

Week 20

5/11/11

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. From wherever you are watching, at home or on the road or anywhere, thank you for joining us. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: I hope you're not going down the road. You know everybody is texting now -- on the road, mean traveling. You could be in a bar or wherever you are but --.

Betty: I don't know what I'd do without you explaining what I'm saying.

[Laughter]

James: Isn't it comforting?

Betty: It really is.

[Laughter]

James: Frustratingly comforting. Anyway, the fact is, Betty, people are getting to where they can watch television on their iPhones, on all the different kind of phones so they could be driving down the road watching. I really don't --

Betty: I think you should pull over.

James: Pull off the road and watch *LIFE Today*, today. It is "Wednesdays with Beth." You are going to enjoy it. May I just suggest something to you. Go to LifeToday.org and look at the "Words of Life" sometime. And over to the right you can see commentaries from the desk of James Robison. I write normally on national issues of concern so that we know how to focus our prayers, but also understand how to apply biblical truth and biblical principles to everyday life problems and challenges. I highly suggest that you check that out. You can go to JamesRobison.net and you can find where I'm communicating every week from my heart to you. I'd really like you to begin forwarding that to your friends and encouraging them to get it regularly and forward it to their friends. Betty, if we could get the family of God to begin interacting like family and begin to share transforming truth because we're really seeking that on your behalf and in behalf of the family of God and all the people on planet earth, so pass that along. Beth Moore joined with Betty and with me teaching God's Kingdom in

You: Living in His Presence in the Present. Here is Beth teaching the last portion of this where she just took off on the beatitudes. It is wonderful. Here's Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: I had the opportunity to take both the grandkids with their parents to the zoo just last week. And we stopped in front of the whole area where the elephants are, and there is just nothing more precious than a baby elephant. Wouldn't you agree? I mean it was just like God was in a tremendously good mood. That was some really wonderful thinking when he came up with that. It is the sweetest thing! And I leaned down to my grandson who is just about to turn five and I said, "Jackson, you want me to tell you a story? When Bibby was six years old, for her sixth birthday her Aunt Wanda asked her what she wanted for this big day. And do you know that I asked her, wrote it in a letter with all my phonetic spelling, I asked her for a baby elephant, with beads and headdress that I could ride to primary school."

[Laughter]

What on earth? And I'm going to tell you something, I was raised in a family of eight so if you're thinking that sounds like an only child syndrome, I don't know where that came from. But I don't know why I just wanted the humble entrance of one riding a baby elephant to first grade.

[Laughter]

Somehow that really resonated with me. And he got so tickled and it tickled me again. But it occurred to me looking at these passages in Matthew chapter five again, this ain't no ride on a jeweled elephant. I can remember the first time that it really occurred to me that ministry was messy. Can anybody else? Oh, I remember it like yesterday when I thought, whoa! This is about real things... and real people, and the need for some answers that we don't necessarily, in our human thinking even as believers, filled with the Holy Spirit, we don't know how to answer them, and this is messy! This is messy! And it struck me all the way into the core of my heart, this was the gospel in the middle of the bloody mess of human need surrounded by every single kind of torment, this is the place Jesus came to save. One translation says that they were seized with all kinds of diseases and tortures. And I wonder, anybody got some torture going right now? Anybody? Anybody else just prone to some mental torment but me? Anybody? It is torturous! It is torturous! You know what I started thinking about? Because we may not be here, maybe we're not seizing with some kind of gripping epilepsy, maybe we are not paralyzed, maybe we not in tremendous pain. Some of you

are all of those things but say for the mass of us that are together studying today, those aren't our kinds of ailments. We have some but really for the most part our tortures are on the inside. And I thought to myself, picture us, all of us, you and me and all of these and everybody else watching that we're all crowded around, that he came to minister to the crowd so that would be all of us. But say that our insides showed on the outside. What if your hair was in a shock of fear --

[Laughter]

