

2-15

Week 8

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

James: Well, we are talking to Beth Moore and to her husband Keith. Some of you will say, that is a real privilege to get to see both of them together. As a matter of fact, in their relationship they have experienced challenges and tension and two strong personalities and Betty and I as we share in the book "Living in Love," which we're talking about -- by the way, if you'd like to have the way, of course it is in the bookstores, we will send it to you. We will mail it to you if you'll simply help us drill 415 water wells. You say, you expect me to do that? No, give a cup of water. Help us. As an example, \$48 and we're able to give ten people water for the rest of their lives. Some of you say, boy, I wish I could have that where I live. This is a gift that just keeps giving. We're asking you to help us do that. But we want you to have the book "Living in Love" and we'll gladly send it to you to say thanks. We'll also send you an incredible book, wonderful study, "Praying God's Word." I know many of you are facing challenges right now, perhaps in your marriage, perhaps in relationships and perhaps just challenges because of the economic instability and uncertainty. Betty and I have been praying a lot together for people who need a job, need an opportunity. You know what we've said over and over? You want your prayers answered? You want your needs met? Now this is God's promise, this is not some government grant or promise, God says when you care for the hungry, when you care for the suffering, I will answer quickly, I'll hear you. You'll become a well-watered garden. You'll become an ever flowing stream. That's what God says. And he will meet your needs. Betty and I are talking about relationship and one of the things in marriage is the challenge of finances, rearing children, all of things that come and then the enemy, we talk about that invisible force. You'll want to get the book but let's join Keith and Beth Moore and they talk to us and Beth was excited about the book in which she read so let's join that time that we had them right here with us, talking about the subject "Living in Love." It is possible for all of us.

Begin video clip:

James: You both came from what you would call extreme difficulty in the beginning, in childhood, and in your families and we came from two pretty extreme. How in the world can you possibly stay together? You all are growing. She's gone on this Jesus journey and this teaching journey and you love the ranch and the outdoors and the dogs and both of you love dogs. We have a lap dog, a dachshund. They've got big dogs! But guess what? We go to see them, we've got a big lap dog!

Beth: They want to sit right in their lap!

[Laughter]

James: How do you explain that you can enjoy one another so much?

Keith: The similarity between Beth and I was that we were both wounded at a real early age. So we actually had -- we were 180 degrees apart trying to deal with the same problem. So what needed to be done was in the middle. So we beat each other to the middle; that's kind of how it worked. There were tools that she had that I didn't know how to do and she helped me with them, and vice versa. That's how it worked, and I see that happening with people all of the time. You think they're really different but their wounds are the same. But they cope... their coping mechanisms are polar opposites. If they learn how to... I think God puts you together so you can have a renewal of the mind. That's the way I see that that works.

James: I think we have to keep adjusting.

Beth: We do! We have to keep changing because you remember when you graduate from high school, in your yearbook, everybody writes, "Never, never change!" Well, of course you're going to change! What if you didn't change. Can you imagine what we would be like if we were in our 50s still acting like we were when we were 16? Keith and I have said that we've each been married to five different people, they all just look exactly like us.

[Laughter]

Because we just keep -- you're just going to the next one and going to the next one and going to the next one. But it takes that, just the tenacity to hang with it. That's what we've seen in you guys, and that you're not going to let that present struggle take the joy out of your relationship; that you're still going to laugh together, you're still going to snuggle together, you're still going to do life together. You really have lived out the

love and have stayed... anybody that's around you can tell that you still have a very romantic kind of love with one another.

[Laughter]

It is! It is!

[Laughter]

I'm so glad I brought my notes so I can hit them with it. But something that Keith has said a lot of times, I would imagine it is the same for you, if you offend me it's one thing, it's another thing entirely to Keith because I'm his beloved and he's mine. Like you might get to me but don't you dare mess with my husband. We're so defensive of one another. I see that in the two of you. Keith will say from time to time when he is really mad at somebody that's been critical toward me, he'll say, "They didn't value my treasure!" When Keith talks about me that way, that I'm his treasure and that's how you are --

Keith: And the flower. Don't forget the flower.

