

Week 12

3/16/11

James: I could not welcome Beth Moore and welcome you if I didn't have a big smile on my face. Beth puts a smile on my face. Her energy, her love for God. We're going to be spending an awful lot of time in the next weeks and months talking about God's kingdom agenda... really "The Basics of Life." Beth just helps us on that journey and she's going to talk about a story that is fit for a song and that story could be your life; I hope not a country and western song where you get all these crummy lyrics talking about crummy things in life. But you know what? The crummy things in our life God can turn into a song and I think Beth is going to make that real clear. Here's Beth Moore. "Wednesdays with Beth"... enjoy!

Begin video clip:

Beth: If you've got a Bible handy, I want you to grab it. Those of you that I can see, many of you do have your Bibles with you so turn with me to Judges, the book of Judges, chapters four and five. Let me tell you a few things as you're turning that direction. Listen, if you don't have time to grab your Bible I'm going to read to you what you need to know. I pray that you're still going to hear it. But if you do have a chance to grab it where you can just make some notes around it, that would be even better. I want you all to know that we have a couple of very unique chapters that we're turning to; that probably is only one, maybe two in a stretch, other times in scripture, where we would find a pairing like this. You would find one in Exodus, you would find one in Deuteronomy that is similar but this one is so forthright that I want us to camp on it for this present series. It will actually be a two-part series. So for a number of weeks to come, we're going to be on this material like five or six Wednesdays, we're going to be in judges, chapters four and five. Let me tell you a little bit about it before we start taking it apart. Chapter four is the story -- chapter five is the song based on the story. If you've got captions over the tops of your chapters or your segments in scripture, you're going to see that we are going to study a little bit about the life of a woman named Deborah. She is not the only one. There are many others that will come into play around her but I want you to know until very, very recently as I was preparing this material that after 25 years of teaching and speaking I have not touched this woman with a 100-foot pole and I'll get to why as we go through the lesson. I'm going to tell you something, I want you to stick around. I want you guys to also stick around because you may think at the very beginning, well, if it is going to be

something about a woman, I'm not interested in it. Listen, this one is so intriguing and involves so many different people; this is not a gender thing at all and has a lot of turns to it that you may not be expecting. So she was really new to me. I had taught about it in Sunday school lightly a number of years ago but I just have never camped on it for anything like this until just very recently and I can't wait to tell you why. So I want you to just look at it for just a moment. Take a glance through it if you can grab your Bibles, I'm going to describe it to you if you can't. You'll see, take a look at what five looks like, chapter five. You can see that it is written in a poetic form. You're going to glance back at four and you're going to see that it is the actual account of the events that happened. So here's what I'm pitching out to you. What would it take for a life to be something worth singing about? That's the question on the table for our present series. A story that is fit for a song. That's what we're going to be discussing. Living the kind of life with your God who is mighty beyond anything we could imagine, could do more than we could ever ask or think, to live such a life with him that there could be a song written about it somebody could sing. Every single one of us, we're going to find out in the weeks to come, every single one of us could live that kind of life because you're not in any area of vocation or you feel like you're not making any kind of important contribution. You may think that wherever you are that it's only for the other people, they get to live that kind of life. I want you to understand that every single one of us who are willing to jump on this adventure train with our God can live a life that could be fit for a song and that's exactly where this is going. I want you to look ahead. We're really going to camp first of all on judges chapter four. But I want you to look ahead just enough at judges 5:3 to get a little bit of the flavor of it because she says, it is the song of Deborah and Barak and it says in verse 3: blank.

And then she goes about singing the song of the victory against every single odd. Before we begin to look back at chapter four, I want to begin to give you -- I'm going to go ahead and give you one as we're thinking, what does it take to live a life that becomes a story somebody could sing about? -- A story fit for a song that every single one of us could live. That's the question on the table and we're going to have a number of things through the course of this series together, eight in total over the two-part series. And the first one is this and I want to do it even before we begin reading because I want you to get this into place, this is part of our foundation. Number one: If we're going to have a story, a personal live story because every single one of our lives is a story. If we're going to have a story that is fit for a song, number one we've got to go ahead and accept from the very top it's going to be a story with considerable drama. It is going to be a story with considerable drama. Now what I want you to know is you've already got you some drama. Nobody needs to think, you know what? This is why I'm scared to sign up for this God thing. I'm afraid all sorts of wild things are happening. Let me tell you something, you already got wild things happening. If

