

Week 25

6/15/09

Beth: I went through a time when I can tell you the enemy was so tormenting my mind that I thought I am going to lose my entire soundness of mind.

Announcer: Are you overwhelmed with life's circumstances? Is your life filled with feelings of rejection, insecurity, and fear? Do you often feel like you're going to lose your mind?

Beth: I don't know how the mind of a man works; I just know the mind of a woman.

James: You don't need to know.

Beth: I'm sure that's true! I bet that's true!

Announcer: A beautiful mind -- next.

Music

James: Whoa! This is kind of wonderful and scary! [Laughter] I counted a moment ago -- this studio is just packed to overflowing and I think there are three men out here in the audience; bravest men I've ever seen in my life. I'm going to hang in here. I'm James Robison, full of courage! And this is my wife, Betty. We have Beth Moore and we are talking about "A Beautiful Mind." We are sharing this teaching series, which is talking about literally, renewing the mind. It is talking about reclaiming and replacing our thoughts and reclaiming the territory to bring forth good fruit, talking about living in freedom, breaking free. This book, many of the viewers of LIFE Today and those of you who have seen Beth Moore on "Wednesdays with Beth" did not know about this incredible book that probably, I guess when Beth shared it in the early days of teaching the incredible seminars all over the United States, this book was revolutionary in the sense that so many people found freedom because of her journey, her story and the incredible truths that she shares. We're offering that book, along with Betty's journey and story "Free to be Me," how God can take someone that was totally withdrawn and shy and filled with fear and put her here and send her as a missionary all over the world. She has always had that beautiful smile but the liberty inside so many people identify with. So we're offering these incredible inspirational materials and the teaching that Beth has to all of you. We're going to be talking about claiming this territory right here, renewing the mind because this really is the battlefield. Would all of you here join Betty and me in welcoming Beth Moore to LIFE Today? [Cheers & Applause]

Beth: Well, it is such a blast to be here!

James: Beth, it is always a joy.

Beth: The miracle is that Keith and I just get to feel at home here; that to even walk out here and see these faces and just be part of the whole LIFE Outreach ministry is so incredible. So I want you to know we are so humbled to get to partner with you guys. We love you so much!

James: Well, we love you! And we thank God, our viewers know that you and Keith have been on the mission field and you've seen what is happening and you're so supportive and I thank you. But I want us to get into this particular subject matter where we're talking about "A Beautiful Mind." Really and truly, I think many people don't understand that this really is the battlefield. We do have an enemy of all truth, an enemy of the peace and the joy that God intended for us and for the life God intends, the enemy is attacking in our thoughts. I found out years ago that a lot of the thoughts I have come as suggestions from that enemy. They're not all just originating with me. I'm responsible for them but I do have a lot of suggestions, I have a lot of ammunition coming at me. So I want you to share why this is so important to you, and just sort of taking into this particular, let's say, study of the mind and this battlefield and how we can in fact get "A Beautiful Mind."

Beth: What really inspired me was the portion out of Second Timothy one; something that many of us have memorized out of God's Word. I love it in the N.I.V. but my very favorite rendering is out of the New King James. Because it says that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love. And I love this particular wording, "a sound mind." That we have been given by God, just like we were given a spirit of power and a spirit of love, he has given us a sound mind. I began to reflect on all the ways the enemy tries to destroy a servant of God and a child of God by tormenting the mind. It occurred to me that I could not remember ever having heard a sermon on really reclaiming the soundness of your own mind. For somebody to just say out loud -- haven't all of us at one time or another thought, I am losing my ever loving gourd! I mean am I the only one? [Laughter]

James: I've had some people help me -- [Laughter]

