

Week 22

5/25/11

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. It's "Wednesdays with Beth." I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: And Beth is concluding a series that we did together called God's Kingdom in You, living had his presence in the present. We're also offering Jim Hylton's book, The Supernatural Skyline. This is -- boy, I tell you what. People are loving this and they love hearing Jim Hylton on *LIFE Today*. You can go online and listen to him. Very interesting the insight where heaven touches earth; we're really talking about the reality of God's kingdom. It is not some place we're waiting to go. There is that future eternal kingdom where there is no conflict, no challenge but what about now? What about his kingdom coming? What about the kingdom he says is within us announcing his first message that we need to repent, believe a new way for his kingdom is at hand. Beth is talking about that, really, the conclusion of the series, God's Kingdom in You that we're really hoping you'll get on CD or DVD or both. Really, let's make people aware of the reality of God's kingdom presence right now. Here's Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: I loved -- did you see in recent weeks in this series on the kingdom when James was talking about his history as a couple with Betty and how he told her, "He is more real to me than the skin wrapped around my bones." We want you to know him like that. There is no way to explain that but I'm going to pray and he is going to give you that kind of a sense of his presence. But don't waste that need because part of that need, part of that crisis is exactly what has put you in the place to hear his voice. It is not the grief that is a blessing, it is not the mourning that is the blessing but there is a comfort that comes to those who are hurting that is unlike anything else to me in the realm of the human experience. I've known at times when I was coming out of a crisis, I've had the most vivid awareness in my mind that there was about to be a trade off. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? Because I would know, he has gone so out of his way to make himself known to me. He might as well as shown up in front of me in a multicolored coat. Anybody getting that with me? He would almost do cart wheels for you because you were in such a state of desperate need. And you know

when things ease up a little, maybe you're not as desperate for that word to jump off the page. Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. Blessed are we -- I want you to look down at verse 7 that says:

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

I've jotted this down in my notes.

I've been memorizing a verse out of the book of James. You sit right where you are because I'm just going to read it to you here very quickly because it really has shaken my world and I knew it. That's the beauty of it is sometimes you already know it's there but suddenly it just begins to jump off that page again, and I want to read it to you. Just hold on just a second here. It says in this James 2, verses 12 and 13.

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

I don't set up the rules. God is all-wise and he knows if he doesn't make this a personal issue where we realize that if we are not merciful people we are going to have an encounter with God or season with God where we feel like he is somehow not pouring out that favor in our misery that we have seen him so often do; when he is calling us to a place of mercy. Somebody is trying to decide today this season of your life whether to treat a situation with mercy or judgment. And I say to you this, because this is where it gets confusing, I mean what if truth needs to be spoken? Oh, that's what it's called in Ephesians when he says "speak the truth in love." Mercy never means we don't speak truth. Mercy never means like we're blind. Mercy means knowing, eyes wide open what the situation is. We choose to have the heart of Christ toward that person in their estate. We choose to see them underneath the offense that we've taken into the hurt that causes people to hurt people. Mercy triumphs over judgment. Everybody say it because it is a wonderful thing to say, "Mercy triumphs over judgment." Say it again.

[Audience repeats]

I don't always know if I'm going to be right or wrong in the way I'm going to deal with a situation but what I like to think of to myself is if I'm going to err, let me err on the side of mercy. Let God say to me later, "You know what? You were a little overly merciful in that situation." But let it not be me -- let it not be me. Merciful doesn't mean gullible. It's compassion to the reality. Just in case you're running out of mercies, that's when I have to go to Lamentations 3 where it says, "God's mercies are new every morning!" You've got somebody in your life that consumes a lot of mercy?

[Laughter]

You better be up early. Amen? Amen! One of the things I find is that my own mercy runs out so quickly. I'll know very fast in a situation whether I'm working off of my own love or letting the love of Christ overtake my heart. I'll know very quickly is it human mercy that I'm exercising toward this person or is it God's mercy? Because I'm going to run out really quick. It is going to be like, you know what? I gave you your 10 minutes, pull it together.

