

Week 37

9/7/11

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us and it is that special day of the week, "Wednesdays with Beth"!

James: Well, and I'm James and this is Betty and we're always thrilled to come into your home or wherever you're watching. We have a wonderful audience.

I see some Faith Christian shirts out here, I know that's what this is. This is Grapevine faith, it is a wonderful Christian school that teaches the kind of principles that I wish every school in the nation taught because they have a worldview that is transforming and God knows we need some transformation here at home and all over the world.

Well, this is something that Beth Moore is going to talk about. She is going to talk about spiritual discernment. Sometimes you have to wonder how much discernment of character and of truth people have. Always know much of the major media, if not the majority of the major media will ignore truth or misrepresent it so you have to have discernment to recognize truth and I pray you hear what Beth is sharing about spiritual discernment. Here's Beth Moore.

Begin video clip:

Beth: I want to take you now to Matthew, chapter 13. This is so good!

11 He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

What in the world is he talking about? They have human vision but they cannot see. They have human hearing but they cannot understand. Look at him explain it here in verse 14.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

*""You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.*

15 For this people's heart has become calloused;

*they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.*

Otherwise...

Look at these words because I want you to see them, we're going to turn them from their negative context into the positive side of it with what God would tell us in the rest of the New Testament, in the establishment of the New Testament church. It says this:

15 For this people's heart has become calloused;

*they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.*

*Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.'*

Okay listen carefully to this. He says, "I don't want you to just see, I want you to perceive. I don't want you to just hear, I want you to understand. I want you to know beyond the obvious.

I want you to know and be able to see and be able to experience what is beyond just what is natural before you. I don't want just your eyesight, I want your vision... perception... understanding.

He says right after that, "Then you will turn and you will be healed." So much of our healing when you and I have been through the devastations that just living for any

length of time on planet earth will invariably bring. It won't be being able to see with human eyes that will bring us the kind of restoration that we need. In order to be restored we need perception. We need to perceive more than we'd be able to gaze upon with our human eyes.

We need understanding, not just hearing. That's where our healing will come from. That's where our hearts will turn and we'll know that there is something so much greater than anything we could touch or feel on this planet in the natural realm. I just think continually, Lord, if I would cooperate with you, what would you really show me? If I would really give you an ear to unstop what would you do? What would you do?

I have a really good friend back in the Houston area who is a chiropractor. I've never been to a chiropractor before and I'd gotten to know her and it is just its own kind of approach. So I've been so intrigued by her and by the way she sees things from a spinal point of view. Everything comes from that same reference point. So I was telling her one day -- she said, "You sound stopped up." I said, "I'm getting the worst cold." She said, "You want me to help you out with that?" I said, "What are you going to do?"

[Laughter]

So first of all she took something, I don't know what, it kind of smelled like a little menthol-ish, I guess like a liquid Vicks Vapor-rub of some kind. And she presses it on my sinuses. But what she did next I could not have been ready for. She then takes her hands and she pulls my ears. And when she pulls them, I can hear them unfolding like an accordion.

It was like, "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!" I said, "What did you do?" I need you to know I felt like my ears were sticking out a foot on each side. All day I was completely aware. When I went and got back in the car it was like I had to open the car door like this and scoot in like this.

[Laughter]

And then you just leave the window down so your ear can stick out. Every conversation I had from that point on, all day long, I wanted to say to them, I had to resist it, but I wanted to say, "You're staring at my ears; aren't you?"

[Laughter]

I just kept pulling my hair over. I've never -- but you know what? I could hear!

[Laughter]

I could hear! When he gives us ears to hear, what... what... would he tell us?

I want you to jot down another address and then we'll get on with our series, Psalm 19:12. Jot that down. Psalm 19:12. The Psalmist David asked a very important question that will become extremely vital to us in our present series. He says this:

12 But who can discern their own errors?

Not just know them... discern them? Who can discern his errors?

Listen carefully; this is what I've come to tell you. If you have the Holy Spirit of the living Christ dwelling in you, empowering you, and you have access to the completed canon of the Word of God, Genesis to Revelation, I'll tell you who can discern her errors, you can! I can tell you who can discern his errors, you can! We can actually discern our errors. We can make a judgment about something, walk away from it, and think, you know what? I'm getting a check in my spirit. I'm getting a check. Something is wrong there. Something is wrong.

Or we can pass up an opportunity and think later as we're just sitting before the Lord and as we're just hashing the thing out, you know what? I think I'm supposed to call them back. I do think I'm supposed to do that. To be able to discern the plan of God and the next move for our lives through his spirit, who can discern her errors? His errors? We can! We can!

I wonder how many of us can look back over the course of our lives and think, you know only God could have told me to do that. Before we look at the times that we have done the wrong thing and missed the discernment or missed the warning, before we do that, I want you to just think back on the course of your life about the times you got it right and you know good and well you could not possibly have known that.

Where you were more shocked than the other person was because you thought, I promise you, that wasn't me. "How did you know that?" "I have absolutely no idea!"

[Laughter]

You know it's happened -- you know it's happened. Times you knew to make that move. Times when you felt like you were just tossing it up; you were merely mentally throwing the dice and then you realized later, no, I was not. The Holy Spirit made that choice for me, that was the right move and I didn't even have the human rationale to put that together; the times we got it right.