you're getting out at all, if you get in your car and go to work... if you're from a city like I'm from, in a city where *LIFE Outreach* lives, let me tell you, you're taking your life in your adventurous hands every single time you get in your vehicle. Would somebody say amen to that? You can go to the postbox and you can get into some drama. If you have a teenager, you already have all the drama you can stand. If you go to a church, if you have a marriage, if you even have a boyfriend, if you have a girlfriend, you've got you some drama. Life has a whole lot of drama. It's whether or not that drama is going to turn into a God adventure -- something divine -- some kind of story that could turn into a song -- that's the difference it makes. That's an opportunity every single one of us have, a story with considerable drama, with nail biting, with crises of faith, with joys and sorrows, opportunities that will come to say, "Will God come through for me this time or not?" I've got to tell you something, I want to give you a little personal background. I always want to come to you with my own present season, that's what I try to teach out of and that's the most authentic thing that I have to offer you. At the Moore home we are still living real life. Keith and I are crazy about one another and we still fight sometimes like cats and dogs and I still cry and get my feelings hurt and get mad about things and wonder about things and have doubts about things. I'm still just out there living real life, wondering what's going to happen next just like you are. So don't think of any of your teachers and anybody in leadership around you as having somehow disconnected from the reality of living because it's just not so. They may not be telling you but listen, we've got real lives going here and they're not always pleasant and they very often give us a lot of opportunity for fear. God has had me back recently through some personal circumstances to that wonderful scripture, I'm not going to turn you to it because I'm going to tell it to you out of Hebrews 11, verse six that says this and I want this to just penetrate. I'm hoping somebody is on the other side of that screen that's never even heard this verse before. This is where I would love for it to start with somebody: Without faith it is impossible to please God. Listen to that again: without faith it is impossible to please God. Now listen because this is going to be a revelation to somebody. Your faith is more important to him than even your acts of righteousness. I promise you that, you can look all over the scriptures and it will tell you that it is our faith that is credited as righteousness. You may say to me, "Are you telling me that it does not matter how I live?" I would never tell you that but I'm going to tell you if you want to go from the pit to some steady living, to some victorious living outside the ditch, it is not going to be just getting in your head that you're going to do certain actions. It will be that you have believed God about you're being a different kind of person than you used to think you are. Do you understand what I'm saying to you? It will be if we ever become people who used to live in defeat and now we live in victory, it will not be because we just started acting a certain way. Your actions cannot maintain that kind of victory. You'll fall back into the old habit. It will be because our

belief system changed. It will be as a direct result of our faith. It will happen every single time. So to believe God -- when I believe God about who he says he is and I believe God about who he says I am, that's when I begin living differently. That's when my decisions change because my whole thought process is changed. And God's word says that without faith it is impossible to please him. So you know what that means? I've seen that verse a thousand times, I don't know how many years ago I memorized that verse and yet God has pulled it out of that mental rolodex and put it right on the front again? You know why? Because I found myself in a place once more where I was going to have to believe him past what I could presently see. That in my mind I had an impossibility in front of me and I was going to have to believe God more than I believed what I was laying my eyes on. Anybody know what I'm talking about? Back there again. This is where it tells you, and I was telling this to my staff here recently, that in case we think it is ever going to just smooth out. Anybody just hope that you're getting there? That you thought, okay, when we finally get engaged, I'm telling you, we are just going to be on with it. Well, when I get married. What I need is I need a new job. I need the right church. There is always something that we're adding to it, wonderful things but when we get that, this is just going to smooth it right on out. I remember how surprised I was when my oldest daughter and her husband had regular problems like regular people in their very good and solid marriage. But I thought, Keith and I come from such a terrible background that I thought honestly, people only had problems because they came out of sin. I was just sure of it. I was sure of it! I was sure of it! I'm here to tell you that no matter what, even if you're living victoriously, you're still going to have a life that is full of ups and downs, it's going to have some valleys in it, it's going to have some very rocky places in it because the whole point of us remaining here after he saves us through faith in Jesus Christ is to continue to believe him every day of our lives until he fulfills his good purpose in us and brings glory to himself. It will always be about faith. It is what it's going to come back to. If anybody is thinking that's listening today, this is exactly where he's had me again. I went through that like years ago. I really went on a fresh faith walk and I find myself in that situation again, what is wrong with me that I'm back to the elementary things of the faith? Let me tell you, we will always come back to faith. He'll do many other things in our lives but he will always bring us back to do you believe me more than you believe what you see? More than you believe what you hear out there amid all of those voices? So God had me back memorizing these scriptures. There were a couple out of Romans 4:20-21. I just want to remind you of them. You can either turn with me but stay right here, hold something in Judges chapters four and five. But listen to these words and I want to tell you a little bit about the way I love to memorize. It says in Romans 4:20 and 21: blank.

