

2/19/18
Week 8: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Beth Moore #1

[In the studio]

James: Oh boy! Hey! Thank you. A lot of happy people here and I know that you're doing to be happy too. Beth Moore is here. Now listen. It was Wednesdays with Beth and this is the whole week with Beth. You saw Beth for so many years and now you can still see her on T.B.N. on Wednesdays nights. LifeWay, her incredible publisher and I know they love her and she does love them, because together they've been able to not just get the word out, they've been able to get people in the word.

She's got a new Bible study that's called *The Quest*, an excursion toward intimacy with God. Somehow, even when I picked it up and started looking through it, I said, "This is different. It is unique and I don't think you can go through this and not be in the word and the word get in you." That's what I feel.

Would you welcome Beth Moore to *LIFE Today*?

Beth: I'm so happy! I'm so full of joy. Thank you so much.

James: Are you glad to be back?

Beth: I can't even tell you the joy that is in my heart. I'm just so, so happy! I love you both so much.

James: Let's talk about this quest. It's interesting. Betty, you were asking her when we walked in about the name, what she was implying.

Betty: Yeah, explain what you mean by *The Quest*.

Beth: Betty, you would love this kind of thing because you like to journal. Okay. What I try to do -- you guys know this because you try to do the same thing -- I want to see people flourish in their faith. And I want... I know this sounds so silly and so elementary but I want people to enjoy God. He is the most exciting, thrilling part of my life. My prayer time has life in it. It is the high point of my day.

So I feel like there are so many people that don't understand the joy of it, that our time with him is dialogue; that we're in the scriptures instead of just sitting there reading it, that we understand, God is speaking to us through his word. Let's come into it and talk back.

When we get to where we engage with him, that when I'm with him I'm not just sitting before him reading and then just saying my prayers to him but I'm engaging with him continually. When I'm reading his word, to be able to look at it and go, Lord, you know what? That is such a beautiful passage. I don't know when the last time it was that I saw that. Or Lord, I don't know what that means. That seems so odd to me. To be able to dialogue right then and to come into that intimate relationship where you know you have been with him.

So what I began to listen to because I like to listen carefully, what is it that the body needs? I'm a teacher. You guys are also in leadership and in pastoring and teaching so you know what I'm talking about. You're listening to the needs of the body. So over and over women would tell me, "I'm beginning to get traction in my Bible study life but Beth, I'm just going to tell you something, I don't really feel life in my prayer life. I just don't feel that kind of vivaciousness there."

So I began to think, Lord, what would be the approach to help people see that they are engaging themselves. I'm not taking them there. The first half of every single lesson is them getting in the word and setting them up for the second half which is between them and God alone. So the whole idea of the concept of quest is coming into it free to ask questions.

One of the most marvelous things, I did research. I got very, very intrigued with it because I started noticing how many questions are in scripture. There's been a study done on it; in the King James version, 3,298 questions in the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. When people will say, "I have all sorts of questions about the word." And I'm always thinking you know what? The word has all sorts of questions for you. You don't begin to have the questions for the scriptures that the scriptures has for you. So what's interesting about it is that many of the questions God himself is posing. That God in the Old Testament, Christ in the New, over and over again, they are asking questions that they already know the answer to.

James: Jesus answered some questions with a question.

Beth: Absolutely, he did. You have to ask yourself why? So my premise is and I believe we can prove this over and over through scripture is that he was calling them in to interaction. And listen, not just interaction but engagement -- and not just engagement but intimacy. Now in that grappling and in that wrestling, in being able to come to him with what does this mean? I've been on walks with him where I've just thrown my face toward the sky and gone, "How do you

feel about this? What's your stand on it?" Do you know what I'm saying?

Betty: And that's okay to ask God something like that.

Beth: Not once has he opened up the sky and gone, well, to tell you the truth. Not once!
[Laughter] But there is something about the freedom to ask.

James: An invitation to ask.

Beth: Yes! He says seek.

Betty: We're not surprising him with anything we ask.

Beth: No! Because it is on our hearts anyway, we're grappling anyway. One of the concepts is this. You guys love visual learning as much as I do so I think you'll understand this and I think our viewers will too. I think especially in the day that we're living in in our present culture, we want everything -- we want our past to look like an exclamation mark. We just want it to be straight forward and then we want everything to have a point. You understand what I'm saying? I wish I could act it out for you and just run and then leap and jump because we want everything. We want to give our lives to Jesus. We want it to go just like we expect it to go. It's going to be fabulous! Everything about it is going to be an exclamation mark. And it is always going to have a point.

