

Week 18

4/27/11

James: Boy, I tell you what. I am excited that you've joined us today. You're going to be hearing from me and from Beth Moore and from Betty. I live a pretty exciting life. I live as my pastor, Robert Morris has said a blessed life. The thing is that as I've enjoyed the blessings of God in our life and in our family and in what God has called us to do, I just had this continual longing in my heart for you. You say, "You don't even know me." Well, I wish I did. You might think, well, you wouldn't like me if you knew everything about me. Well, I could perhaps say the same thing related to me. But the fact is, I would love you wherever you are. And this is a fact, I want you blessed beyond anything you ever imagined and God wants it more than anyone on this earth could ever want it. But when the blessing of God comes in our life in reality, you really want to share it. One of the things God has impressed upon me, giving me a fuller understanding of the life that I've been able to live under the covering of God's kingdom presence, not even knowing how to necessarily refer to it, but to experience it and in experiencing this incredible power of a relationship with God, never sacrifice for a membership of some religious institution or even church membership so replace relationship with God and with others, I've never accepted that. So walking in a fellowship rather than a membership, a part of the church not merely a part of a church, but in this life that I'm living, the joy that I have is so real I've had a longing in my heart that every person I know would experience it. As I prayed recently and come to understand kingdom power, kingdom presence, kingdom importance, the kingdom of God, the rule of God in our life, it is as though God has said, "I have a longing to put my arms around the world." Have you ever wanted to be held? Have you ever wanted a shoulder to lean on rather than a sermon to listen to? Well, I want to tell you something, this is what God is offering you, the opportunity of leaning on him, of living in the shelter of the almighty and the shadow of the almighty and in understanding the power and importance of God's kingdom reality not as the future heaven, something to come but something that is here now. And that when this kingdom presence is recognized and submitted to, this power, his will can be done on earth in us, through us on planet earth right now, making an imprint on everything around us. Beth Moore joined with Betty and me to share God's Kingdom in You, Basics of Life. This is a five session teaching. I am not exaggerating when I say to you that I believe your life will be so transformed by the power of God that you're going to find yourself living as Paul put it with joy unspeakable and full of glory, and that glory is the glory of God. I've said over and over, I pray the world will see us living in his glory, Christ in us before he comes for us. If we as individuals and every one of us

who commit our lives to God and his purpose lose our life in his purpose, if we will come together in a spiritual heart harmony, the world is going to see Jesus lifted up. I'm telling you, he is the answer to every challenge, every mountain, every pit, every ditch of despair, every pain, every heartache, he is the answer. I want you to listen as Betty and I share with Beth God's Kingdom in You. You can get this entire five session series. I'll tell you a little later how you can get it. Be blessed now as we share.

Begin video clip:

James: We have taken the enemy, as you were talking about, Satan is tempting Jesus and saying he took him to the high places and said, "Here, look at all the kingdoms and power. I can give you this." The enemy can deliver the present day things of the world in pretty high order. He can deliver. He can make it look good on this earth. He can deliver you to the kingdoms of the world and they can look real good, the materialistic. The flip side of it, oftentimes, is that if we move into the Kingdom of God, a lot of times we think we cannot possession the land or have anything here. It is almost like we take the beatitudes and this is one of the most tragic things that he often takes the beatitudes, just like "blessed are the poor in spirit" or "blessed are the persecuted." You're persecuted, here's the Kingdom of God. And the poor in spirit, here's the Kingdom of God. And we actually immediately take it erroneously, the beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount over into another set of rules. And so now we are going to act poor in spirit. Are we going to go out and see if we can get persecuted so we can be blessed? We try to create trouble and God knows a lot of people are good at it. A lot of people are real good about going around and acting humble. But there's another big mistake that we make there and that is that oftentimes people think that as a believer -- it is almost like you take a vow of poverty, you can't have anything. Nothing can be further from the truth. Jesus says all things under his feet, they can be under our feet and we can have all things richly to enjoy but you can't enjoy riches or anything unless you've got the riches of the kingdom in us. Because the riches of this world will take your heart captive if you don't have the riches and fullness of the kingdom. But if you have the king in place you can enjoy everything around you richly and enjoy, which means there is not a thing wrong with having the things of this world if you keep them under your feet. I get really amused sometimes because I've watched these camps divide up. And there will be people talking about how God wants to bless you and you're going to prosper. And so they name it some -- it is the prosperity gospel. Well then pretty soon you have to start defending it so you become prosperity gospel preachers. I've often wondered, do we need to have a poverty gospel where we're going to preach the poverty gospel? You come, believe we'll all be poor. Then God will really be pleased with you. It begins to be nonsensical. The fact is, Beth that if we are full of him and living in his fullness and kingdom, we