Or what if you carried around a big heavy chain? What if you practically wore a sign on you that said, "betrayed." "Rejected." "Unloved." "Forsaken." "Abandoned." What? What if our inner struggles, our inner torments and fears and our inner paralysis manifested itself on the outside, what do you think this crowd would look like today? And yet do you realize that's exactly how he sees us? You've got it all over you where Jesus is concerned. I got it all over me. And the beautiful part of it is that I don't have the burden of covering myself with him, he already knows. I love that! I need that. I love knowing that with him I can just be exactly who I am, in the condition I'm in because that's what he came for -- that's what he came for -- to minister to broken people, sometimes tortured people, just exactly like us. I want you to notice with me that good news is never better than when you are in a bad way. Never! He gave the good news in the context of those who were in a very bad way. And just in case you think you don't fit in a scenario where Jesus ministered, listen, everything goes! You don't have the one ailment he cannot treat. We bring it to him as if we are wearing it all over us. And he sees us, every one of us in that crowd. And I want to just suggest to you that maybe -- maybe the bottom line message of the beatitudes was this, blessed are you if you need me. Blessed are you if you need me. Maybe that's why he could gather the disciples up that had to have been bug-eyed by this point and he could say to them on the side of that hill as they were glancing around looking at all of this mass of humanity, "Listen, let me redefine for you 'blessing.'"

I've got a little treat for us here because I have no idea what's coming. I have written down a scripture in my notes without anything else said with it and I have no idea where it is going to take us. That's the beauty of it. Let's turn there just in case it is wonderful. Psalm 57:2, I have no idea why it is there.

[Laughter]

Let's go see it. Lord, please make it something.

[Laughter]

Oh, yes! Yes! I love this! Okay, yes, it is going to be good! Okay. Oh, that was good, Lord! Psalm 57, verses one and two.

57:1 Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge.

Does somebody just need to say that? Maybe it is early in the morning when you are watching this particular program or maybe it is late at night but maybe you're in a state where all you can do is cry out for mercy. You've got the right savior, that's what Jesus Christ is for.

57:1 b I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.

Are you in a disaster? Take refuge under the shadow of his wings. This is the part, verse two:

57:2 I cry out to God Most High, to God, who fulfills [his purpose] for me.

I've got to know that no matter what he has allowed to come into my path, I'm going to cry out to him in the middle of it because somehow he is fulfilling my purpose. It's going to have some kind of impact on what I'm doing here on this planet. Does anybody agree with that? That if it is going to go through the sifting of his hand, of his good and faithful hand, I have got to know that if he allows it after I've asked over and over to be delivered from it, somehow it has a place in the fulfillment of his purpose for me. I've said this to you many, many times on Wednesdays but I want to say it again because I believe it with all my heart, you can live with pain more than you can live with purposelessness. It's the way we were made, created in the image of God. We think Lord, deliver me from this pain. Listen, do pray it! Paul prayed three times for the thorn in his flesh to be removed. But I'm going to tell you this, what you and I were born for and what we long for is to know that there is some reason why we are on this planet; that the creator of all the universe chose us for this time for purpose. And that no matter what I'm going through I cry out to God -- to God most high who fulfills his purpose for me, I have to know it and I've got to believe it. And back to Matthew chapter five. Blessed are we if we know we need him. I want you to really lock in on that word "blessed" for a moment. Blessed -- all throughout the beatitudes, blessed are the poor in spirit, the pure in heart, those who mourn. Blessed are the meek. That word "blessed," there are a couple of different Greek words that can translate into blessed -- not very many -- but a couple. The primary word that translates into our New Testament overwhelmingly, the word used most often for blessed in your New

Testament is makarios -- makarios. If you just like to write down transliterations I'll give it to you. It is M-A-K-A-R-I-O-S. I want you to hear one translation of it. I want you to hear a definition out of the New Testament lexical aids for makarios or this word "blessed" or "blessing."