Beth: He told me one time, he said, "I forget what a flower you are." I thought, oh, a flower! I love -- I wanted to talk about what kind of flower am I?

[Laughter]

But you're like that. She's your treasure! Your treasure!

Beth: Don't you think that is key, realizing in your relationship in this marriage that you're on the same team; you're one even when you have differences, different opinions...

Keith: That takes a while though.

Betty: We're not in competition. You're not trying to make him like you, he's not trying to make me like him. Appreciate the different personalities because that's what you liked about each other in the first place.

Beth: You're right, Betty! What you said is so profound, it is not a competition. And you have to say that to one another over and over, especially when you're in the middle of a conflict of some kind. This is not a contest, it is not about who wins

because if I win and he loses, we've still lost. Keith says something -- you've got to tell them what you always say to me.

Keith: Which... I'm not sure. I say a lot.

Beth: You always say, "Baby, somehow we've both got to win when this is all over with."

Keith: I have said that once.

Beth: About 1,000 -- he said it once today.

[Laughter]

There has got to be a way that we both -- we work through it in such a way that both parties still have their dignity and still have value in one another's eyes.

Betty: And the key too is keeping that sensitivity that you were so careful about when you first married. Yeah, I appreciate the fact that my husband is strong and he is -- like you said, "A man's man. That's my man." But also, I look for that tenderness, that forgiveness.

Beth: Women have to have that.

Betty: We really do. There is a balance there. We need -- sometimes we lose part of that as the years go by. We have to keep renewing that in our relationship and keep those things in common that we so cherished when we were first married.

James: We talk about open, honest communication and the total commitment to it. I think one of the things we point out is that body language and this is opposed to... a psychological study reveals an analysis of relationship in communication, the greater message is communicated in body language and then tone and then you hear the words. Betty and I try to make certain that we're not only hearing the words, we're hearing the heart -- this really is critical -- and that you understand the heart and what it is they're trying to say. You reach a point that you actually not only... you're not assaulting what they're trying to say but you're helping them express their heart. And the thing that will make them express their heart is that they sincerely believe you care about their heart, that you don't want to walk on their heart, that it is not your intention to hurt them. We have actually accepted something very early in our marriage that one of our pastors said, Dr. Jimmy Draper, who was the head of the

Southern Baptist Lifeway and all of their Sunday School material for many years, and the president of that great convention. He said, "If Carol Ann or I hear the other person say something that hurts us, we know we misunderstood them because they would never intentionally say something to hurt us. So if we're hurt we know we simply misunderstood them." Betty and I not only accepted that from them, we believe that. We would not intentionally hurt each other. I will say that every day, throughout the day, we have what most people would find as an opportunity to kind of part. In other words, we find points of friction every -- we get sharp every day; don't we? We get honed. We really do see those moments of friction and we've learned to let it make us stronger but we have them every day. You say, "Well, y'all have been nearly 50 years together, don't you get past it?" Not yet. We haven't gotten there yet.

[Laughter]

We don't get there. It's every day we go through.

Beth: I'm positive of this! I've told people before, we've never gotten to where we couldn't get hurt or couldn't have a fight because we're still in it. We still care about it. We still care about one another and want to have a real live marriage instead of just living under the same roof. I think when people stop having any kind of conflict whatsoever, they've stopped having any kind of communication. Because it is just two people living in the same house because you do care so much. I loved what you guys said in the book about the three steps: Stop, repeat, and clarify. That when you're in a conversation where all of the sudden you can tell it brought some kind of offense, that that's when you need to stop right there. Okay, now let's see. Let's repeat that somehow and clarify what we're trying to say; just what you were talking about with Dr. Draper. That okay, if that just hurt, then I bet I didn't say that like I meant it. Because when I can see that I've wounded, I don't want that. I don't want that. I can either stop right then and say it a different way or we can just go on and get in a bigger and bigger fissure between the two of us.