Beth: I don't think there is anything scarier than that. One reason, and I love to laugh about it and I love to poke fun at it and I love to sometimes just think -- I'll tell Keith from time to time, you have no idea what it is like to live inside of here. It is like I have ten women in here at once. [Laughter] Anybody else feel that way besides me? But the reality is something very frightening can take place there. Why this is so tender to me is that years ago when I was in my early 30s, I had really never faced my past. I had never looked in the face of my own victimization, which started before my memory even kicks in. By the time I have any memory, by the time I was three and four years old, I was already exhibiting the outward behaviors of a child who had been sexually abused. By the time I was several years older than that, I began pulling my hair out by the handfuls. Something was clearly wrong. I would have little flashbacks here and there but I never was able to just stare in the face of what had happened to me. It wasn't until God really started growing me up in his Word that he knew I was going to be able to take it when he began giving me the revelation of where I'd been and what I had gone through. When these things began coming forefront in my mind where I could really stare them in the face and I realized some of the things that I had lived with and some of the things that then I had used as excuses to get into all manner of sin and defeat, and all of that began to just pile

up in front of me, I went through a time when I can tell you the enemy was so tormenting my mind that I thought, I am going to lose my entire soundness of mind. Somehow we're going to stand by and watch the enemy come and take my thinking. At this point, I had two girls that I was raising that were in grade school by this time. I was a very, very responsible, very active mother. There was nothing in the world I wanted to be more than a mom and yet I came to a place where I feared I was not going to be able to have the soundness of mind to raise my own children. What I'm here to tell you and what I'm here to tell them and what I'm here to tell you is it was a lie! It was from the enemy and it was not true. At no time was my mind so fragile that it was about to break. God had me in the palm of his hand and I could trust him with the journey that he was taking me on. But it was the enemy's constant threat to me, "You'll never make it through this. You'll never be able to think your way through this. You'll never be able to get out from under this cloud of darkness and all these compulsive thoughts. You will live here the rest of your life." It was actually only a couple of months from beginning to end when my thoughts were this tormented. Now I've always struggled with my thoughts. I have a strong tendency, as many of you may, to obsessive thinking. I'll just think a thought to death. I know many understand what I'm talking about. But this was a really serious time of torment when I thought that my mind was at full risk. The thing about it is we talk about how fragile the mind is but that is not what the scripture says. The scripture says we have been given the right to soundness of mind. And I think back and it was something that we were talking about earlier, if the enemy had been able to convince me of that, and he knew, boy, he knew what he was strategically after, I had written a Bible study, one out of the 13, and at that point the enemy knew that he had better get to me fast or this could be a threat. He doesn't want anybody learning how to wield the sword of the spirit. So he began to attack me and try to convince me that I would never be able to put three thoughts together clearly again for the rest of my life. But it was nothing but deceit.

James: I think it is really important for everybody who is watching, everybody in this room, in this studio here and at home to recognize that you were having this battle as a believer. This was not the enemy --.

Beth: As a Bible study writer and a teacher and someone who had been in ministry by this time for years.

James: -- A church goer, a church attender, a Sunday School teacher. By the way, you were a Sunday School teacher and you were lost.

Betty: I was.

James: You were a choir member and you were lost.

Betty: I was; I did all the right things.

James: And then came to Christ. After you came to Christ, did you ever have any problem with feelings that were not beneficial and thoughts?

Betty: Absolutely. Like Beth said, the enemy, especially when you become a Christian, I think he open attack on you. He wants to isolate us and he wants to paralyze our minds to where we cannot hear God, we cannot function the way God wants us to.

James: She quoted the verse about God not giving us a spirit of fear, but now as a believer, did you have a spirit of fear working on you?

Betty: Oh, absolutely. I had it before I became a Christian and then I feel like even though I had Jesus in my heart, that doesn't naturally just take care of everything completely.

James: That's the point I'm trying to make, you were a Christian and fear was still prevailing? And you were a Christian and yet you were being tormented. Were you afraid of something, too, in any way?

Beth: I'm like Betty, it was so interesting that we would be able to have this platform together because our fear took a demonstration in two completely different ways. But I have dealt with fear all of my life. I would tell you that it was really my major stronghold as a child. Every unreasonable thing you can think of, all the way to paranoia at the point that I described in my life when the enemy is trying to convince you that what he is telling you is your truth and there is no getting out of it. I know, Betty, you know what I'm talking about. I don't know how the mind of a man works; I just know the mind of a woman.

James: You don't need to know.

Beth: I'm sure that's true! I bet that's true! [Laughter]

James: We're trying to be delivered from our own faults -- you don't need any part of it.

Beth: I just wonder in anybody besides me just fixates -- just fixates. I was telling you, I've got such a story to tell you about my border collie who is just coming up on a year old and border collies have a real tendency toward O.C.D. They're very obsessive compulsive. She loves her balls so much that she barks with it. Out in the backyard, she tries to intimidate the dog on the other side of that fence by barking with a ball in her mouth. It is rendered very ineffective.