can have a beautiful home and the home not have us. But you can have a shack and put a glorious home in that shack. You don't have kingdom life measured ever with a monetary standard nor do you have it limited by any monetary standard. Do you understand what I just said? You don't limit the blessings of God by any material or monetary measure. I know some people that have what we would call on this earth great wealth but they are full of the glory of God, they're not full of greed. We know that greed drives many people into an early grave and into a miserable existence on planet earth and hurts a lot of people. But being blessed and being prosperous -- do you know it is interesting that over and over in the Old Testament every time the judgment of God came and then he said he is going to bless them and pour out rain, he said, "They will again grow grain. I'll make up to you for the years the locust ate." God has no -- he is in no way objecting to a nation like the United States or any of us having some kind of prosperity where out of the wealth of the abundance of wise decisions and blessings God we can bless poor people all over the world, that's kingdom life. We don't all have to go around and live like paupers and think we're spiritual. Nor do you think I'm more spiritual because I have a bigger house or a nicer car than you. That's nonsense! Some of the most spiritual people I know don't have any kind of car. They don't even have a bicycle. They're missionaries and they're full of the glory of God. Do you understand what I'm saying? But that doesn't mean that I have to go and have no car and not even have a bicycle and walk everywhere in order to look godly. That's where the Pharisees made the big mistake and the religious people through the ages think I keep a system of rules and I qualify for kingdom life. Not so! It is the grace of God working in us as you've said in earlier sessions where you stand amazed at the Revelation of God not only to you but through you. You have a situation where you think, I'd come unglued. And all the sudden you say, "Who is this that showed up? Where did this calmness and peace come from?" That's kingdom life; right?

Beth: That's right! I love that peace and joy we were talking about, that righteousness, peace, and joy that comes with the power of the kingdom that is in us. I felt like not long ago God gave me such a picture of what our joy is like as believers because this is part of what makes us so contagious and so magnetic to the people around us is our joy in the Holy Spirit, our joy that we have in Christ that is riches to us. When Amanda, my oldest daughter was expecting her second child Anna Beth we found out fairly early on that she was expecting a girl and we were just thrilled about that. And I already from the time we knew she was expecting I loved the child but then we found out the child was a girl so then I had something to be specific about in the focus of my love. And then we find out what her name is. Well, I have a name to call her and my love just explodes in my heart. And then she is born and we just stand over her as she can't even focus on our faces and we stand over her going, "We love you so much! Do you have any idea how loved you are?" Just looking in this precious child's face. And

really, she does not even have a clue who we are. Not any of us! Really, honestly, you can hardly get her to even look the same way in the same direction.

[Laughter]

Early on, it's just like that. But then they hit about eight weeks old and suddenly they begin to crack a smile back at you and there is no feeling like it. I feel like in a lot of ways, that's what joy is to us in the kingdom. It is when all this time God has been going, "Do you have any idea how much I love you? Do you have any idea how much I love you?" And I wonder, James and Betty, if joy is us not smiling back. That all this time he has been talking over us and speaking his promises over us and finally, we begin to focus enough on that face, not a human face, not a teacher's face, not a preacher's face, the face of God through the reflection of his word and we begin to smile back. And let me tell you, the world reacts to that kind of joy. They want whatever it is. I can't tell you how many times my staff and I, at a restaurant, have been asked what we were drinking. It was just the Holy Spirit is all. That's all it is. "Whatever you're having, I want that." That's how we want it to be. I love these words, everything we've been talking about keeps reminding me of these words. It is so tender from the mouth of Christ and somebody listening today just needs tenderness spoken over them and I want you to hear the tone of this in Luke 12:32 as Christ said to his disciples.

32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

What would it mean to you today to know that God is pleased to give you this part in his kingdom? What would it mean to you today to know that he was saying to you, you do not need to be afraid my little flock? It pleases me! Could you know, could you come to that realization today in the power that only he can give you, that you are that loved and that prioritized and that it pleases him to do this for you? Wouldn't it be something if we could get that all the way in under our skin. Because remember, this is the kingdom that lives within us -- within us. We can't necessarily see it sitting on our heads when we're staring in the mirror but I believe with all of my heart that everyone in the heavenlies, all the heavenly host, I believe we are marked and it shows that there is a kingdom conferring on our foreheads that says, "Holy to the Lord" and it is obvious who belongs to him and this kingdom has been conferred to us. Do not be afraid little flock for your father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

James: You get up sometimes, Betty and you've even typed this into your iPad, I know that --

Betty: It wasn't working tonight!

James: But you've typed this into the iPad and it is there in Ephesians three, the passage that you love. Could you read it and tell us why it means --

Betty: I don't want to interrupt you.

Beth: Do it! Do it!

Betty: This has become very special to me. It's in Ephesians three starting with verse 14:

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

That says it all.