Betty: I think it is real important in your communication -- there is a right way to communicate with one another. If you're waiting for your spouse to get through telling their disagreement, talking and sharing their disagreement with you but you're not really listening to them, you're waiting so you can make your spiel, put them in their place, well, that's not the right kind of communication. You have to start and it has to come from the heart. You have to have a listening heart to say, "What did I say wrong? Or what did I do wrong to make them feel that way?" It is the attitude in the way you approach it.

Beth: It's the truth, Betty. It's the truth. Something that Keith and I have learned to say to one another through the years when we get in kind of a thing where we saw it so differently, is that if I couldn't agree, if I didn't feel the same way, well, at least I could hear what he is saying and he could hear what I'm saying. Sometimes you just say in the middle of that conflict, "I hear you. I hear you." Because sometimes it's not that I need you to feel exactly the same way I do, but would you hear what I think and what it says to me? Would you hear me out? I think it is just giving dignity to the person.

Keith: It's respect.

James: Let me add something to that, if you've been in the journey like us and you say, "Do you hear me?" Well, with people getting older like me, we don't actually hear all what you're saying. I would say, "What do you say?" And by the third time... [grumbling] "Why are you screaming at me?" She says, "So you can hear me!"

Beth: You have to tell... because I'm telling you, if your audience -- they already love you so much but I tell them all of the time, if you really knew them, you would love them even more! Because they come off so endearing from this platform but I'm telling you, to know them face-to-face and person to person they're even dearer. But do you guys remember the time in the car that one of you accidentally called the other and it was all this exact --

Betty: It was him!

Beth: You've got to tell them! On the road in the car.

James: Yeah, there is a lot of funny about my hearing. But we're riding up to see our daughter and you've kept up with us on *LIFE Today*, she is the one that had the battle with cancer, and what an incredible testimony. That's our baby girl, but has three teenage children. And we're driving up and they go to Willie George's church, which is Church on the Way in Tulsa. We were driving and I thought I'd call Willie. So I'm driving and I dial and a lady answers the phone. And Willie's wife's name is Deleva. And I say, "Is this Deleva?" And a voice says, "No, who did you want?" "Willie George." She said, "Well, who is this?" I said, "James Robison." "Well, I'm his wife." I said, "Deleva?" She said, "No." I said, "No?" "Now who did you want?" I said, "Willie George." "Now again, who is this?" I said, "James Robison." "Well, I'm his wife." I said, "Deleva?" She said, "No." And she's over here and she said, "You're talking to me!"

[Laughter]

Betty: I was over here and he was over here.

Beth: Okay, is that priceless? Listen, it doesn't get better than that!

Betty: I turned to him and said, "You called me!"

James: You will always be working and really to communicate clearly and we point out the necessity of being honest in the communication. You said something that you thought was one of the most priceless things you read in the book was that we suggested that people repent while it is still a secret.

Beth: Yes, it is on my notes right here. I thought that was the most profound line. I was telling you earlier that outside the scriptures, I've never heard a sentence more profound than that. "Repent while it is still a secret." I want you to explain to them what that means because the concept is so great.

James: It is God's invitation... when he invites you to come into his mercy and grace and come boldly to the throne of grace, when that prodigal boy came home, boy, he didn't expect the reception that he got. He didn't repent until he messed it all up. By the way, you made a comment, Keith, you didn't know many people who do. Why would you say that?

Keith: Because I haven't.

