

Week 18

4/28/11

James: I'm so excited we can share this time together. I really do thank you for watching the program. You know *LIFE Today* has been a blessing to people all over the world because it is so much more than simply a name or a title, it really is learning how to experience life today every day. One of the things we point out, I think it is really important for you to understand, you will really live life the way you want to live it when you begin to share the life of God with others. If you want to experience the fullness of love, release that love toward someone. I want to encourage you to get what Beth Moore has joined with me and Betty in sharing, and that is the reality of God's Kingdom in You, the subtitle, "Living in His Presence in the Present." See, people have erroneously reduced the Kingdom of God to a future reward rather than a present reality. Of course there is the future heaven where there are no more challenges; where there is no enemy, no disease, no death, no sorrow, those things, the former are gone. But Jesus prayed for the will of God to be done on earth as in heaven, and he sent us as sheep not to the slaughter, sheep amidst and among wolves, but in the shadow of the shepherd, in his covering, his presence, his provision, his watch care. This is what God is telling us we're to live in -- this kind of a shelter -- this is kingdom reality. I shared a story in this series, which you can get it in five parts, God's Kingdom in You, where Beth Moore, Betty and I are sharing, I believe the most exciting journey you're ever going to find yourself suddenly embarking on, the reality of it. But I shared a story about how a blind dog helped me see. And by the way, if you would like to know what I'm writing every week relating to church issues, issues of spiritual significance and national concerns and how we can prayerfully address them, you can go to my web site, JamesRobison.net. What I'd really love you to do is take this time that I literally pour my heart out. When I wrote about the blind dog that helped me see, I was trying to take you into an experience where the kingdom presence of God could be revealed in a public place; in that instance in an Office Depot, office supply. Listen, go to JamesRobison.net, scroll back through, look at all the different things. I shared a very -- a highly interesting article about spending time with Glenn Beck. How Betty and I interacted and prayed with him and prayed for him. How do we pray for people who are visible? Who have seen something in us and they invite us in to talk about the kingdom and about Jesus? You ought to read that article. You can go on LifeToday.org, go over to the right side of that page and also find my columns. What I'd like you to do is begin to build your own network of sharing insights. If you believe that God has given us something to offer, pass it onto others. I am convinced as you access those commentaries, and the devotionals, you'll want to forward them to someone. I'm also convinced you get God's Kingdom in You

and you're going to find God's kingdom presence becoming a reality. Not just something you read about in the Bible, but something you're experiencing daily. Let's join some of that session, brief portions of it that you can get in nearly five hours of teaching, five sessions on DVD or CD, or both, along with Jim Hilton's book, "The Supernatural Skyline" where heaven touches earth. A fabulous book written by a pastor that is literally full of the kingdom life of God. Enjoy the time that Betty and I spent talking about the kingdom and sharing with you.

Begin video clip:

Beth: You know something I noticed over the course of the last year, I mean it was just grow up into understanding of how the enemy will come against us and if he can't take away a victory he will do everything he can, Betty, to take away our joy in the victory. He will not let us celebrate it. I want you to know you have a God that wants to celebrate with you. One of the greatest things that we see in the outlaying of the kingdom agenda in scripture is that it ends with huge celebration. There is joy in the kingdom. There is that sense of God, you caused me to be something I could not possibly be, do something I could not possibly do. And over the last year, God brought about a victory, something big happened that I could not even enjoy because of a season of warfare the enemy brought upon me. By the time I came out from under it, it was already gone and over. I thought, you rat! Because he couldn't take away the victory, so he came to take the celebration. And I never really got my high five moment with God. And I felt like he wanted me to have it with him. That we had fought hard and long, fought the good fight of faith and God brought the victory but I was so swept up in a personal relational situation that I never knew where the victory went. I never got to enjoy the sense that we had fought hard to get to a place where we could see that God had brought us into the light and into that victory and it is just maddening.

James: Well, you came back to that place of joy but you look back and think, why wasn't it there? It's kind of like, I think the dilemma that Paul found himself in when he said there is a messenger of the devil that is buffeting me. I've been asking God to take this thing away but this conflict is here and it is just like he is landing some solid blows, and this is really disturbing. And here's what God said to him, "My grace is sufficient for you." In other words, rejoice in the reality of my grace, focus on that reality and not on the enemy assaulting you. This really was given, this battle so that you would not unduly exalted beyond measure for the abundance of the revelation. Paul, you have got such an incredible relationship with me, people will tend to put you up on the pedestal rather than keeping Christ as the center. So you've got this

