

Week 29

7/13/11

James: Oh, it is always a joy! Thank you so much. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome I to the Wednesday program. We refer to as Wednesdays with Beth. She is talking about prayer and about believing God and Beth understands exactly what that means. I know you're going to be blessed by listening to her. I want to mention something. We've got it kingdom life prayer journal that gives you the references from Psalms to Proverbs to be a blessing and to understand kingdom and kingdom which is basically what we're talking about. I really want everybody to understand Betty that we're talking about spiritual gravity. We're talking about the weight of God's presence effecting everything we do. And most people don't even recognize that as a reality, important to do it. Believing God, praying God's word, we want you to have the Kingdom Life Journal. We're asking you to prayerfully consider helping us drill fresh water wells in some of the most desperate areas on this planet and I know you're going to want to have a part in that. Here is Beth Moore. Enjoy her teaching!

Begin video clip:

Beth: What happens when what comes naturally to others has to come supernaturally to you? I've come just begging you to see a new scriptural paradigm, not cursed are you, girlfriend, blessed are you! Not cursed are you, guyfriend, blessed are you when what takes natural course with someone else means that a miracle has to happen for you. You've just seen something that is going to mean something to you and mean something to those around you that other people will never even get! Never even get! I've got to tell you I've got a friend that I admire so much, a young woman back in the Houston area who has a son with autism. He, like many children with autism just did not speak and it was one of the ways they knew fairly early on that something was up. He came to two years old, did not speak; came to three years old, did not speak; came to his fourth birthday and still had not spoken. I'm going to tell you that about four and a half years of age I get a text from her that said, "He said 'daddy' today!" He was four and a half years old and said, "Daddy!" Listen, nobody on the planet has ever had that much celebration take place over daddy. Nobody! You can't imagine how all of her friends, how all of us just shouted praise to God. Other kids have been saying it all day long, we've not even noticed. But we noticed when this one did! Because somehow what had been a natural course for somebody else had taken supernatural power of God and they said, let his name be praised! Let his name be praised! What seems effortless to some takes a miracle for others. But I've never met anybody that didn't say afterwards they wouldn't have rather had the miracle! Really, are you going

to trade back the miracle for the natural? Really? Truly? Truly? Because when it is all over with you are going to say, I'd rather have had the miracle. I know it is hard to see now, I know it is hard to imagine now but that is going to happen -- that is going to happen for you and it is going to happen for me. I think it is just so remarkable in the passage that we're told that he is going to name the child John and that that name means "Yahweh is gracious -- Yahweh is gracious." I want you to see something here in verse 14. It says, I had you look at it for just a moment.

14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,

A joy and a delight. The word joy is the word that you would think it would be. It means joy just like you think it does. But the word for delight is a word that means to just leap and dance and jump up and down for joy! That's what takes place when you experience a miracle. Anything else might have been thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord! But every now and then, when something that just comes naturally for everybody else comes supernaturally for you and it happens and it is like there is dancing and there is leaping and there is celebrating and you wouldn't trade it for anything! Look back at Luke chapter one. Tell me we've made two points so far and our audience on the other side of the screen needs to catch up with us. What are they and I want to hear the third one as well. The first one was what?

He already knows! Part of authenticity is we just go, "Lord, I just don't get this! I'm just devastated over this. Why this?"

What was number three? We've got to believe when we pray that we are being heard.

Now pick up in verse 18 through 22. Oh, this gets so good right here. So he gets this message from the angel Gabriel and I mean Gabriel is an awesome terrifying sight.

18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? --

What an idiot!

[Laughter]

I'm sorry but this dude doesn't look like any dude he has ever run into ever -- ever -- ever! This is Gabriel.

18b -- I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

You know what he is saying? Have you seen my wife?

[Laughter]

I get -- It offends me! I get what the dude is trying to say. I'm an old man and my... just take a look at my wife! It says in verse 19, because he is asked, "How am I to be sure of this?" And look at what Gabriel says, "I am Gabriel." Don't you know he is wanting to go, comma, you idiot. It's almost like -- I'm Gabriel. That's how you know! I stand in the presence of God. One reason he was such a terrifying sight is because he stands in the presence of God and he has that radiance on him. He has that mirror, that light so shining on him like the face of Moses when he came down from the mountain and it scared the rest of them half to death and he had to cover it up. Well, Gabriel has that, that shining, that radiant face because not his own radiance, not because of anything in him is light but because he receives his light from the one true God. I'm Gabriel.