Listen, blessed are we when we need him because that's when we live face-to-face; that's when our face has got to be up. I've got to tell you something and I wonder if some of you that have years on you like I do and have walked with Jesus for a couple of decades might say the same thing, you know a fate worse than death to me is the thought of losing my fervor for the Lord Jesus Christ and his word. I pray for that more than anything else in life. I want to love him and I want to love his word and I want to love people. My worst nightmare is that fire would somehow get diminished. You know life happens and burdens come and the heart can sometimes get tired and calloused. You know what he will use over and over again to revive me? Need! A crisis will happen. Just about the time I'll feel a little bit dull of spirit like Lord, and I'll cry out to him when I first begin to see it. And I'm not talking about when we're just sleepy one day, but I'm talking about when it's been a couple of days, a couple of weeks and we just don't feel that fire of the spirit in us; the word is not leaping up off the page like we want it to be. And we just cry, Lord, return my fire! What he'll use over and over again is some kind of crisis that puts me back on my knees. And suddenly, John 3:16 all over again, for God so loved the world -- he loved the world. All the sudden I'm back right there to that. I had such a crisis within the last year, a very close relational full-on crisis. I'm saying that every now and then, some of the things I go through would be like -- you're going like, "What a ninny! You don't know --." No, this is one you would even think, okay, that's big -- that's big. One of those kinds of things. And in going through that it was the strangest thing; God led me back to memorize the love chapter in First Corinthians chapter 13. I mean for heaven's sake. Isn't that what we hear at every wedding? We know that one. We know that one. Suddenly after all these years with him it was go back and memorize -- Lord, I'd already memorized it! I memorized it back in 1985. You know what? You need to go memorize it again. Get a new version. I'm not saying he spoke to me out loud like that, that would have scared me to death. I would no longer be here.

[Laughter]

I would be wearing that hair out like this. But in my spirit it was, "Go back and memorize it again." Suddenly, love is patient. Love is kind. It's not boastful. You know what else? It is not rude -- it is not rude! It doesn't give up. And suddenly, like First Corinthians 13 jumped off the page and into my life again. All because I needed him

worse than I needed my next breath. Are you using it? Whatever crisis you're going through it has fruit for you -- it has fruit for you. But are you using it? Because it can send you into a glorious tail spin, a revival like no amount of ease can do. I want to see Jesus at work in my life and in the world, and that's how he makes me acutely aware and the power of the word suddenly comes to life right there on the hot pavement for me, his child. In scripture some form of the word "blessed" is used from Genesis to Revelation 544 times -- 544 times! And a different wording, this is a different word in the Greek language, in Ephesians chapter one, verse 3 says:

1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? Verse 3.

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Exactly what we've just talked about. In our need, when we come to him with absolutely nothing in our hands -- nothing to lay on his altar to find some kind of favor that we could ever earn. But in absolute poverty of spirit it says "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." It doesn't say it will be. "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven" because those who are poor in spirit are very likely, if they're willing, to be rich in God. I want you to see verse four that says:

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Now notice that it does not say that the blessing is the mourning. Grief is not a blessing to us. But there is a comfort that comes and very often God may use someone to bring it. Someone in flesh and blood that can throw their arms around us and tell us it is going to be all right. I had an opportunity just a little while ago to somebody in this very audience that might have just needed a mother for just a few minutes, just needed to hear a mother figure say, "You know what? You are so tremendously valuable and I love you and hardly even know you." Comfort through someone who has received a comfort of Christ. But there is also a time that we know the comfort of God just by ourselves -- all by yourself.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Boy, let me just say this, and Beth referenced how we do find comfort for one another in others and we should offer the comfort wherewith we've been comforted, but sometimes it is just God. Earlier today, Betty, you know how crazy we are about

our little dachshund, Princess, I was literally wishing I had a camera rolling because this is so silly yet it is so wonderful. I have this little black dog's long little nose right up here by my cheek and I'm holding her. I'm saying to this dog who cannot understand a thing I'm saying but she can feel what I feel, I said, "Princess, do you have any idea how much I love to hold you? Just to hold you? How much I love you?" Let me tell you something, I've learned so many things through that little dog, how I can pour out so much love on something that can't comprehend it and this is the love God is pouring out on us. And sometimes he just wants to hold us and yes, when your heart is broken, he wants to hold you. Give him that opportunity. He loves you! And he wants to comfort you with the power of his presence. Let him! Father, comfort the afflicted. Comfort them! I want to show you something. I want to show you someone that you will want to hold and can I tell you, God wants to hold the child you're about to see and many others and you are the only opportunity for God to get his arms around little children like this. Watch.