conflict but it is real. But what he was actually saying -- and I'm absolutely convinced Paul got there. In other words, even in the conflict, with all of the assault of the enemy, people saying ugly things about you, persecuting you, count it all joy; I believe he reached that point that he could. Even in prison. I believe in the darkest prison, I believe in among Caesar's household, wherever he was, he could let that river flow. Remember in the Philippian jail at night and they'd been beaten and put in stocks? And they started singing. Can't you just hear that? Paul turns over to Silas and says, "Let's sing." Silas says, "Sing what?" He says, "Let's sing praise to God right here." And they began to praise the prison doors flew open and other people were set free. The very people that locked them up and the one entrusted to keep them was converted by the power of God and so converted that he didn't fear anybody anymore, he took them to his house. That's a real conversion from the power and presence of the kingdom even in the pit of despair. So we really have to learn to rejoice because he is here. And here's what I had to learn because I'm a very emotionally sensitive person. Nobody can tell that.

[Laughter]

I'm very, very emotionally expressive and sensitive and so forth. And the Lord has had to show me, you don't trust a feeling. I'm here whether you feel it or not. You trust the truth. You trust the reality. See when I first started preaching I was so shy and so scared but God told me how to preach. But this is really the truth. Now Beth it is hard for people to see the boldness and the freedom with which I speak, they can't believe this was true. But when I would come out to preach the preacher would have to help hold my knees down on platform because I was shaking so bad. I would just sit there and he would think, my God this guy is going to get up in a minute? And I'm sitting over here and I'm just terrified. But the minute I would stand up those arms would just come around me. You talk about a holy boldness. It was truly -- it was really something to watch. One night I got up there and that presence didn't come. It was almost like a spirit of panic. I thought I don't feel that. And it was as though he whispered, "But I'm here. I'm right here. You trust me not feelings." And [pshhw] -- that explosion just released. But it was a lifetime learning experience, to move beyond feeling into the faith and reality of his abiding presence and abiding in that presence. And in your darkness moment -- and by the way, she shared a dark moment, Paul shared a dark moment, I just shared a moment, we still have many of them. Betty, you have times you just feel like God is not to be found?

Betty: I know and I was just sitting here thinking, that is the awesomeness of God. He will come where we are; wherever we are he will find us. And then he will, if we will allow him to, and submit to him, we can go where he is, in our spirit, in our

relationship with him. As I was thinking of that I thought a couple years ago James and I asked our older daughter to come on because all our grandchildren, we have 11 grandchildren and the youngest one just turned 12. The oldest one is 24. So a couple years ago, they're busy. Used to -- "Oh, we're going to Mimi and Papaws!" And Mimi and Papaw get down on the floor with them. Take them somewhere, play with them or whatever, they were entertained. Well, it's a little bit different when you get to the age they are now. They don't want to come and sit on the floor with Mimi and Papaw and play.

[Laughter]

So we said, "Rhonda, how can we connect with our kids at the season they're in now?" She said, "Mom, it used to be where they came to you, now you're going to have to go to them." I said, "Because of our love, our deep love for our family, I will go wherever I need to go to have that fellowship and that communication and that love." So where do we go now? We're texting all the time. I will learn anything to keep that communication with them. And they seem to love it because one of them said, "Mimi, you're cool!" Whoa, that makes my day for my grandkids to tell me I'm cool and that I'm communicating with them. Well, I mean God wants our love toward him to be that way. He wants communication with us. He is right here in our face and in our hearts if we'll just open up our hearts and say, "God talk to me. Communicate with me. I need your understanding. I need your wisdom. I need your love!"

James: I want you to write down some thoughts. As a matter of fact, these -- this particular little phrase I'm going to give you came out of "The Supernatural Skyline" by Jim Hilton that I recommend to you. I think Beth you'll really appreciate this. This is what the kingdom presence and power does. This is what that imprint and that presence creates when you allow the presence of the kingdom to be prevailing in your life and manifest and leave the appropriate imprint. It changes our attitudes and you're going to spend a considerable amount of time in this series on God's kingdom and us on the beatitudes. Attitudes, that's where Jesus started.

Attitudes. Now here's why attitude is so important.

You remember how, Betty, I would always in times of correction or instruction in our family, I would look to see how it expressed itself in their actions? But I would also look to see what's your attitude like while you're doing right? Are you doing right because daddy made me? Or have you gained -- listen this is so important, this is what wisdom is -- have you gained understanding? Why? Why the correction? Why

pointing you in this direction? Do you understand the appropriateness of it? All right, that effects their attitude but I would also take it a step further I wanted to feel the atmosphere when I came in. There should be an atmosphere of peace prevailing in the house of God and in our houses. That should concern you and it is not something you can force. It is the attitudes changing that create the atmosphere. Write it down.