But instead we surrender to him and very often that path, instead of going straight like this to the point, starts going like this. And all at once we're going all the way around here and wait, this is not what I signed up for. And all the sudden what its making is a question mark where a lot of times you're just looking at the point like this going, I think there is a point somewhere. I'm not positive what it is. A lot of times we'll know but a lot of times we don't.

What I'm trying to prove scripturally is that's part of the faith walk. There is no such thing as faith if there is no question to be asked whatsoever because it's unseen. So we're believing him for something that we cannot see. We love this one with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength that we have never laid our eyes on, never heard speak audibly from heaven. This whole thing is just this setup for coming into this whole adventure of faith.

So what it does instead of where my other studies would be like from beginning to end of that lesson, they would be in study mode. What this one does is it bridges them over where the whole second half of the lesson is in prayer. And what happens there is they're looking at scripture and looking at questions that God asks and they're having them posed to them.

James: You took five questions to God. I think you wanted to touch on two of them in this session. She will be with us in another -- she'll be here all week. Then you want to touch on what three of them? You want to touch on those with us?

Beth: I'll tell you the five of them and then let's kind of take these apart because I've looked so forward to this. We laughed together because we have not been together in a while and I said, "Listen, somebody is going to have to tell us to shut up."

James: You know what? Rhonda has prepared Betty because she might want to say something, and Rhonda, what did Rhonda give you for Christmas?

Betty: A whistle.

James: So if you want to say something...

Betty: If I want to say something -- [blows whistle] Time out! [Laughter]

James: She wants to say something. She will blow the whistle. Rhonda knew you were coming.

Beth: We have always said that Betty blows us out of the water. She will be quiet for a long time and then she will say it and it is gone. Like she took it home; that's all there is to it. And now she just blows her whistle.

James: There she'll go, she'll interrupt us.

Beth: So there are two questions that of course God asks in Genesis three, and it begins with those where he says, the first thing we see in print with him talking to man is, "Where are you?" The second question is, "Who told you that?" And then we turn over to the New Testament and then Jesus starts the very same pattern. He starts asking questions. The very first thing he says in the gospel of John is, "What are you seeking? What is it you want?" And then he asks the question, "Why are you afraid?" Then he asks the question, "How much more?" I can't wait to get to that one so I don't want to give it away.

But what my premise is in the study is that those five questions, just those, the word of God is full of them, but just those five questions, if you look at those five and just think through them: Where are you, who told you that, what are you seeking, why are you afraid, how much more? If you went to those five questions that you would have recalibrating in your spiritual life every time. That if you felt like you had wandered from God or you felt like your heart had gotten dulled toward him or you somehow gotten a distance between the two of you, then just to go back and try to answer those questions, Beth, where you? Well, Lord, I think this is where I

am. I think this is what's been going on. Who told you that? What are you seeking? What is it you really want? What are you afraid of? How much more would I give the Holy Spirit to you?

So it is an invitation to always find your way back through trying to answer those five questions. It just begins with where are you? Because in every season of our life, especially when we feel like we're wandering, that we feel like there's a distance between God and me that I just can't seem to define. Where is it you think you are right now? Try to describe it. Lord, I feel like I'm in a desert. I feel like I'm in a wilderness. I feel like I can't find the well.

One of the things that I want so much to get across is that we look at our time with God as discipline and yes, of course, we have to have self-discipline if we want to be mighty in Christ. We're going to have to make certain decisions about stewarding our time and stewarding our energy and our resources. Yes, of course, of course! But what we three and so many others have discovered through the years of knowing him is not -- my time with him is not just about discipline, it is about dining. It is about dining on him. About sitting at the table with him and him being the greater reality than anything I can see with my eyes or touch with my hands; that I know he is with me.

I'll wake up in the mornings and I know many of you would say the same thing, I wake up early in the morning and my alarm will go off and as much as I want to roll over and go back to sleep I'll have that sense he's waiting on me. He looks forward to me getting up. He's been awake all night and he's just like waiting like good grief! How late are you going to sleep? It's 5:17! [Laughter] And I love that sense. He's there and I just talk out loud to him.

James: He's excited to be with us.

Beth: He is! He is! And so that's the approach to it that we'll dialogue with him. See that through his word he is talking to us and that we talk back and that we know that he's there. He says, "If you will draw near to me I will draw near to you."