[Laughter]

Anybody? That's what happens with human mercy and compassion but not God. I want you to see verse eight where it says this:

This is what occurred to me:

I want to say something to you. I love the fact that we can't fool God. I'd have tried to do it. I love that! I had to learn very early, when you come out of an abuse background like mine you learn very early how to put up the front that you hope people will buy. You become a different person. And it will be the death of you -- it is the death of you because any time we're living in that kind of masquerade it is going to come down all over us. But that's kind of -- that is the huge temptation to someone who has gone through that kind of thing. I love that there is simply no way to fool God. He is not -- he is onto our bull. Anybody? He is onto it -- he is onto it. Here's what I jotted down in my notes because this was just a tremendous gift of mercy to me. I felt like God just spoke over my heart.

We can still have a pure heart -- God can give us a pure heart even after an impure life. If you're like me, I tend to think, I'm way past pure. Let me go on to like, okay I've learned a lot. Let me go on to discipleship but it is way too late for pure. I need to know if anybody -- can anybody just relate with me in the least little bit? Way too late for pure. This doesn't say we have to have a pure life in our past. It says "Pure in heart." Pure in heart can be the very one that goes face down and say, "God, rescue me out of my depravity. Here is my estate. I'm going to be honest with you Lord, I don't even know why I do what I do. I don't even know why. Rescue me." You know what, girlfriend, guy friend? That's a pure heart -- that's a pure heart. A pure life follows a pure heart. But that is a pure heart. You stick right here in Matthew five for a moment. I just want to read you these wonderful words out of Psalm 32. I think of them so often. It says in verses one and two:

1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **2** Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

And the whole idea -- what does forgiveness of sin have to do with the spirit was no deceit. You come to me in your truth and the reality of your condition pouring out your confessions, this is my estate, and whose spirit is no deceit. In no way trying to cover from God the complete reality of who you are and where you've been and what you've done. Who I've been, what I've done, no deceit, blessed are you.

Psalm 51:10 says the beautiful words of the Psalmist who had been found in his own depravity, this man after God's own heart and had been caught by the clutches of the evil one.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

That word "create" in Psalm 51 is the same word for create in the very beginning of Genesis chapter one, bara. It means in the Hebrew language to create out of absolutely nothing. Exnahilo. It means to create from nothing. It means that I can go to him without anything to offer him and go, in this cavern of my soul, create from nothing I have to give you a clean heart within me. And in that moment, certainly we know ultimately, but even in that moment we see something of our God. I want you to see something lastly in the passage. It says in verses 11 and 12.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Rejoice and be glad. Rejoice means what you think it does. And be glad is rejoice on steroids. It is a dancing and a leaping and a celebrating. We've talked about the word on our Wednesdays before. I want you to see and hear because I want you to remember something. It says "because great is your reward in heaven." I need you to know today, this turns out so well -- this turns out so well. I need you to know if you are in the Lord Jesus Christ, you turn out so well! And you have real reward coming -- real reward for sticking with him when everything in life tries to loosen you from what you know to be real. Great is your reward -- do not throw away your confidence, it shall be richly rewarded.

I want to show you one other place "rejoice and be glad" shows up -- only other time it shows up in a pair like that. Everybody say "rejoice and be glad."

[Audience repeats]

It's so fun because it's basically saying like rejoice and like rejoice even more. Now rejoice on the inside, now rejoice on the outside. There is only one other time in the New Testament it pairs up that way. Would you look at Revelation chapter 19. Revelation 19. What is our point on the table right now? Well, our point is:

And if I can get my mind wrapped around the fact that this is going to turn out well, you know what? If I know I'm going to be really, really happy, I get a little bit happy thinking about it. Anybody? Like if I know I'm thinking about something that I'm going to get to do with the grandkids, like when Amanda and Curt asked me to go with them to the zoo with the kids last Saturday, do you know I was so happy getting ready and I hadn't even been to it yet! But I knew it was going to be good. I didn't know how good but I knew it was going to be good. And if we could get in our heads what a party we've got coming, oh! Oh! What a deposit of joy it would put in our lives. I want you to see verse six; Revelation 19, verse six.