And this is so important.

It determines growing seasons, what grows, how long it grows, how well it grows. Did you get those three?

It determines how things grow and that goes in the spiritual realm. By the way, I've written that down -- you see this little journal? This is the one that Robin gave me after she won the battle with cancer because God ordered her to walk over to the side of the bookstore and buy this for her daddy. Now I could literally, I promise you, Beth, I could sit here and go through these pages of things God has spoken to my heart and you would not have a dull moment. You really wouldn't have a dull moment. And yes, you would say, "Would they all line up with the word?" You better believe it! Because I want to tell you, if I get a check in my spirit or I'm not sure I first look at the word but then I'll confer with someone and I'll say I need --. By the way, this just jumped out at me. Do you know what you're going to see when you look back and you hear someone preaching or someone says something? Don't spend your life going around saying, "Have you got a word from God for me?" Listen, God gets up -- when you get up every day he's got a word for you. He's more anxious to tell you than you are to hear. You are dull of hearing because you haven't tuned your ears to the right channel. You're waiting for somebody else to come speak well, he might want to whisper. When I put the trumpet to my lips I'm just trying to get your attention so you can hear what he is saying, the sounds of heaven -- that's the alert. Get your ears open. Get your eyes open. So he will talk to you and you write it down. But sometimes if you've got a question about something, it is right to pass it by a sensitive person but don't live waiting for somebody to come and tell you the will of God that he's more anxious to reveal to you than you are to receive, just start getting your receiver ready, start getting your antennas up a little bit higher and tuned in a little bit more clearly to channel Jesus, and he'll talk to you. You go ahead and write down the things he says. And a lot of times I write down something I read, it just jumps out at me like I wrote this down. I wrote it down and then I go back and highlight it. See, that little highlighted places on there? Listen to this one.

You can see strippers that have got a cross on. You say, "How do you know?" I saw them.

[Laughter]

I never will forget we went witnessing at a Super Bowl in San Francisco. They had girls dancing, inappropriately dressed and almost no dress in glass cages even as you'd walk down the street. And I would go over and pause and go around and they would come to the door. I would look in and say, "I want to talk to y'all about Jesus." And they started trying to cover up immediately. I never shamed them, I loved them and they would stand there crying. A lot of them told me, "I grew up in the Baptist church." "I grew up in a Pentecostal church." "What are you doing here?" "I'm just trying to make a living." I said, "You don't have to make one this way." I just prayed with them. I'm not going to put shame on any of them. I don't want to put shame on the people that are trapped in there. You know how power -- listen, if some of you have trouble with food, understand men have trouble with women. Because I tell you, women are prettier to men than food is to anybody who loves food, and it even has a greater attraction. We've got major issues in the world that only God can solve and it doesn't matter if you put on a T-shirt "Jesus is Lord," the question is, is he Lord? And the way you know if he is Lord is if he is working his will and his grace in you and not that you're just living with sin management always trying to keep everything in order so you look good in front of everybody else. That's a miserable way to live! The weight of his kingdom and his presence would change your life. So I really do encourage you to just get a little journal. I wrote this down. I just looked up here where I said he wants to put his arms around the world and that's what the church helps him do when we come together, we get to put his healthy arms of love around a hurting world. But here's something he showed me. He showed me this as I looked at history and I looked at times when we would -- let's say issues of the world we would face, evil like Nazism and like communism, and finally we would stand up because the truth had an impact on the culture to where we stood in the face of the enemy. But Beth, here's what I've seen, just when you look back at Germany and a lot of people really prayed, the horrible things that happened to the Jews and we talk about the holocaust with the Jews, how terrible it was, and millions were killed and yet in the past several decades in America we have killed 50 million people who were totally helpless in the wombs of their mother, and in many instances won't even bat an eye, just go right on down. And if you even talk to people about not terminating a little innocent child -- see, most of the pro-abortionists don't want you to even see that little baby on the sonogram to see what you're fixing to rip apart, that you're ripping apart something with little arms and legs. If you could just see what you're really doing, if you could just have that heart change. But see, we don't even bat an eye about that and we should -- the church should understand that if we were to impact the culture two things will happen: One we'll recognize that we've got some bad practices but

second we'll understand and recognize the preciousness of every life, the preciousness and how love protects and love covers. We really need to see that. That's part of the culture impact we need to make. When you look back in history though you take Nazi Germany, the praying people prayed evil out, Beth but they never prayed righteousness in. And they began to replace evil with other answers to man's dilemma that weren't the answer from the answer who knows all the answers. Do you get the drift? See, this is what God wants us to do, not only pray evil out but pray righteousness in, which is not a bunch of rule keepers but a bunch of people being transformed by kingdom power and presence.