19 The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. **20** And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time." **21** Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. **22** When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

But listen, what I love here is that he doesn't take his word away. He said that word is still going to come true because it wasn't based on you. That word is still going to come true but you know what? You're not going to say one single word 'til it happens. I've got to tell you, I get -- there are times when I get terrified by scripture, sometimes when I'm edified by scripture and sometimes I want to just laugh out loud at something in scripture and this is one of those times. Because the King James rendering here in verse 20 when he says to him, "Now you will be silent and not able to speak," the King James rendering says, "And behold thou shalt be dumb."

[Laughter]

Now, if you are biblically literal and passive aggressive, this is a verse you could put on the bottom of a card you're sending to someone that you don't really like. You know how people send you a card and there is just a scripture at the bottom. Most of the time you don't go to the trouble to read what that scripture is, there is just an address at the bottom. Here you can put, "Behold, thou shalt be dumb." And what you can do, be sure you put K.J.V. out beside it so it gets the true meaning. You can be passive aggressive with all sorts of scriptures. You could put in Song of Song 6:5 at the bottom of it. Your hair is like a flock of goats. You could do that.

[Laughter]

There is all manner of way that we could bless people with the scriptures and we ourselves could be blessed by telling them. And they will just think when they get -- they will think they just got the wrong one but you know! You know! Now okay, this is so good. So he is supposed to go outside and they're waiting for their blessing. Only he has been struck dumb. So now he comes out, they're waiting to be blessed because he would normally come out and do some version of -- if not exactly the numbers 6:24-26. It says:

He would have done all of that. So he comes out then, I want you to notice... I want you to pick back up with me. It says in 21:

21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.

So he goes out. I mean he's just like... by this time he has already tested it and nothing is coming. So he comes out to give his blessing. I mean like he's only got a couple of responsibilities. He's kindled the altar, the coals on the altar and now he has got to go out and bless people only he's been struck down, he can't say a word so he goes out and he begins holy charades. You know like this -- like this and this and then this.

[Laughter]

Is anybody going there with me? So he acts out the whole blessing right in front of them. There is something -- that's just too good; isn't it? That's just too good. I've just got to show you, now I want you to see 23-25 now. It says:

23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home. 24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 25 "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

Now he returns home. She goes, "Hi, honey!" He goes... because he's been struck dumb, anybody? Anybody get that with me? He would go, "Honey I'm home." He has to go, "Honey, I'm home."

Okay, look at this. How long did she stay in seclusion?

Audience: Five months.

Beth: Okay, you've got to love this. Now for any of us who have had children in the natural course of a pregnancy, we can figure out why it is five months because listen to me, again, I don't want to be graphic but I want you to understand the timing here, because she had no cycle left. How is she supposed to know whether it happened or not? Because hers took place -- even though a miracle has taken place, there is still the normal husband and wife relationship here. This is not Mary we're talking about here who was given a baby by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is a miracle taking place here but it is working in the natural means of a husband and a wife coming together. And then how is she to know? How is she to know? So she has to wait until she has physical evidence because the normal physical evidence that a younger woman would have would not be there. So she's got to wait the thing out. What happens for any of us who have done this before? What starts happening by five months? You can feel that baby move! By that time, you can lay flat on your back and you can rub your hand over your abdomen and you can feel that you have a little pooch. Now picture this old woman -- please love this with me, please love the Lord with me over what he did for her! Picture her just laying back; you know that she did it. Don't you know she tried to wear her robes tight into town so people could see?

[Laughter]

Because I don't know about you, but in my pregnancies, I wanted people to know I was having a baby and not just a lot of Mexican food.