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. **7** Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. **8** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

The Lord omnipotent reigneth! -- The King James version says.

The Lord omnipotent reigneth. Before we get to rejoice and be glad, I just want to speak this word over you out of the scriptures. The Lord your God really does reign and you just drag every single bit of this in your life right to the feet of Jesus so that he can put his feet on top of them because he really does reign, and there is nothing he cannot do -- nothing! Then it says these words -- here's our pairing again. Let us what?

Audience: Rejoice and be glad!

Beth: Oh, say it again.

Audience: Rejoice and be glad! Blank.

Beth: I got a voice mail from my man not very long ago. Now listen, please do not take from this story that we have got the perfect marriage. My husband and I ride a bigger rollercoaster than you can find in the United States of America. It is just us. We are passionate people. We hardly ever have a feeling we do not share. Does anybody

understand that? I mean it is not just one of us, it is both of us. And we are just like -- we are fire and ice together and we just trade places, which one is going to be fire today and which one is going to be ice. But in all of this up and down rollercoaster ride we have also worked in some romance. Because we have fallen out of love so many times, the one good side of it, I can tell you is we've fallen back in a number of times as well. So I'm not suggesting you pattern your marriage after us but I'm just saying that we have had a very wild ride and have made it 32 years, which is the miraculous power of God alone. But I got a voice mail from him not too long ago and at the very end of it, it just said this, "I love you, darling. Come home to me. Come home to me." I just stared at the phone like this going --

[Laughter]

I played it again and listened to it again to the very end. "Okay, I'm going to."

[Laughter]

That's how this ends. Your groom, your captain of the Lord's army, the darling of heaven, the holy son of God and king of glory, the last thing you will ever hear on this planet may be, "Darling, come home to me." Matthew 25:34 says:

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'

Any wonderful fairy tale, any story that has kept you glued to the screen has something of eternity wrapped up in it that says, there really is a happily ever after. My God is going to make all things new. I cry out to God, to God most high who fulfills his kingdom purpose for me.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I tell you what. I'm excited about that -- that incredible day. You talk about having something to look forward to, no question about it, we do, our future is secure. But Christ in us, the hope of the glory we'll some someday be in, that glory being in us now and Betty, that's my earnest prayer. That's really why I'm encouraging everyone to get God's Kingdom in You, get that subheading, living had his presence just like

spiritual gravity in the present day. The only way God's kingdom can be done on earth as it is in heaven is for the king of heaven, the God of heaven, the father to be accomplishing his will on earth through us, that's how he does it. This is one of the ways that you can rest assured he is accomplishing his will through us. I want you to look through the eyes of God at a beautiful gifted musician, a singer, Tammy Trent as she is in the middle of really the pain, some of the greatest pain of the earth but with the greatest answer -- really the only answer and that's the love of God through caring people. But in the midst of these missionaries and what they see every day, she offers a solution. We are all a part of that. Just listen to the heart of God through Tammy.

On the mission field:

Tammy: How do you even begin to prepare your heart for such a trip as this? I don't think you can but I do believe that your heart is forever changed. We travel out into the middle of nowhere and I stepped out of the car and I looked around at hundreds of children. You could physically see the signs on their precious little bodies, their hair was changing color and they were losing their hair. You could look around and see things aren't so good, but they didn't choose that for their lives. Things aren't so good for them because they had nothing to eat. In fact, I've learned of a child today who has collapsed, walks two miles every single day to come to school but there is no food here for her -- but she at least comes to school. Is it bad? Oh, gosh! Oh, Jesus! Jesus! These children are malnourished and they're collapsing because they're weak. I can barely take it, to be honest with you. I think gosh, what could I have done? There are so many moments like this that are happening all the time. That breaks my heart because I can love them. I can love them deeply for moments but then I leave. And I think for me even being able to hug a child is my way of saying, "God will provide for you."