He believed God. Now listen, when I memorize a scripture, I'm not just memorizing in order to have a lot of verses stacked in my head, I want them to change my life. I want them to change the way I think today. I want them to change my defeat into victory. I want them to make me respond differently in a challenge and even more so in a crisis. I want to be different because of them. Because the Lord really laid it on my heart to memorize those two scriptures, I memorized them with a "she" instead of a "he." Yet she did not waver through unbelief regarding the promises of God but with strengthened in her faith, giving glory to God, being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he had the power to do. So Keith and I were at some land that we have out on the edge of the hill country and it's really rocky land where you have to have one hand on a shotgun and the other hand you can put in the air. But I had my -- just in case you run up on a rattlesnake or something of that nature. So I was walking along. I had my spirals with my scriptures on it in my left hand and I was saying my verses to God. When I kept saying -- this one was a new one to me -- so when I kept saying over and over, "yet" and I kept emphasizing that word "yet she did not waver. Yet... yet..." And I realized that even the word yet being there in the scripture says that there are odds stacked against it. You will never have a faith walk that you don't have an invitation to disbelieve God. It can't happen. With every opportunity to believe God, you've got an invitation to disbelieve him. Is that making sense to anyone? So if we're thinking we're going to have a faith walk without having a wonderful invitation to doubt and fear and disbelief, we've misunderstood our scriptures because that means if without faith it is impossible to please God, that I am going to live a lifetime of yets. In other words, this was the current status "yet, she did not waver through unbelief regarding the promises of God." There will be a yet every single time that says something has got to happen against every odd. It's got to appear as if this one is not going to come through. That's exactly when you have an opportunity to have a story that turns itself right into a song.

James: Well, I think she gets through. You know you look at your own situation, it is pretty easy sometimes to think well, hopeless? No. I really do want you to understand the blessed hope is not just the return of Christ. I know things can get so desperate for any of us that we just pray dear Jesus come and get us out of this mess. But I really want you to understand that God can turn your mess into a beautiful song, a melody. I also want you to understand that when Jesus taught us to pray thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth... right now on earth. Not thy will be done in heaven, thy will be done on earth because his kingdom is here. The very fact is that God's rule and God's reign and us reigning with him on earth doesn't mean the elimination of challenges and problems, it just means he can lift us above, out of the valley or give us peace in the valley or we're able to climb every mountain because he is bigger than every

mountain. You really can find that out. Here's the good news, if you'll say, "I want to know that so I can be a bearer of good news to others," that's kingdom life. Let me just show you how you can express in the most direct, effective way possible kingdom life, the love of God. And you can turn someone else's misery, their horror story into a beautiful song. You can do that for someone. Like you wish someone might do something like that for you, here's your chance. Watch closely.

Announcer: Human traffickers target innocent children who then become enslaved in a multibillion dollar a year industry called the sex slave trade.

>> Imagine this, one girl taken from her family, whether she is kidnapped or tricked. She is sexually abused over and over again, maybe eight to ten customers that she may have to service in one day.

>> We're fighting for children that can't fight for themselves, children that would be otherwise used in the sex trade or be bought and sold like animals for monetary gain. It is not right!

>> It is kids just like these that right now they're begging but they are also bait for predators. If we don't get them off the street they will be the next trafficked victims.

Announcer: And when these children become enslaved and don't comply, horrible things are done to them by the human traffickers.

>> It is tragic what is happening to children, innocent children and it is not right. Our hearts are burdened by all the children that are crying out for help today, this moment, that need intervention, that need help, that are waiting for someone to hear their cries and we can only do it with your help.