James: That would be scary -- that's scary!

Beth: She drops her ball in her food and eats around it. Drops the ball -- if she wants to get some water out of the toilet, which I don't recommend to her but the other day I could hear her digging around, splashing water in the toilet. She had dropped the ball in it so she could get a drink and then was trying to get it back out. My point is, I realize, I thought, that's me! Where everything I get fixated on one thing -- somebody tell me they're with me. And I mean that ball is in my mouth. I talk around it. [Mumbling] I drop it in my food because the whole time I'm eating I'm still thinking about it. I don't care what we're conversing about, I'm thinking about my obsessive thought pattern. Anybody? And just everything -- where this thing, whether it is unforgiveness, whether it is what somebody said to us. For me, during the period of time I described to you, it was what

happened to me. I played it and replayed it and replayed it and replayed it in my mind over and over I replayed that tape.

James: Did you ever hear the enemy adding to that that you could justify any inappropriate actions because of what happened to you?

Beth: Absolutely! And that I would never be -- my big thing was you'll never be anything different than that; that is your value, that is what will make somebody desire you -- that is your thing and there is no way out of it. And that whole feeling that I would never be clean and I would never be pure. Now scripture told me something different than that. When Betty was talking a moment ago, how did we both feel this way, even though we may have acted it out in totally different ways. Mine was carnality; where Betty, for you it was timidity but both of those are strongholds that keep us from being effective in what God has called us to do. But we did not yet know the Word of God to take him up on it. "As a man thinks, so is he." We're going to act out of how and what we think. So as I would obsess on that thing that was bothering me and would be in that cycle of defeated thought, that's what I acted out of. It was miserable.

James: I look back on my past being without a father, without a home and being left by a mother who couldn't care for me and then being taken from the place I'd been left and then literally taken from a situation where there was at least an appearance of stability into total poverty and a most despicable way to live, when I became a Christian, I tried to block the whole past out and I had gotten good at forgetting. I don't know whether you ever tried to block things. You were talking about when they would come back up and you had to bring them back up but I tried to block them. And a friend of mine who I thought really had great wisdom, his name is Billy Foote, and he became a singer in my first meetings and crusades. And Billy said to me on one of our trips, he said, "Tell me about your past, when you were a boy." I said, "Well, I've blocked it out and I don't remember it." He said, "Well, you need to remember it. You really need to remember it." I thought of a couple of things and I told him and he said, "Oh, my goodness!" He said, "You need to tell me more." And I began to lay the story out and as I began to lay it out I began to weep, which perhaps in itself was a healing. But as I began to weep what he said is, he said, "People need to hear this." I said, "I don't even want to remember it again, I'm just telling you." He said, "No, people need to hear this because so many people are there and they're stuck." He said, "You need to remember it." And I did. Here's what happened as a result of it. I began to realize how big God is to be able to take us through the circumstances that people would say, "That's impossible. You've been set up to be one of the most despicable types of people who ever lived." The setting and the surroundings and the environment is such to produce this type of individual. But God -- God interrupts all of that. I think that's what everyone needs to hear. We are all so different and we as men have a tremendous battle in our mind with our thoughts. By the way, you may think -- some people have told men, "When you get married, you'll never have a problem with lust or being attracted." That's not true. That's not the healing for all of that even though

you marry somebody beautiful or precious or wonderful. Then they will say, "When you get older, these things are no longer a problem." I'm sorry, I'm about the oldest person I know now and I'm telling you, you don't age out of it. So what we have is, we really have a battle in the mind. When you were talking about how the enemy wanted to short circuit the purpose of God in you, it wasn't just Beth Moore, it wasn't just James Robison as two individuals, or you as an individual that the enemy is targeting and saying, "I'll just take you out." He wants to take out the purpose of God in any available life. And whatever that purpose is, it is significant and important. Because the people that impacted me never made headlines; they have in heaven but they never made them here. You would not have known the people that influenced me. You didn't know Billy Foote's name, perhaps until I just said it, that he affected me. But you see, somebody made a divine deposit in me because something had happened in them. The thing you need to understand is God has a purpose for your life. Now the enemy hates you. He wants to control you but he really hates what God can do through your life to bless others. As you want to be blessed, so God wants to bless others through you. God wanted to bless people through you but the enemy wanted to keep you stuck and buried. Wanted to keep me stuck, wanted to keep Betty stuck. People look at us and say, "Well, y'all are important to God." Everybody listening to us is important to God; they're important as a parent, they're important as a neighbor, they're important as a co-worker, they're important as a brother or a sister, they're important as a spouse. Everyone, in whatever place you are, you're important to God and the enemy is attacking the purpose of God in your life. Excuse me, I hope that didn't disrupt where you were headed.