[Laughter]

I wanted people to know that so I just loved it. Once I got a little pooch I might hold my skirt back a little bit like this because I want... so she is doing all this. So she doesn't even go out until she knows, until that baby has life within her, until she has had those kinds of responses and that kind of manifestation. It is the dearest thing. When I imagined that woman going through the birth process and I imagined those tears flooding through those lines around her eyes like rivers of living water down her face. Do you think she would have given up that miracle for the natural for anything in the world? Can you imagine a more spoiled brat? Y'all, can you even picture how much they loved that child? How everything he did, no one had ever done it like that in all of the world! He was a joy and a delight to them their entire lives. I want you to take down number four:

Somebody say amen.

Audience: Amen!

Beth: Let me tell you something, in that verse 25 where it says this: the Lord has done this for me. That's what he is looking for. If you've ever wondered, what really is glory that we're to live to the glory of God? It is the testifying that it was only God that could have done it! When we live to the glory of God, we show his godness living through us instead of ourselves. And he is just living for us to say the Lord has done this for me. The Lord has done this for me. I just want you to know, this didn't just happen by natural means. The Lord my God has done this for me. That is the thrill for him on the throne. That is where we see the favor of God in the delight of his response. The favor of God to say, it had to have been him. I want to show you something. I want you to look forward to verse 57 of that same long chapter; Luke chapter one, verse 57. I've got to show you this because I thought it was such a thrill.

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

It says they were going to. She just couldn't wait. There is something -- you know men, I don't know if you are the same as women are about this particular thing but we want people to just join in with us; like it is not enough for us to have the joy by ourselves. When the parable is told about the woman that finds the coin, the treasure that she has lost, she gets all her girlfriends, *tas philos* it says in Greek, that means the girlfriends. She goes and tells her girlfriends because she wanted them to celebrate with her and it is just kind of a woman thing. It is not enough by ourselves, we want to share it, so she shares it with her neighbors and relatives that God has shown her this great mercy. And they shared her joy. In verse 59 it says this:

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child,

Now on the eighth day was the day they pronounced the name. So throughout this time, even though they might know what it was going to be but on the eighth day the name is pronounced.

and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah,

First of all, I want to ask you who is "they"? Anybody that's had this struggle in your family over who you're going to name your child after, oh, my word! Especially if you are the first one, if you have the fortunate and unfortunate situation of being the first to give the grandchild to the grandparents, the first grandchild in the family, you're going to have a lot of pressure with names. It seems like you wouldn't but there is just this underlying thing and boy, was it true here. They were going to name him after his father. Who is "they"? It's not them to name him! And yet we see it all over. This is the

family thing here. These are the relatives here. They were going to name him after his father Zechariah but his mother spoke up and said:

60 but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." **61** They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

[Laughter]

You can't name him that! There is no one in the family that has the name John. Then it says this; this is maybe the most perfect moment in this whole portion of the end of this mid part of Luke chapter one. Would you look at this? It says:

62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.

Okay.

[Laughter]

Wait a second because he's not deaf. He is just dumb. Can anybody get that with me? It just kills me that now they're doing all the hand motions because all pregnancy long for nine months he's been doing a lot of this. So they do it back. J? Or C? I mean they're all doing this. It says then, all of the sudden --.

63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John."

Can't you see his face? Like, his name is John.

Do you know it had to open at that moment? Because it was like, "Your mouth won't open until he's born." Well, eight days later and he is still going... nothing! Nothing! But when he says his name is John. Girlfriend, guyfriend, that is the power of a name right there.

64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God.

When that child took so much more than everybody else's, you have to ask yourself if you're a woman or a man of God, what on earth... What on earth? When a kid has gone through leukemia as a child and God has brought them out on the other side and let them go through something that we think with our rational human minds a child ought never have to suffer. Might we ask, what on earth does God have in mind for

this child? If it took supernatural means to do a natural thing, what on earth will God do? Blessed is he. Not cursed -- blessed is he.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Who, I tell you there is -- there really is a blessing and a name. You know my mother thought I was going to be a girl and she named me joy. I always said I'm glad she came up with James because living with the name joy would have been a tough enough journey. I already had a pretty tough one not having a father. But my mother really believed that I could help bring joy to the world. You can too by sharing the source of joy and that is relationship with Jesus. I want you to look at a child that really is a portrait, an image, a picture of so many children. Betty, you've not seen this yet but you're going to see a child holding water that is so polluted it looks like milk. I want you to watch this and then I've got right here in front of me a cup of fresh clean water and that's something that we can do for a child like the one you're about to see and so many others represented by this one. Would you give a cup of water. I want you to look and see if you're not inclined and inspired and moved to say I will. Watch closely.