On the mission field:

Tammy: There's a story of Lucia who is nine months old. I've never seen anything like that up close. I never got to hold a baby like that. She only weighed just a little over six pounds. She was starving to death. I never want to speak death but to be honest with you, I think it moved me so much because I don't know how much longer that baby has to live. There are hundreds of children that I met this week that are in that same -- in that same circumstance or they're heading there. Every six seconds a child dies from malnutrition. This is real. This is absolutely real. Could I change that? Could we change that?

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Boy, I tell you, that little arm was about the size of my finger. Betty, we saw that brief glimpse of the graves. I can remember that little child like Lucia with those eyelashes and I thought, so many girls wish they had pretty eyelashes but at least they have eyes they can blink. I thought, God, I want those little girls to grow up! I watched Tammy Trent, her husband drowned years ago. She said, "I never got to hold my baby like that," basically is what she is saying. But Tammy, you're so precious as a Christian witness. You're putting God's arms around a lot of little children every time you go and work with us and the missionaries on the mission field. Betty, I'm appealing to all of our viewers today, give Lucia and many others a chance. Would you, please? I plead the cause of the innocent, the helpless. And God, I've been so blessed! I've been

blessed to bless. I really believe God blesses us by blessing others. And I believe he blesses people that bless others. I believe it is more blessed to give than to receive. When we release it is amazing how when you become interested in what God is interested in, it is amazing how he seems to focus on your interests, your concerns. Join him in his concern. Join the missionaries, the heart cry of God you heard through Tammy. Put arms around these children. Let's feed them. The missionaries have located hundreds of thousands of children, that's just a little representative of those children you saw. Would you take three, five, or ten by making a gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to feed those children for the next few months? Would you do that? Would you please reach out and touch someone with love? If your heart's broken and you dialed that number, paid for by love, you say, "Pray with us." That even today while we appeal for those in need 80% of the calls, if it is typical, will be people calling to say, "Will you pray with me?" Yes! Yes! But would you today say, "I want to be an answer to someone's prayer? I want to be an answer to a heart cry? I want to give food." Could you help us take care of 100 kids? Make a \$1,000 gift? Care for ten by giving \$100? Can you do it? Will you? \$30 or \$50 for three or five children to feed them for the next months: it's not asking much but it is sure giving a lot. Would you dial the number? Use your bankcard like a check. Please do it. Start moving. Put feet to somebody's prayers and be an answer, meet that need. Write a check, make it to *LIFE* or go online LifeToday.org, but make that special gift please. We've got some gifts for you. God's Kingdom in You -- being revealed through you. It will be a blessing to you. We want to send you the CD's or DVD's. Jim Hylton's book, "Where Heaven Touches Earth": The Supernatural Skyline. Thank you for helping us share life. Thank you for your love.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment a child is drawing her last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help, many like her throughout Africa face death as well. Today you can make a difference. You can save a life! *LIFE's* mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of half a million children throughout remote areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. With previous food reserves gone and Southern Africa facing its worst conditions and food shortage in more than two decades, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for the feeding programs immediately! Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months. With your gift we'll send you the God's Kingdom in You audio series and companion scripture guide. James and Betty Robison, along with Beth Moore, inspire you to live every day in the power and presence of God. With your gift of \$125 or more to help feed ten children you may request both the video

DVD and audio series with scripture guide. As a bonus we will also send you Jim Hylton's new book, the supernatural skyline. Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help save the lives of 100 children and be sure to request the beautiful new "Heart of the Father" bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: You are going to be so blessed by Jim Hylton's book, *The Supernatural Skyline*. We've spent a lot of time building churches and we've not understood the importance of building the kingdom. Jim Hylton says we've spent too much time in wine skin wars rather than letting God give us a new wine skin to receive the fullness of his spirit. Powerful truth. *God's Kingdom in You*, we'll send it to all of you who will simply help us give life and a chance to those precious little children the missionaries have located. Please make that life-giving call. Give us a chance to bless you and join us in blessing others. Thank you so much for your help!

Beth: There is wholeness and healing in this kingdom mentality.

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