James: I'm sorry to say that's true. And in other words, repent before you get caught, but because you heard a call. "Come and dine," the master calling. "Come and dine." God is not in the shaming business. That's what the world and the enemy does. That's what the world exploits with true confessions that God has no interest in; he already knew. Once you know, you know and you bring it to him. He said, "I paid it all. I took the blame, the shame, now come to me." If we would just respond to the call. This is what I hear couples -- come to him before the marriage blows up, before everybody is humiliated. The world will still try to humiliate you. If they can ever find you, they will still try to hurt you. But God is not in the humiliation business. He humbles us and we humble ourselves before him. He is not interested in humiliating us. I saw Jesus and I've shared this with our viewers, Beth. I saw Jesus, literally, it was like suddenly I was clothed with him or he is just in me and I'm looking at him weeping over Jerusalem. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem," he said, "like a hen, I wish you would come." I don't know if you've ever seen it -- you've been around farms enough that you've seen this Keith -- that hen, all she has to do is do this and those little chicks, their little 'ol legs, they're the cutest little things. I've seen them with little ducklings,

little ducklings will just waddle. As a matter of fact, we had a mother duck in our neighborhood that had eight little ducklings and they got separated. I started to walk over to see them and she went like this. [Hiss] -- And all of those little ducklings right up under her. And she's... [hissing] And I said, "That is the baddest duck I've ever saw in my life!"

[Laughter]

And those little ducklings ran -- and what Jesus said -- here's what he is saying to all of us -- listen, he is saying this to every husband, and to every wife, to every couple, every person, he is saying, "Come!" And he wants you to run. He is saying over Jerusalem, "I don't want you to come because of the desolation of Jerusalem; I want you to come because of the loving invitation to get in the shadow of the almighty."

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I really hope you are enjoying us talking and sharing together. I pray you are because we really want to help you and your relationship with God, your relationship with your spouse and with your family. We'd love for you to get the book, "Living in Love." As a matter of fact, if you would simply help us literally give a cup of water to someone in need, help us drill these wells, whatever part you can play in fulfilling God's heart, we just want to say thank you. I want you to watch as Betty and I are observing needs in a desperate situation where all they need is fresh water and we can provide it. Listen with your heart.

On the mission field:

James: Can you believe this?

Betty: James, this is unbelievable -- just incredible! They're trying to wash this plastic so it will be clean enough for them to sell it so they can make money to provide for their family, to buy just the necessities, food, anything to survive but yet then they will come later and dip this water up and drink it. Think about it, every time you go to the sink to get a drink of water, do you look in it to see if there is any contamination in it? Do you look in it to see if anything is crawling around? Of course, you don't! Well, these people see that day after day after day. They don't have to examine it, it is just so evident. As you look around here all the garbage is just incredible but yet that's all

they have. You have to have water to even survive for a little while. When these babies are born and this is all they have, how do you think their chances are for making it to adulthood? That's where we can make the difference. So please join with us. Let's give them those water wells so they can have the clean water.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I don't think there is a question that -- any question that you say, James, that's horrible! We can't imagine that. We see some situations that are extremely difficult to address, there is no simple solution. But when people need fresh clean water that we take for granted, thank God we can in the advanced countries in the world but they have no clean water. As you were saying there, Betty, when you look and see, it just turns your stomach but we can give them in that very area with the help of our viewers, we can give them a fresh clean water well and really, it's a gift that lasts the rest of their lives.

Betty: James, we are so truly blessed here. We do -- we have such wonderful conveniences of live. We don't have to worry about the things that they have to worry about so many times but especially the water. It just makes my heartache when I see the things that these babies are putting into their system. Why? Because they don't have another choice. Well, I want to be a part and I feel like you do too. Let's give them a choice for clean pure water.

James: Well, in a way we do it is joining together and asking as many of you as possible to drill a well. Betty and I have now from the time more than 10 years that we began drilling wells, we have given a well every time and we drill wells twice a year when we come to you and ask for help. I can remember when we saw how great the need was and our missionaries said, you can't imagine the profound impact it is having. We've got to continue doing this. It is saving so many lives and we're winning so many people to Christ. Betty and I talked and we said every time we drill a well or we have that emphasis, we're going to give one. Now that was quite a stretch for us to do that. You may remember when we started they were \$3600. Now it is \$4800 and we've been doing it. Here's what I know, we have seen God fulfill his promise that when you literally become an answer to the need of the poor, the hungry, the thirsty and as Jesus said give a cup of water, you will not miss God's reward. You are going to be blessed. He didn't promise anybody a money tree. He promised to meet our needs.

