

Week 18

4/25/11

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: You know what I did earlier today? I went to the store and got this folder. See, I'm not a notes guy. I've been preaching for nearly 50 years and I've never used notes. Now this is one of the first times -- I'll have people read quotes, it's one of the first time I've ever asked somebody to do it. You sent me a whole outline here today and I got it all in here.

Beth: I am a fastidious note taker. Yes!

James: Let me tell you, God has told me just because he told me to preach without notes so for me I would depend on him totally and not live panic-stricken but trusting, and always preach out of an overflow but since I had notes I needed to go get a notebook that laid down flat.

Beth: I wondered why he had a notebook this time!

James: It will lay down but I didn't want it kind of sticking up in the way. But when I was there I saw another dog. Now Beth, listen to me, now listen -- this beautiful little brown dog with the cutest face, he was in a baby carriage. And this man was pushing this dog through the Office Depot. I said, "That's the prettiest little dog!" I said, "That little dog is so cute." But that little dog never moved. I said, "That really is a sweet little dog." He said, "My dog can't see. My dog just went blind." You know what that man said to that dog? He called the dog's name. He said, "That's the man right there you need to pray for you. You need that man to pray for you." And I did!

[Laughter]

I did in the Office Depot, Beth! You remember the guy with the hair -- you remember the hair brush and the hair? In the airport?

Beth: I'm not surprised! Are you surprised, Betty?

James: I got down on my knees and I put my hands on that little dog's eyes and I said, "God make this little dog well. This is your little dog." You know that little dog was so still. And the man said, "It's the best little dog." I said, "I love you, little dog." I turned and walked away. And then I looked back and said, "Sir," because he knew me. He started talking about how he watches me and Betty and Beth. He mentioned you, Beth, how much he loves you. I said, "You let me know -- you let me know if that dog starts seeing." Some of you say what kind of crazy stuff is that you just did? In the first place, going to Office Depot to get you a notebook. Let me tell you what that was, that was kingdom -- that's called love. And my God said in his kingdom, I can pray for you to get well. And we just may see miracle after miracle. But here, Beth, we might not. Some day we will. It is like when Robin was in her battle with cancer and signed every e-mail, "I win! I win!" And mom and dad are just crushed and weeping. Robin said, "I win!" Let me tell you how much she knew she won. If she didn't whip throat cancer, she still couldn't lose. There wasn't anybody going to put guilt on our family or our daughter because she was in a battle. See you may think that was a pretty trite illustration me talking about praying for a dog in an office supply. No, that's the kingdom. God wasn't on trial. Faith wasn't on trial. I wasn't on trial. The Kingdom of God wasn't on trial. Love was being released. Love for a man with a pet for crying out loud! I'm saying to you, if you move into kingdom life love so carries you, faith works by love, everything works by love. Pursue love! And by the way, when he says "pursue love" that's in that classic passage in the 14th chapter of First Corinthians where he talks about tongues and all this, we've got big fights in. Today we're having big wars over the Holy Spirit who gives you love and joy and peace and we're having dog fights over whether or not you have a gift and you don't. "Well, you should!" "Well, you better!" "Well, you better not or you're out of here!" Doesn't that sound like Holy Ghost power all over the church?

[Laughter]

Isn't that just the beautiful spirit of unity?

[Laughter]

Listen, let's just let the Holy Spirit fill us and quit fussing about it and just let him be. Here's the thing, in that very passage where he says, "Pursue love," he says "I'd like for you to prophecy." You know what that is? That's speaking words of life. That's what I'm doing right now. I'm not predicting the future. I'm not talking about what might