James: While you were talking a moment ago about the love and expressions and again, I am a pet lover. I love our little dog. Princess is -- she is going to be ten this year. So she's kind of --

Beth: I love that her name is Princess for such a time as this. Yes! Yes!

James: That's exactly right. The kingdom -- and to princes. And I am wanting to talk to Princess, I just watch her running around. She is so cute. I'm going to ask the Lord, "Why did you give us dogs?" And it is like he answered -- by the way, I think we can have conversational relationships with God, that's just my opinion. I think we can know his written word so well that we know the God of the word talking to us and it will always be in harmony with not only his heart but his word. But it is like he said to me Beth, it was like he said, "I made them so you can understand how much you can love something that is so inferior to you so you might better understand just how much I love you." Well, this little dog and you were talking about how you were making over this grandchild and just so excited and then she can't even focus or anything but you're just pouring it out. They can't see, it is kind of like us, seeing through a glass darkly, we're kind of clueless. But we've got this little dog and she will jump up here. Every morning she runs and jumps. Puts her little paws right here and puts this -- and she is a dachshund, she is a German dog but she is a French kisser. She just --

[Laughter]

Kisses me on the face. She will come and she will jump right up here. She will get her little feet right here. I want you to picture this. I want you to see this relationship going on here. By the way, she is a glorious greeter too when I come home. I really -- you're good at seminars for women. I wish Princess could teach a seminar for women to know how to act when their husband comes home because she meets me at the door just like this. And I mean she is just so happy, she just -- it is joy unspeakable when I come. That would be a wonderful seminar --

Beth: And French kisses!

[Laughter]

I'm just saying. I said it before he was --

James: You might help in the seminar. But anyway, here is this little dog; I want you to try to picture this. Little German dog, little bitty short legs like this, long weany body, that's why they call them wiener dogs. She is real slick, got real long ears and real long nose and she jumps up here. I look at her and I say, "Princess, you're so pretty. You are the prettiest little -- you've got such pretty eyes. Oh! You've got such pretty ears. You perk them up. Oh, you're just so sweet. You are the prettiest little thing." Now think about this, and some of you get up and say, "I don't feel very pretty." "I don't feel good." But let me tell you what God is wanting to shout into your spirit, he is wanting to shout -- see this little dog, I don't know whether she can understand me. I don't know, I just know I love pouring it out on her. And I oftentimes wonder, with everything she does, she thinks she gets a treat. I give her a treat. The dog goes outside and potties, she doesn't pee on my carpet, I give her a treat. I mean everything she does, I'm just giving her a treat. Give her a treat -- give her a treat just constantly. I don't know that my dog has ever said "thank you" one time ever! Ever! The only yelp I hear is she wants another treat just right after I gave her one. You know what she'll do? She will go to the door and I'll open the door and she will run right through and then come right back in like she's done her business. She didn't do anything. I say, "You didn't do anything." But then she will go to the garage door and she will run into the garage and come right back in. I'll say, "You didn't do anything." She is playing games. It reminds me of the way we are with God. Hey, hey! Showed up to church.

[Laughter]

The thing is, God just loves -- he really loves to pour it on us. I don't know how

grateful we are. Here's the thing I'd like you to hear, please, please, every one of you here: God wants to lavish you with his love. He wants you to know how absolutely beautiful you are, how precious and how important you are to him... how much he loves you! He not only gave his son to die for you, for all -- not something good you did but for every awful thing you ever did and ever will do, he died for you. Was buried and raised by the power of God -- get this -- not just to go to heaven and wait but to come back in the person of the Holy Spirit to live his resurrected life in us. And we are to receive that resurrected life. You know what Paul said? He said, "Count everything loss." And he was righteous, he was a Pharisee. He was Jew, he had the royal race, royal priesthood, he was a Benjaminite. He had everything in order and he said, "I count it all loss for the surpassing value of knowing this love and this resurrection power, the power of his resurrection life now, not just in the future, now in me." "Christ in us," Paul said, "the hope of glory." The hope of releasing the glory of the presence of the one and only almighty God that will make the kingdom imprint, the imprint of almighty God on everything around us and that light will illuminate the way to correct errors that need to be set right and in place to help us turn from evil we couldn't even see because of the brightness of that light. This is what God is inviting you into and to literally go through life leaning not on your understanding, not gathering around some other truth or teacher but the truth, the teacher, being expressed through many gifted people who have been planted to build us up into the fullness of the stature of Christ. And you need to hear his love for you, how valuable, how important you are not only to him but to his purpose so that you can also show others how much he loves them. That's why we're here. That's what the kingdom is and that's what all of you have been invited into, receiving him as king, releasing that power of his presence and his reality in us the very real world, his world and allowing that river of life to flow. And everywhere a river flows life springs up.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I pray you're being blessed and I pray you'll get the entire series, five sessions, God's Kingdom in You, "Living in His Presence in the Present." Now understand, we're born from above, born again from above. It is a spiritual experience. The grace that we receive, not in membership with a church organization, not protestant, Catholic, not whatever "ism" you might find yourself in but being born from above, the grace of God that we receive is the grace that not only enables us to be forgiven