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I can't tell you how my -- all that goes on in my heart when I watch that. Betty, I saw Tammy referring to little kids trying to come to school and I'm thinking, you know what? They're just barely even strong enough to even try to do that and they don't have anything to eat there. Peter Pretorius started telling us years ago, "We need to start feeding kids at school because we want them to go to school." And they go to school -- by the way, among girls, the attendance in schools jumped 70% on the part of girls if you'll feed them. It's where a lot of them get their only nourishment of the

entire week -- their whole lives. What we try to do is find the most effective way to meet a need. But in many places, Betty, we go into the crisis areas like Sudan and other areas, even in Angola and various places and even some there in Mozambique where the kids are still just so weak and malnourished. You'll see in the malnutrition clinics that we actually help have the supplies there. It's where kids go like they're going to die and they go there as a last hope if they can find such a place. But the missionaries find the places to put them. But here's the deal, I don't care how much Tammy points you to a need, how much the missionaries take her and others like us with a heart to care and show them the need. If we don't have the ability to meet the need all you do is stand there and cry and you just weep. Or you'll see them try to go to school and yet too weak to really learn. The missionaries say, "You know what? We could feed here if we just had the ability to do it." So we try to do a total program of really transforming their lives. Here's what I'd like to ask you to do. Twice a year we come to you and we say, "Look, help us feed children now for the next several months: \$30 or \$50 or \$100 -- and this is not an exaggeration -- this is not total child care. This is life-sustaining nourishment, it's restoring health, stabilizing them. We can feed three, five, or ten children for that amount. I don't think there is a person watching that can't do something. Betty, I believe if each viewer would just look and say, "Okay, I see those little children she's pointing at, I'll take three of them for the next months." Or somebody can take ten. Everybody can help somebody and we've really got the answer to their need.

Betty: That's right! I thought Tammy said something really interesting there at the close. She said, "I can only hug them and love them for this moment and then I leave." But there is a way through our giving, through our reaching out and saying, "Here! I'll give you some food. I'll fill your need. And I'll love you because it is Jesus' love it will continue." So please join with us and let's feed these children.

James: You know as I listen to you making that request, that appeal, you're pleading the cause of the needy, as the Old Testament prophet said, "the widow, the orphan, the needy" and that is so appropriate. But as I listened to her doing that, my heart leaped inside because I said, "Guess what? We're talking to people who care." You don't just turn away. You have no idea how much you encouraged us when we came back from the mission fields and we said, "We'll just give everything up; just come live here." The missionaries said, "Please don't! Go back and tell them so we can stay here and make a difference. Please tell people so we can stay and help them." You know what? You said, "We'll help you." From the bottom of my heart thank you! That's what I'm asking you to do today. For the next several months would you give \$100 to feed ten children? \$50 to feed five? Or \$30 to feed three? It may be that you can give more than that. We want to send you something to bless you. We always do. God's Kingdom in

You, the kingdom that you're expressing, the love of God you're releasing, we want to show you a little bit more about what it means to live in that spiritual gravity, the reality of his presence. We want to bless you. Thank you for making that call. Use your bankcard like a check. Go online and make the gift. If you write a check make it to *LIFE* because that's what you're giving in behalf of those children you help in many instances whose lives you save. Thank you! Please make that special call.

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: We do want to thank you for your gift. Let me just remind you, everyone has a part in God's heart. One part in his heart is to share his heart, put his hands out and don't leave the missionaries empty-handed, transforming power. I want you to get God's Kingdom in You. I can promise you it will help you begin to live with an awareness of his presence right now. It has transforming effect. By the way, if you could possibly help us care for 100 children, please do it. You will be revealing the heart of the father and we want to bless you with the beautiful bronze collectible and we just thank you so much for your help. Encourage your friends to watch "Wednesdays with Beth," watch *LIFE Today* every day. Go to LifeToday.org. Read words of life every week. Check out my commentary. You can go over to "From the

desk of James” and read where I address the issues of concern that we pray about. Thank you so much for your help. Pass the word; will you?

Announcer: Tomorrow, James, Betty, and Beth share lessons about God's kingdom we can all learn from a dog.

James: She got her little paws on the steering wheel and we're just going and she is just looking.