Beth: You know that saying that nature abhors a vacuum and it is in that concept and I'm asking you to think, conceptually more than about a doctrine of demon possession because we who are sealed in Christ cannot be possessed by anything besides the Holy Spirit. But remember when the one had the demon cast out and then it remained empty and seven more moved in? And that so often happens, exactly the principle that you're talking about, when we're just trying to get something out but we don't replace it with the fullness of the spirit. If we really think that all religion is about is being good and always doing the right thing -- and it reminds me so much of your testimony, Betty -- if that's all there is to it there is such an emptiness that we are bound for a different kind of bondage. It will lead in that direction every single time, because it is the fullness in Christ that brings us the wholeness. Wholeness really is him filling up the entire vessel that he is in us wholly and that's what makes us holy. That's the concept of true health in the spirit.

End of clip

James: Boy, that's powerful! Thank you, Beth and Betty. Boy, what a powerful statement about being whole. It really leads to a true holiness, not some religious, pious system of rule-keeping and self-righteousness that makes you think that you're above others but real wholeness, real healing... Jesus healed a man and I shared this in the story. I hope you'll go to JamesRobison.net and scroll back through the columns and read "The Blind Dog Helped Me See. In that article I point out that Jesus healed a withered hand but it's the withered life his primary focus is on. I know many people who have been healed of a disease but their life's never been healed. Jesus really came to give us wholeness. That is kingdom life! That's what we're talking about. We're talking about -- and I love this subheading. When I asked God, "Help me define in simple terms what kingdom reality is now -- not future heaven but kingdom reality now that you pray for and Jesus talked about between 80 and 100 times in the gospels and many times the New Testament and beginning as Beth Moore points out in the

Genesis to the Revelation talked about the kingdom of God, the simple sentence that covers it is living in His Presence and awareness of his presence in the present. This is the power. This is really spirit-filled living but you won't walk in the spirit if you don't understand I'm breathing in the oxygen of spiritual reality, I'm aware of the weight and glory of God everywhere I go. Now this series, God's Kingdom in You will help you understand this incredible phenomenon. See for my entire life as a Christian, I'm an illegitimate child, the product of a forced relationship, born to a 41-year-old mother who didn't have a job. I had no chance, no future. I came to know Christ and when I came to follow Christ I said, "I lose my life in your purpose!" I was born from above into kingdom reality. Now then for over 50 years I have walked in the blessing of that. And when I stumble, the king, the shepherd is there looking down in the pit that perhaps I dug to lift me out. As I walk in kingdom presence, I've wanted to pass it on to others. God has shown me what's happening and we've been able to grasp that and pass it on to you. Get this series and the CD's, we're asking for a gift of \$40 and we'll send you Jim Hylton's book for a gift of \$90, you get the entire series and the CD's and the book for a gift of \$90. You may want to add something to that to help us feed some children. \$10, \$20, \$30 a month we can feed one, two or three children. Keep that in mind but I'm asking you to request this series. With all my heart I pray you'll get it.

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:

In the studio:

James: I really hope that you've made that call and I've never been more excited about putting something in your hands that will go straight to your heart. Beth Moore said, "James, you're so excited!" She said this in the seminar -- "It's like trying to lasso the wind." Somebody else says, "It is like getting a drink out of a fire hydrant, you're so excited!" I am! I'm excited about what God wants to do for you, in you, and through you that someone else may experience the blessing of his presence. Thank you for making that call! Thank you for any help you give to enable us to effectively help others.

Begin video clip:

James: The Kingdom of God is right here near you in you to be revealed. This is what we fail to do! We have failed to impact and make a God-given imprint on the kingdoms of this world!

>> This is a launching pad. This is the beginning of a journey. This is a starting gate and it will help you solidify what you're supposed to be looking at, how this all works together. I love it!

>> It's going to inspire you to dig deeper into God's word and to share that with everybody... and how important it is.

Beth: There should be something so alive and active in us that other people in the lost world are drawn to it. It is the kingdom life and there is just that sense of -- there is something that I'm aching for -- there is something that I want -- something that is missing. And that message of the kingdom alive in each one of us is extremely contagious.

>> God's Kingdom in You created a longing in me to have an intimacy with him that I've never ever *ever* experienced before because I do want to hear from him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

End of clip

Announcer: Next week, gifted Bible teacher and inspiring Women of Faith speaker, Sheila Walsh unpacks God's word to help us know the shelter of God's promises.