happen. God does that too. There are prophets in prophesying of the future but there is also prophesy, which means speak life, speak truth, every time you open your mouth you ought to speak it. That's what we're seeking to do here. Whenever we come together -- from the moment you started teaching, Beth and I've watched you for years and you've been here for years, all you've done is teach kingdom truth. All you've done is release the imprint of God's word and God's truth on people so they would begin to live kingdom life. But here's what I've watched happen -- now listen to me. Some of you have settled for something less. You see, you can pray for the sick. You can ask God to make you well... and you're not on trial. You don't have to come through, that's God's business, just trust him. But you will see miracles! Betty and I have seen blind eyes open. We've seen tumors disappear. We've seen people get well. We've seen the lame walk. When you go overseas where they don't have so much "Bible truth" and so many thinkers and scholars, you just tell them, "Jesus can make you well," they just believe it. They don't even discuss it, and a lot of them get well. Over here we just sit around discussing it. The point is quit discussing it and just start praying for them. I prayed for a dog for crying out loud! Pray for -- does anything I'm saying -- listen, Beth, does anything I'm saying line up with what the Word of God says? Correct me if I need correcting. Help me right here in front of the whole world. Fix me!

[Laughter]

Beth: I want you to know what just keeps just calling back to me over and over again is that out of Christ's own mouth. Luke 4:43 he said:

43 But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

I love that Jesus himself says, "I was sent to preach the gospel." Such a wonderful thing to see that throughout the entire kingdom agenda of God on his kingdom calendar, throughout time he has this revelation of the kingdom in this raising up of his people to be kingdom minded. Notice I went to segment after segment and place after place on the kingdom calendar and not only did he say it while he was on the earth but when he came back after his resurrection, when he appeared it says:

Acts 1:3b. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

And then he tells all of us, "Listen, if you'll seek my kingdom I will add everything else to it." And I thought to myself, you can't get a promise like that any other place. When we think about what our life priorities are and the things that we want to line up as

important to us, that is on top of that list to us and yet he says, "Listen, if you will give yourself to one thing -- and that is my kingdom -- I will cause everything else of value to come to you. This one thing... you seek me and my kingdom and everything else that means anything when this life is done will be added unto you." That is the priority! That is what he says from beginning to end.

Betty: Isn't the beginning realizing that we can have kingdom life here now has to start with us, even though we're Christian, feeling and knowing that we are significant to God's kingdom. That we have -- God wants to use us? Because I knew as a young Christian, I knew him but I didn't know how to start, really, that walk with him. I felt like here I was a wife, a mother, a homemaker but what was that insignificance to what God wanted to do? I thought that, in my own mind, and I'm sure a lot of other people have thought this, that when God was passing out the gifts, he ran out before he got to me. For some reason, because I couldn't find them within myself until I allowed him to show me how much he loved me. And how significant I am to what he wants to do, and to know that in my own heart. And how can I realize that and accept that is coming to know him and his word and letting his word speak to my heart, and letting his word build character and courage and strength in me in realizing that I don't have to just sit around and wait until he comes back -- he is right here now and he wants to use me.

Beth: I want so much to say something to the people that we get to serve because I have gotten to see them in their pursuit of God in their own private lives. Betty, I'm going to tell you something, there are not many people on this planet I think of with having any more powerful relationship with Jesus Christ through the pages of his word than you. And I say that before God with the spirit quickened in me. I'm telling you that these are people -- you can't beat them out of the bed in the morning, if you're staying with them. They're going to be up already when you get up. And they're going to be in their chairs and they're each going to be listening to God through his word. I can't even describe to you what that does to me. What it did to me to see it from the inside of your home out and to realize the significance of God having preordained before the very foundation of the world, that he chose what generations we would be in. That he sees the plan from beginning to end, from eternity to eternity, sees this whole kingdom agenda and he's placed us in each generation where our gifts belong and are suited, where we are to be filled and flooded with the spirit in tandem with the body of believers on that planet at that time, and that kind of significance that we were born for that, that whatever your purpose is it is wrapped up in the kingdom plan, it is a kingdom purpose and we've got to be a kingdom thinker to find it. Really, James, one thing you and I talked for a little while on the phone this morning and you said, "I really have such a heart to make sure they know how we get into the kingdom.

That we're not just born into it in our natural lives, that we're born into it of the spirit." That brought me to our second point that: Sons and daughters of the Kingdom are born into it. I wondered, James, if you would just tell us, what does that mean?