and have a new life but it is the grace that continually conforms us to the image of Christ, transforming us by the renewing of our minds, this is the power of God's word. In other words, when you receive this divine seed in spiritual birth that will ultimately produce this river of life that is to flow freely -- freely we've received, freely we release the river of life and life springs up so that when you've been born from above and that grace has been received -- truly born from above, again, not membership, relationship -- that grace continues its transforming effect. So the seed takes root and we're to be rooted and grounded in love and the root produces the fruit as we receive the light and water: The light of his presence, the water of his word. All of these truths that God has shared with us and we're going to be sharing the basics of life for many, many months but what we're offering you is five sessions to begin to understand "living in his presence in the present," not waiting for heaven. In heaven there is no challenge. In heaven there is no enemy, there's no death, no disease, no reason to put on the whole armor of God and be more than conquerors. God wants to show each one of us as believers and that's what we've joined together to do in a series to help literally see you begin to live in the gravity of kingdom atmosphere and breathe in the reality of God and release the river of life. I'm asking you right now to go to the phone or go online and request the series. We're going to send you the five-part series, along with Jim Hylton's book, *The Supernatural Skyline "Where Heaven Touches Earth."* This is the man that just sort of walked into my life and opened kingdom reality, which I've been a part of for so many years, didn't know how to share it adequately, and that led to what we're teaching and sharing and what Beth has joined with us in, and I'm telling you, it is transforming. We will send you the CD's and the book for your gift of \$40. You may want to add something to that to help us care for others. \$10 will feed a child for the next several months. \$20 will feed two. \$30 will feed three. So when you ask for something that will help you, also consider reaching beyond yourself and changing someone else's life with the love of God. If you'd like to have it on DVD we're asking for a gift of \$90, you'll get the DVD series, all five sessions and the CD's along with the book. This would be a tremendous, not only study for you and your family, but perhaps for your church groups or your own Bible study group. Go to the phone right now and request this series. I can promise you, you're going to begin a whole new way of living beyond anything you ever imagined but not beyond God. Right in the center of his will.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Introducing *God's Kingdom in You*, a dynamic new teaching series that will inspire you to live every day in the power and presence of God. Through five dynamic messages, James and Betty Robison, along with bestselling author and teacher, Beth Moore, reveal timely insights concerning your role in the Kingdom of

God. The kingdom is now and God wants to use you to express his love and reveal his power like never before! James and Beth share ways you can pierce the darkness of this world, how you can release the transforming power of his kingdom in your life, and to the world around you. It all starts with God's Kingdom in You. You can live in his presence in the present.

>> God's Kingdom in You series is just an awesome, awesome series!

>> The Kingdom of God is now, that joy is available to me now.

>> It is so practical and simple. It is amazing!

Announcer: Call now to receive the God's Kingdom in You audio series with companion scripture guide. And as a bonus, we will also send you Jim Hilton's new book, "The Supernatural Skyline" with your gift of \$40 or more. Or request both the video DVD and audio series with scripture guide and book for just \$90 or more. God's Kingdom in You is the power for living you've been looking for. Please call, write, or make your gift online!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I am encouraging you to get the series. Now you're hearing little portions of it on air but you'll get the entire, nearly five hours of teaching in five sessions. You may want to remember this if you ask for the CD series or the DVD and the CD and the book, keep this in mind, if you'd like to make an extra gift of \$10, \$20, or \$30 we'll be able to feed one, two, or three children for the next few months. We do encourage you to receive the blessing of being a blessing to someone else and sharing a life with them. That really is kingdom expression. Thank you so much for giving us this time to share with you.

Begin video clip:

James: This is kingdom life. This is what we're talking about. If we can get you to move out of your little limited world, if you can just get outside that world, get in his world under this covering of the kingdom and begin to make a difference in other people's lives, you're going to be amazed at what happens to your world.

>> James ignites it. He gets you excited about it. He defines it so well, and then Beth comes along with really practical application. Perfect!

>> It helps you to get your focus off of yourself and more on the needs of the world and on the needs of the kingdom. It has helped me to become less self focused and me to become other focused.

Beth: If you are in Christ, if you know him personally, you have a calling and he is going to use everything you've been through, every single circumstance to bring about the true ministry that fits you and not somebody else!

>> You're going to have hope. You're going to find hope! Even through the trials, even through the tears, at the end of this teaching you walk away knowing that no matter what you're going through, it is going to end well.

End of clip

James: And it doesn't matter if you put on a T-shirt Jesus is Lord, the question is, is he Lord?

Announcer: Experiencing God's Kingdom in You tomorrow on *LIFE Today*!