That's the testimony of people all over the world who tell us, thank God we've had a part in that. Here's what I'm asking you to do. I want you to dial the number. If your heart was broken, you need prayer, you want somebody to pray for you because you're in a challenging time, we will do it. We want to do it. That's why we're here every day. But I'm asking you to call today to say I want to help drill those wells. Could you drill a well? Could you give ten people water the rest of their life? A gift of \$48 will do that. \$48 -- 10 people water the rest of their life. This is a single gift that just keeps giving. \$144 will give 30 people water the rest of their life. Can you do that? Father, I pray every who can will right now. See those ten people, 30 people that they can give water to the rest of their lives in Jesus' name. Do you know that some of you right now, you in particular, you know God has blessed you and put it in your heart to give a well. They're \$4800. If God put it on your heart, I'm asking you, follow that impression. There may be some of you that say, James, I can't do that. But I have been blessed. I could give \$1200 or I could give \$2400 and pray somebody will join me or three people join me. Every gift is critically important. You just think about it, if someone doesn't have clean water and I'm going to give those people water the rest of their life, help them deal with the diseases that come because of contaminated water, put a fresh water source right in their midst, you don't think that doesn't make the work of the missionaries so much easier when they cannot only talk about the love of God but people have seen it? Would you dial the number right now? Take your bankcard and use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Or you could go online LifeToday.org. Please let us hear from you today and make the best gift you possibly can.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Water, without it life as you know it cannot exist. But for millions of children and families, their own available water is filled with disease and once ingested can lead to death. But one new water well can turn the most barren desert into an oasis of life! With your donation today Mission: Water For Life can drill 415 water wells this year in 15 nations! Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten people. \$72 will provide for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean uncontaminated water for 30 people for a lifetime. With your gift of any size we'll send you "Living in Love," James and Betty's new book that shares keys to an exciting and fulfilling marriage. You'll also receive Beth Moore's bestselling book, "Praying God's Word." With your gift of \$100 or more, you may also request this beautiful leather journal to record and reflect on your own personal times with God. And finally, with your gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well, be sure to request "Heart of the Father," our beautiful new bronze sculpture representing God's fatherly love for us as his children. Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

On the mission field:

James: I'm kneeling down here by what is a common water source for little village areas, this river meanders through this part of Central America. It's the water source. It is contaminated with animal waste, it is contaminated with human waste because they don't have any sewage, they don't have any running water so they go to the bathroom out here in the bush and brush and then it washes here. People get all kinds of intestinal diseases and clean water -- fresh water -- that's the answer! This is what they have now, making them sick, killing a lot of them, very young. But we can give them a fresh water well. You may be able to give one or give toward it or give a cup of water that adds up that becomes a well of water but we need everyone's help. You give a life-giving call today please.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: We've heard from so many of our friends who said, "James, you have no idea how 'Living in Love,' the story of your journey and your marriage and what God has shown you, its insights, what it's meant to us. It changed our lives! We'd like our friends to have it." Well, some of you may not have gotten the book, some of you may have gotten it, want it for a friend. We're sending it for any gift to just help us share water. So please make the best gift you can. Beth Moore's book, "Praying God's Word" for any gift, we've got the beautiful journal for those of you can and will help us and make a special gift of \$100 or more. And then "The Father's Heart" bronze. I believe with all my heart when we join together we're putting God's arms around the world in need. They are seeing God's heart. Thank you for your help. Encourage your friends to watch and you can spend your life "Living in Love" and sharing that love.

Beth: People need to know that relationships like this exist.

Announcer: Tomorrow, Beth Moore and her husband Keith discuss communication with James and Betty.