Betty: To me, a big part of that too is not only just immediately when I'm having that time with God, and not start talking myself so much but to be still and allow God to speak first maybe.

James: How do you deal, because we've got only a few minutes left in this program that who told you that?

Beth: This one -- this recalibrating question I have heard back from people who have done the study as being one of the most impactful ones because they didn't see it coming. I don't think I could have known that that's how it was going to be received.

When they start explaining, when Adam starts explaining to God, this is what's happened and what the serpent did and he says, "Who told you that? Who told you that you were naked? So I just took the very first part of that question because what I'm hoping that that reader is going to get is that we can always look at the root of something when we are feeling faithless or fearful and we will see every single time that what is at the root level of every area of bondage in our lives, of every area where sin gets a hold of us and we have not just been tempted but we have fallen full on in that pit, that every single time somehow or another we are believing a lie. It is always a lie that holds any stronghold together.

So this process of being able to go who told you that? That if we can't answer every single time when it comes to God's identity or our own, that if we're not getting our information from God we're being deceived. So what I'm hoping they'll do is get to where they can say, "Well, do you believe certain things about God? Yes, I do. Well, why do you believe them? Well, because my pastor said -- okay, great, great! Who told him? Can you point it back to the scriptures so that you know, no, it is there. It is in concrete. It is immovable. That is permanent truth. That is eternal words. To be able to go, who told me that? God did. And if I can't come to that conclusion then what I believe is suspect. So when we realize that our belief system is filled with lies like I'm so stupid. I'm always going to cycle back into that pit. I'm going to be nothing but a failure. I'll never be able to get ahead on this. I'll never be able to be financially responsible. I'll always always be tormented. You know the kinds of things I'm talking about.

James: Sure.

Beth: For God to be able to lean in with us in our defeat like he did with Adam in the garden and go, who told you that?

James: And when you enter, like you say in *The Quest*, the intimacy, his voice overrides that other voice. So then you don't wonder who you are, you know who you are and it gives you the intimacy.

Do you like what you're hearing? Are you excited about this quest? The book is obviously available in the bookstores. You don't have to go to LifeWay, you can go to any bookstore. But you also can go online and get it and get into the study and get into the word.

So Beth, I can see because when I looked at this I realized, you're going to be doing some of this intimacy building when you go through the word here. I can see that the beautiful way you laid it out, and they can have some notepads and some notes but you've actually given them a guideline and a way to begin recording. I have an idea they're going to take the journaling from here on over in addition because I think they're going to begin to enter into intimacy. I want to thank you

from the bottom of my heart for doing this.

Tell Beth again how much you appreciate her. I know all of you viewers, you'll want to get it. There is so many of you have such deep appreciation for the incredible anointing that God has put on Beth. I hope you will get this material. You will not have any problem finding it. You get in the word and grow.

Beth, you went to the mission field, and you and your husband went and you went gladly. I want our viewers to look in and see something that moved our hearts but our viewers here and viewers right in the studio and all over the world have been as excited about doing what I'm about to point to as anything they've ever done. I want you to watch closely and just see if you want to step up and say, "You know what? I'm going to be part of an indescribable, undeniable miracle." Watch closely.

[Mission video]

Announcer: Water is pure. Water is natural. Water is healthy. Water can help all. These are lines from a poem that few people would ever take exception to. But on a recent mission trip to Africa in search of stories about villagers and their water sources, Jeanne Rogers shared a different perspective.

Jeanne: As beautiful as this setting looks, it is so deceiving because this water is killing the children of this village. Every mother that our team visited in the village of Gawazi and in the surrounding villages told us heart-rending stories of the deaths of their children. Those children died due to waterborne illnesses caused by contaminated water. As a grandmother I was touched by the story of another grandmother. Her name was Casalita.

Jeanne: So how has this water affected your family?

Open Captions: I am a widow of three children. My granddaughter got very sick from the water. Her belly got inflated and her legs too. She was four years old. I took her to the clinic but she kept vomiting and having diarrhea. She died in bad condition.

Jeanne: My heart just broke for Casalita and for all the other mothers who had suffered loss. But I could not leave Casalita without assuring her that there is hope. There is hope for her and for the other villagers.

I ask in agreement with her, faith that you change the situation in her family, that you protect the

lives of her children and her grandchildren, and of all the people of this village. Lord, give them good water. Clean water; in Jesus' name. Amen.