James: More than one missionary has said, "Please help us stop burying our children in our country." Betty, that little child was holding what looked like milk but it was actually water. I sometimes feel like there is nothing I could say that would be adequate to inspire the kind of action necessary to drill another 400 wells -- more than 400 in 15 different countries to give a child like that a drink of water. I hope you don't ever think well, they're just little nameless people. Not to God! They're precious in his sight. Betty, when you think about what could we say or do to help people realize the importance, what comes up inside your heart?

Betty: Well, as I was watching that and I saw that little child holding that cup of water in it, but like James said it is so contaminated, I'm thinking, every time that cup gets closer to that child's lips, it is death -- it is bringing death. I think that child is going to

drink that water because that's all they have but we have an opportunity, you and I and many others if we will join together and say, "Let's drill the wells." Let's give them the choice of clean water so that their little lives may have an opportunity to grow up strong and healthy.

James: I've told you every time we drill wells that we, years ago, decided we would drill a well every time the mission projects come from our missionary overseers and they say, "Will you drill here?" and we make that emphasis. Betty and I asked the Lord to enable us. I've got to tell you, it's been one of the greatest joys and blessings. You say, "Well, did God give you a bunch of stuff?" We gave those kids life. We got the joy of knowing that we've put an oasis of life in the center of their community, and we were able to do that. If you can drill a well, you will find what all of our viewers who ever responded to that said, "It is one of our lifetime joys." And many of you say, "We like to do that every year. We would like to make it a goal." But there are many of you who say, "James, I couldn't do that." Well, could you give a portion of a well, \$1200 or \$2400? And then ask God to raise up three others to join with you with \$1200? Or another person to join \$2400? Whatever you can do do it. Please don't miss this. Think about what I'm saying. Your gift of \$144, it will give 30 people water for the rest of their life. A gift of \$48 will give ten people water for the rest of their life. There is some level at which you could participate. Would you help ten people? 20 or 30 people? We want to send you the incredible devotional, Kingdom Life Journal that you can journal the thoughts that God gives you with Psalms and Proverbs to bless you. And I think it is very important to journal and write what God puts on your heart. We're sending the "Heart of the Father" bronze to those of you who will give \$1200, \$2400, or give a well to say thank you for sharing the love of the father and his heart. Whatever you can do, we ask you to dial that number. Take your bankcard, use it like a check. Or you can go online LifeToday.org and many of you are doing that and make that special gift today. Whatever you can do, if you want to make a check make it to *LIFE* but call us, please, today and tell us what you're putting in the mail and make the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you! Thank you so much for responding.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision. The good news is that there is a solution -- Mission: Water For Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything in life. With your support we will drill 415 new water wells in remote villages in 15

different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime! In appreciation for your gift to help drill these new wells be sure to request the Kingdom Life Journal. This beautiful leather bound prayer devotional includes both Psalms and Proverbs, as well as a place to write your own reflections as God speaks to you through his word. Also please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request the journal as well as our beautiful commemorative bronze sculpture, "Heart of the Father." Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: If there is any way you could help us drill a well by making that \$4800 gift, please do so. "Heart of the Father" bronze, thank God for these incredible artists who say we want to bless you with a treasure, a collectible, a discussion piece where you can tell people about sharing the father's heart. If you can make the \$4800 gift or \$1200 or \$2400 toward it and pray another or three others join you, please do so. Betty and I just say thank you for helping us. By the way, whatever gift you make, it's going to make a difference for ten children or 20 or 30. Please don't take any gift lightly because you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life. Betty and I say thank you so much for that.

>> We've got to speak the truth and we've got to speak it in season, out of season, whether it is popular or whether it is not popular.

Announcer: Tomorrow, Lisa Bevere empowers women to become the Lioness Arising.