James: Boy, I thank God for his heart expressed through Carol Hart and her husband Michael and the other missionaries, the missionary you saw riding and telling what's happening. Those precious people are in place because God put it on their heart to reach out and put arms of love around those who are held captive in this horrible sex trade and you enabled them to be effective. You enabled them to be able to rescue the children that they went over to find. Two of the children you saw there, the little boy and girl with Carol, those two children were orphaned and they now live in the House of Destiny, in the *LIFE* Center. And by the way, this is what kingdom life does. We are

no longer orphaned. God adopts us as sons and daughters of the heavenly father and we can give those children that relationship with the family that loves them. Let me just tell you pointedly -- by the way, you are the ones, you viewers. I don't care where you are in the world, whether it is in Australia, the United Kingdom, or Canada or the U.S., it doesn't matter -- you told us that you wanted to rescue those children and you let us know we're going to help you do it. It takes \$128 to rescue one of the children; that's the cost for taking care of them. To get them before they get them into the trade or get them out or find them when they are wandering the streets and literally adopt them into the arms of God. And just think about it, it is \$128 to rescue a child, \$1280. I don't just throw that out at random, I think about ten children and some of you could do that. You could say, "I'll take ten children." There are some of you who have been blessed where you say, "James, God has been so good to me. I could give several thousand dollars to help them." Please do that! But please keep this in mind, for every one of those precious children, just like the two with Carol, someone said, "I've got \$128." Another, "I've got \$128." Whatever it takes we're going to do it. Whatever you can give -- we can put gifts together and rescue a child. But I'm asking you right now and I can't help but believe you care so see, the real care, the real love of God, the real center of our life, Jesus, that care inspires a desire to share, to release the love, not just talk about it, not just defend the fact God loves us, demonstrate the love of God. Would you dial the number? Would you take your bankcard, use it like a check or you can go online LifeToday.org -- many of you can do that. Make that gift God has put on your heart. If you can give \$128 or \$1280, please do that. Give the very best gift you can because we're going to give those children a chance. We're going to literally rescue lives together and it takes all of us working together. If you should get a busy, be persistent, dial until you get through just as though I'm the one getting the life preserver, getting the life to that child. I'm going to be determined to do it. As determined as you would want someone to be to rescue you or one of your loved ones. Would you do it right now? Make that call. If you make a check, make it to *LIFE*, put it in the mail and please do that today. Thank you. We have some special gifts for you to bless you to say thank you for sharing an opportunity with those precious little ones.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's hard to believe it is happening! But at this very moment innocent children, many very young are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable and someone must save them! With your support of mission rescue life you can help rescue more than 5,000 children from the horrors of the sex trade in parts of Thailand, India, Cambodia and other targeted nations. Together we can reach vulnerable families and children by providing much needed food and relief. We can rescue those already ensnared by offering them a way out and we can restore their hearts, minds and bodies to enable them to enjoy life as

God intended. Your gift today of only \$128 will help rescue a child and change their life forever. And with gifts of \$64 or \$32 we will combine your gifts with others to help rescue one more child from the shame and pain of this lifestyle. As our way of saying thank you, please request "The Butterfly Effect," how your life matters. The story of this book reveals how you were specially created by God to make a difference and have the power to change the world. As a special challenge, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1280 to help rescue ten children. With your gift be sure to request "Heart of the Father," our beautiful new bronze sculpture that demonstrates God's fatherly love for us as his children. Call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

Begin video clip:

Beth: Keith and I have loved every single minute that we've got to partner with James and Betty and the outreaches of life. We've been part of the mission feeding program, the shelter and the water wells. We've loved every single effort put forth by this outreach ministry but we are particularly excited about the opportunity we have called Rescue Life. This one is specifically for children that have been taken into sex trafficking. I can't think of anything that cries out for our help more than this. Would you partner with us as we reach out to them and literally rescue lives through Rescue Life? This one is something that calls to the innermost part of our hearts and cries out to such victimization that we've got to help. Partnering together there is no telling what God could do. Let's do everything we can to rescue lives. Thank you so much!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I do want to remind you that we're sending "The Butterfly Effect." I think you are familiar with the significance of one; we tried to make that very, very clear. A butterfly, the motion of the wings can -- scientific fact -- start a hurricane. Think what God's love through you could do. You and I have an opportunity to show people the father's heart, the "Heart of the Father," the love of God. We're sending this beautiful bronze to those of you who help us rescue the lives of ten children. If you can do it, please do but remember, whatever the gift God puts on your heart, it's helping us share the greatest gift, the love and life of God. Thank you! Tell your friends about Beth on Wednesdays and encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. We're going to be talking about "The Basics of Life" and how we fulfill God's kingdom agenda right now on earth.

Announcer: Tomorrow on *LIFE Today*, fulfilling God's kingdom agenda on earth.

James: The fact is an upside down world had suddenly been turned right side up.