[End of video]

[In the studio]

James: Jeanne is praying there and she is such a sweetheart. What a singer she is; did all our crusades, great soloist. Jerry Falwell said years ago, "Greatest singer in the world, man or woman." Introduced her that way many times. Do you know right now that her middle son, Jared and his four sons are all in Africa right now for the next six or seven months with their little children just ministering to the people. It's amazing. The love that God pours through her and through those missionaries.

You saw the concern of that mother, that grandmother too, all the mothers Jeanne referenced, and you really are the answer to the heartache. Betty, we know that if we can give not just a cup of water but give that village and 400 villages that we've targeted, where we know there's water available, we know it is subsurface available and we can give them a manual pump because they don't have reliable electricity or power, they can get it, even children can, we can change everything for all those people. We can heal their broken hearts.

I know you're familiar, if you've watched us, you know that we do our best to save lives and clean water miraculously and immediately saves lives; 400 villages, \$4800 for a well. You know people tell us that they're excited and you are, we wrote a check today to help with the Outreaches of LIFE and to help with water.

We're asking you right now if you can give a well, please do it, \$4800 or give part of a well, \$1200 or \$2400. You give \$1200 and you say, "Lord, help three people join me." Three more at \$1200, we've got a well; \$2400 and one person joins me. But most of the support, Betty still comes from people who give \$48 and that gives ten people water the rest of their life. Or they give let's say \$144 as an example, 30 people water the rest of their life. This works.

What we do overseas, the love of God works. Beth, you've been there. I will never forget you praying over a little boy named Matthew and you were so moved but you also knew the missionary said, "This is probably the last prayer, when we prayed, he will likely die within the next 24 hours. You saw what?

Beth: He was dying. I don't even know a stronger way to say it. I had rarely been in a situation where I had seen a child in that kind of condition at the very door of death. The helplessness of it. It was over is all I know to say. It looked completely over. And I then, months later, see this

video --

James: Almost a year later.

Beth: Of a child running and playing and I mean I get to see with my own eyes this child. Honestly, if the same marks had not been on his physical body, I could not have even had room in my mind to think that was the same kid.

James: That's what love does, Beth.

Beth: It was the most unbelievable thing I've ever seen.

James: But it happens. And this is what I want all of you to listen to. It happens for millions -- miracles just like that. Just like what Beth talked about. Would you give water? We have some gifts to give you to bless you but I know you're not thinking about that because you're going to give the greatest gift, you're going to give the gift of life. You're going to give Water for LIFE and the missionaries are going to tell them about the water of life. You're going to really make an impact.

Would you right now go online, or would you dial that number? Please take your bankcard and use it like a check. I want you to make the gift God puts on your heart right now. Would you please do that? You're going to be someone's miracle, they hope for and pray for but they're going to be able to be a part of it. Thank you for making it happen.

[Begin video clip]

Announcer: Every day children living in extreme poverty are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink dirty 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. You can help end the suffering because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today, you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in over 15 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, life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift we'll send you *The Riches of Christ*, what true prosperity looks like filled with wisdom, prayers and scripture. James Robison adds insight from what God has shown him about finding contentment in the Father's provision for your life.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the *Children of the World Storybook Bible*. This easy to read Bible features colorful art by children from nearly 50 countries around the world.

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 the "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade.

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

[End of clip]

[In the studio]

James: Well, in behalf of every mother and grandmother and every precious child we want to say thank you. I want you to get this book. It is sent for any gift. It is *The Riches of Christ*; what true prosperity looks like. Betty and I have been married 55 years and we've always been givers and I'm going to tell you right now, and I really believe when you sow you reap, that's the law of the harvest. But we've never made a gift, we've never given a well, we've never given a gift, we never gave gifts to our children thinking about what would come back. All we thought about was what was going out. There's something about living with a giving spirit where you're not thinking about self, you're thinking about what love does. Let me share insights here. I think that it will totally transform you. It won't take you long to read. You can probably read it in an hour or two. Then the children's story book Bible and then the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" by Thomas Kinkade. We're going to send those to say thanks.

Beth is going to be back with us and she is going to continue to talk about *The Quest*. Y'all like Beth? You want to say thanks to her for being here? We're glad you're coming back.

Beth: Thank you. Thank you guys so much! It's been a blast.

James: Thank all of you. Thank you. Thank you for watching. Thanks for being a miracle.