a village that will change the life of every person in that village.

But maybe you can do less. Maybe you can just do \$48, if you could do that. If we all join together, you might think that's a drop in the bucket but if you and I join together the bucket is getting wetter every single day.

Randy: Go to the phones right now. Go online. Do what you can.

Those tears, golly -- the first time I saw that -- those tears, it's just not right. It hurts my heart to watch a child to have to go through that. She's clinging on to her brother and there are so many kids like that.

If I couldn't make it through it if I didn't know what we do when you partner with us as Sheila mentioned, our goal is another 500 wells this year, and that's in over 15 different countries. We can only reach that goal with your help. Some of you -- you know what? I know \$4800 is not feasible for me but I know there are some people that are watching, I bet there are some people that could do two or three wells. I just want you to pray about it. God will tell you what you're supposed to do, and then you need to be obedient.

But for most of us, \$24 is what it breaks down. The math breaks down to \$24 will give five people clean water for the rest of their lives.

Stanina, her brother, a couple of other siblings, cousins, if they were in your neighborhood, you know you would run to their door and say, "Here! Here is \$24. My goodness! You don't have to drink that deathly water." It's just a matter of obedience.

Pray and ask the Lord, what can I do today? And then reach out. Partner with us and let's give Water for Life.

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**Field appeal:**

James: Well, you know, here's a little girl getting a drink. Betty just said, "I can't help her -- I can't help her do it." The reason Betty says that is she knows, she's seen the river where it comes from, we've seen the animals and the animal waste and we know it is contaminated. How are you going to tell a thirsty child they can't have water? Her mother brought them the water. Mom brought them this water. Mom had no idea she might be bringing this child disease and sickness.

Betty: This is the kind of water they're drinking, the only water that they have to fill their thirst. But as they're filling their thirst they're putting disease into their little bodies. We don't need that to happen. We can make a difference in that if you'll just join with us and let's give these children some clean safe water. Will you please go to the phone right now? We need to begin drilling these water wells to help these children. We must not delay. We need your help now. Please go to the phone!

In the studio

Randy: Do call. If you prefer to go online you can always go to the web site at LifeToday.org. That's how I give. But just do what you can. It is just important that we obey, I think, when God gives us an opportunity to reach out and impact someone's life and that's what you will be doing today. We appreciate you being with us.

Sheila, good to have you.

Sheila: Thank you! Remember, we're here for you too. If you need prayer, call and we'll pray for you.

Randy: Thank you for mentioning that. And join us next time on *LIFE Today*. We love having you here. We want to see you again real soon.