Beth: No, it is so true. The thing about it, we will always be in the battle. But make no mistake, we are meant to be more than overcomers in that battle. We aren't stuck with defeat in our minds. We don't have to sit back and think, this is what human beings do. We have other options. We have true -- I'm talking, we have power that is beyond anything the human mind can possibly conceive of. We have what scripture calls in one phrase, "the very mind of Christ." For those of us who have received Christ Jesus as our personal savior, his spirit comes and takes up residency and literally, the soundness of his mind overtakes mine. You know when I think sometimes to myself, as messed up as I've been in the course of my life, I've never been 100% messed up since he came into my life because his part is doing fine. Can anybody get that with me? [Laughter] Does that make sense to anybody? It never was just a total wreck because the part of him that abides in me has been whole and complete the entire time he's been there. The more I let him just release his spirit into my feelings, into my emotions, and into my thought processes, the more I live in victory. The thing that I keep thinking, I've said this to our viewers here at LIFE Today so many times and I say that in humble partnership with the two of you, is that it doesn't matter where you've been or what you've been through, you can be free! You can be free!

James: And that freedom, this is the thing you've got to understand, I'm trying to tell you that aging, marriage, a new status in life doesn't end the battle. We never do get away from the enemy still attacking us so that won't go away but we don't have to live as trampled ground. Give us those three R's that you use in this teaching. Name those and I want to camp on one of them for just a second.

Beth: Okay, we talk about reclaiming -- reclaiming the soundness of mind. Something that I'm hoping is going to happen this week. I'm really asking God to do huge things, James and Betty -- huge things! I want miracles! I want wonders! I'll take signs -- whatever God wants to do to just perform miracles over our thinking and for us to get a clue. But we're going to learn that he did say, "As surely as I've given you a spirit of power, as surely as I've given you a spirit of love, I have given you a sound mind." I want us to reclaim it. I also want us to learn how to replace that spirit of fear with the Holy Spirit. We were not given a spirit of fear or timidity. We were given the spirit of Christ himself. And then renewing, that we've got to learn how this process that we've been using for all these years that clearly, if you're like me and still in that place where I lived so much of my life, that we've got to replace our old thoughts with the new thoughts of Christ and what he says is true about us and learn to believe it and act on it.

James: When I think about reclaiming and I really have got to give you this picture because I love the outdoors. I don't know as much about farming as I wish I did and as the people in Bible days did. They really understood it but it was an agrarian culture so when Jesus talked about farming and about harvest, and about grain, wheat, and tares and about briars and all of that, people understood. But here's the thing I think is critically important for us to understand, we need to reclaim this fertile field that can produce good fruit because there is an enemy that wants to grow everything but good fruit and that process begins in the mind. So we reclaim the property, the purchased possession that God has purchased at great price. And we need to give him this mind so we begin to grow good fruit.

Beth: That's exactly right because it is going to grow out of those thoughts. Everything we do of purpose, everything we do that has eternal value to it is going to grow out of our thought life. That's where that fertile ground is and that is where the change takes place. We can't just decide -- it is a place to start, that we just decide that I'm going to act differently. I'm going to do everything I can to act differently. That is a glorious thing! Good place to begin! But listen, we'll never do it just based on what we are determined to do with our actions; it's got to be a change of mind and it has got to be a change of heart.

Betty: For me it was realizing that as the enemy had tried -- he tries to make us feel insignificant and that's where I was. And as soon as I realized that God created me and that I wasn't insignificant, he hadn't made a mistake and that he gave his son for me, that I might have eternal life and that he wanted to nurture me, he wanted to put in me everything that he had created me to be and to do and that I might be a shining light for him, and let the enemy know that I am important to God.