James: It literally means to be born from above. I think that it is very important -- I want to talk to each one of you here in this studio setting. I wish I could take you by the hand and so for a moment I want you to look at me as I'm looking at the people wherever you're watching on television. We're literally born from above; it is a supernatural spiritual birth. We're born of the word, we're born of the spirit, we're born of truth but we are born into a new realm of life. Beth, one of the great tragedies is that people have either picked up through our misrepresentation of truth or our attempt to show the grace of God as indescribable as it is, it is still a grace received that then that grace works in us. It is not a ticket to heaven. It is not merely a ticket out of a pit of hell or destruction. It is literally a new birth into a new way of life. We are receiving the fullness of God, fullness of the king in this life and we're born from above. The grace of God, nothing we do... it doesn't become keeping rules. That's why when Jesus went from saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" he went into the sermon on the mount and he went through all these things the people thought they did. As a matter of fact, the people in Jesus' day thought there was no way we could ever be like all the Pharisees and all those leaders and all the priests, we can't be -- but God says you're a kingdom of priests and you are literally heirs of the king. You are heirs -- you are no longer orphans. You are sons and daughters of God when you are born again. Betty -- listen, Betty and Beth, most of the church live like a bunch of orphans because they don't realize they have been born from above and they have become sons and daughters of God. They are new creations in Christ. Now here's the thing I want you to just reach back and look at in your life wherever you are. Did I come and make some kind of a decision or become a part of a church because I simply wanted to get out of something or did I really want to receive? Jesus said, "Lose your life for my sake and you'll find it. Lose your life in my purpose and you'll find it." That isn't a onetime deal, we keep doing that continually. If we really want to find life, we keep losing our life in his purpose. That's kingdom life. That's the weight and the power and the purpose and the power of God being released through us, and literally carrying us. This is the neat thing about knowing the Lord. When you really know him, I'm telling you, Beth, when I got saved -- when people get saved they're born into a new way of life. That means that we are willing to be taught to be like him. There is a desire in our heart. If you become a new tree, you have the potential to bear good fruit, not bad fruit. There is something inside. The people that come -- the people that come to hear Beth, come to meetings like this, or you watch Beth, "Wednesdays with Beth," or you watch the program or you go to church, you say, "Somebody help me, I have a hunger." That hunger is there because something has happened inside. But you'd be

surprised how many people are part of a church somewhere, they've got a membership somewhere, they have no hunger for God, they have no hunger for truth. They're as mean as a snake. They're angry. They might as well be in the mafia for their attitude, and they all gang up. It is just a bunch of gangsters all over town. Let me tell you, this breaks the heart of God. I'm not meaning to be scolding because when Jesus came on the scene and said, "This is good news, blessed are the poor in spirit," he is saying, "Blessed is everybody that thinks they're nobody, everybody that's ever been whipped, everybody that's too fat, too big, too bald, too ugly, too wrong, too drugged up, too doped up -- hey! Good news! The kingdom of heaven is at hand! Blessed are you, you can have the Kingdom of God. This is the new birth and the new life that he is offering people in Christ. How do we get it? How do we get that new birth that Jesus talked to Nicodemus about? I want the three of us to tell you what happened to us. I just want to say this about myself. I was christened; I became part of a church. I didn't know God from a ghost. I didn't know him. I didn't know him from a post. But one night, I heard some teenagers tell what Jesus did in their life. And a pastor's wife came to me, in the church where Betty attended, and she put her hand, the pastor's wife on my shoulder with tears in her eyes she said, "James, don't you want to go to Jesus?" I said, "Yes, ma'am but I'm afraid." She said, "I'll go with you." That night I went down the aisle and I've said this many times, I put my hand in the pastor's hand, Beth but I put my life in God's hand and he put his life in me; I was born again from above. From that moment on there was a desire to do what he wanted me to do. Now have I stumbled? Have I failed? Many times -- but I've got a king living inside of me who is not content to stay down. This king is getting up. This resurrected king and resurrection power lives in me. And every one of you can receive this same Jesus. This is the spiritual birth. I simply gave all I knew of myself to all I knew of him to receive him into my life, to give me life and he gave it to me.

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

Announcer: Tomorrow, James, Betty, and Beth share ways we can pierce the darkness of this world.

Beth: Anything God is doing, the enemy is trying to counterfeit.