James: He wants to give us everything pertaining to life and godliness. Here's what I would like you to know, in a half hour we can't walk you through the processes of renewal that are really important to us. It would be wonderful if we could just flip a switch and all things are new. Well, the beginning is new. That's simple as saying, all right, I'm going in a new direction but I realize there are going to be some processes of renewing. You can't even get a computer to behave properly if you don't program the trash out and program new information in. This is the greatest computer, greater than anything anybody else has ever created, and it is under attack. And we can have "A Beautiful Mind," the sound mind, we can be filled with love. We don't have to be controlled by fear. Here's what I would like you to do, just say today, "I'm going to start this process." And it is a process. "A Beautiful Mind," five hours right here. Now we've just spent, maybe 20 minutes or so where you've just been listening and interested, I believe because you identify. But where can we go? We can have "A Beautiful Mind," there can be this renewing so that we can know the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. We start by presenting to God ourselves as a living sacrifice. Read this in Romans 12:1 and 2. You present yourself a living sacrifice to God and then this renewing process. It is a work of God. Let us help you. I want you to get either the DVD or CD's. I want you to get Beth Moore's book, "Breaking Free." It will bless you and I'm telling you, there is no shortcut. There is a shortcut to the start of the journey but the journey is a process. But you don't have to live as trampled ground. You don't have to live with a life that brings forth painful briars and thorns and misery and something that has no fruitfulness, just tares that have no wheat, no strength, no nourishment. You can have a life that is inspirational to others. That's what Betty experienced, free to be herself; not just the church lady, the religious traditional woman down at church but defeated and fearful -- incredible change. I know what God can do but it is a process. There is a telephone number there on the screen. We're offering you the DVD or the CD and the book. We're asking you for the DVD a gift of \$89, for the CD: \$49. What you're going to help us do is minister to others. This television program, all that we do is carried by love. I want to remind you of something, we're caring full-time for 600 orphans in LIFE Centers all over the world, 13 different countries. Those children depend upon us for help. Would you consider maybe adding \$25 or \$50 and say, "I want the material to help me but I would like to help some of these children; I'd like to make an additional gift to help them." I pray you'll consider doing that. Use your bankcard like it is a check or write a check, make it to LIFE, you're sharing life. We want to help enrich your life and inspire you in life so we'll happily send you the material when you ask you for it. But consider reaching out and touching some of these precious children. Every month in our LIFE centers, we're ministering directly to over 6,000 children. You can help us do that. I thank you so much for it! Thank you for making the call. You can go online if you'd like to, lifetoday.org.

Announcer: Are you overwhelmed with life's circumstances? Is your life filled with feelings of rejection, insecurity, and fear? Do you often feel like you're going to lose your mind? Introducing Beth Moore's new series, "A Beautiful Mind." In this five-part series, Beth exposes the enemy's lies you're believing and shows you how to walk in victory. She reveals how to reclaim your right in Christ to be free and healthy, physically and spiritually. With God's Word you can replace the spirit of fear with a spirit of love, power, and a sound mind. In this new series, Beth shares her personal story and struggles, and gives you practical tools to take control of your thought life to produce "A Beautiful Mind." Respond today and we'll also send you Beth Moore's best-selling book, "Breaking Free," along with Betty Robison's book, "Free to be Me."

Beth: Your God has not given you a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind!

Announcer: Call now to receive the entire "A Beautiful Mind" package on audio CD with your gift of just \$49, or request the DVD series for just \$89. And remember, your gift today will help us reach out to thousands of orphans and their communities through our 13 LIFE Centers around the world. Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

James: I hope you are calling. By the way, if you ever call and get a busy, that's a good sign! That means a lot of people are saying, "I want to get started reclaiming this wonderful sound mind that God has given me and renewing." Do ask for the DVD's. I hope you'll get that. You know something? You may want to start a little Bible study. This is five hours, in five different sections dealing with areas of renewing our mind. You want to say thanks to Beth? She's going to be back with us talking more about "A Beautiful Mind."

Beth: Thank you! It was so much fun!

James: Thank all of you. By the way, thanks so much for helping us bless others -- especially children that are overlooked! Thanks for your help.

Beth: When I think back what Jesus Christ has done for me, I'm going to tell you something, he saved my mind!

Announcer: "A Beautiful Mind" tomorrow!