But what about the times we did not listen to it? You know a lesson learned is a lesson learned even if you learn it the hard way. And sometimes a lesson sticks with us all the better and all the longer if we learned it a very difficult way.

What I'm sharing with you over the coming weeks is my usual approach to teaching. If I'm going to teach with passion it is going to be something that is a fresh work to me.

Something that I have recently gone through, something that has caused the Word of God to leap off the page at me and this is one for me because I blew it recently -- I blew it! And I'm telling you what God began to teach me. I've looked back over the course of it and I thought to myself, you know what? He allowed me that very walk so that I would turn around, study this out and bring this message. I'm positive of it -- I'm positive of it.

About a year ago I received a package in the mail that had a letter of great interest. Someone in my office handed it to me and said, "Beth, I know that you get a lot of things put in your hands and I know that you try to get to them all as fast as you can but you're going to need let this one go to the top of the list because you're going to love this!" And sure enough, I did.

In fact, I did wait until I was through that present conference, I put it in my bag, took it with me. Got to the end of the conference, was at the airport ready to come back when I began to see this whole story unfold.

A woman had written me a letter and there was a book in the package as well and there was a decision card from one of our Living Proof live events. In the letter she says, "I'm a holocaust survivor." And she is in her 70s and she goes on to tell me her story. She said that a book had been written about her life and that was the book that she had included in the package. She said all of what she had been through -- and it

was a dramatic, dramatic story, as you might imagine and not only the obvious of surviving the holocaust, she had gone in when she was three years old and come out when she was eight years old and did not even know her name until she tracked it down through other resources later. It was the most fascinating story you've ever heard.

And not only that, then she had gone on to have a husband and a son only to lose both of them in the course of the decades that transpired.

So at this point she is telling me in the letter, she said, "I've included the decision card that I had at your recent event because there I received Christ as my personal savior." And she said, "I'm coming to an event" and she told me in about a month and she said, "I would love it if while I'm there you would baptize me."

Well, some of you are going to smile with me when I tell you this, others are going to think, well, that's the most preposterous thing I've ever heard. But I come from a very, very conservative denomination and I promise you that I'm not really going to get the blessing to go baptize anybody. I would really cause a lot of people to stumble in the area that I come from, denominationally speaking. So that was out of the question but I did get a good friend who is an ordained minister to go with me.

I cannot tell you what all we put together so that we could be at this event, and afterwards spend all this time with her and in a service, in a small church baptize her. And I did indeed go into the water with her, got my own feet wet in those waters, put on a robe. We taped the whole thing. It was a wonderful day!

And I told her after that, I said, "Listen, I want you to know in advance --" in fact, I told her this right after I read all of the material and talked to her on the phone. I said, "I would never exploit you. This will be between us. I will not be telling the group at the event that you are there."

She said, "Oh, please! By all means do! By all means do tell them. I want them to know. This is a very exciting time for me."

So I did exactly that. Not only that, I told her story in a couple of very large surroundings and read excerpts from her life's story out of the book.

Some weeks went by and I was walking into my house after eating dinner with Keith out that night, that's how we eat dinner --

[Laughter]

I know he's listening, I know he just said that, that's why I wanted to beat him to it. I'm listening to you honey, I'm listening to you.

So I got a text, kind of got a ping on my iPhone from my assistant who at that time of night normally would not be contacting me about a work item. She said, "I have some news."

And I feel free to tell you this part of the name because it was the name that was in the book. She said, "I have some news about Hannah and its nit good."

She meant to write "not good" but she wrote, "N-I-T good -- nit good."

I looked at it, and I thought, nit good, is it? Nit good. So I knew immediately. I stepped on my back porch, texted back. I said, "It's not true, is it?"

She said, "No, it is not."

I want to tell you why I'm bringing you this message and why we're talking about spiritual discernment... because I knew it. I knew it. I knew it wasn't. Everything in me jumped over it. Only I could not put my finger on it and there was a book and it was down there in facts on a page. Everything seemed -- every duck seemed to be in a row but something in me over and over, I thought to myself -- and I asked myself this question, what is wrong with you? What is wrong with you that you would doubt this kind of thing? Who in the world -- this is what I said, "Who in the world would lie about something like that?"

Well, she would, and she is not the only one. There are big talk show hosts that have now come back to tell us that so-and-so that appeared on their program with this big huge story, maybe this big huge book, huge testimony had made up the entire thing and she had done exactly that to the point that she had told a historian the whole story, had gotten so many of the dates right on the occupations of forces and the allied troops going into free that camp. I don't know how she might have known.

I'd written it in a couple of Bible studies that my father had been among those allied soldiers that had gone in to free that exact camp. So I got all tied up in the fact that my father was part of her liberation.

Is this making any sense to anybody? Only for it to turn out to be a complete lie.

Now, I knew it in my spiritual gut. That's what we're going to be talking about in the weeks to come. How to know when to go with our gut; when the Holy Spirit is telling us something and we're thinking in the natural realm, this really seems to add up but something feels wrong in here -- something is up -- something is up.

Or maybe something feels right. I think this is what I'm supposed to do. It doesn't make a lot of sense financially, it doesn't make a lot of sense logistically, but I do think this is the will of God, this is the next step for my life; when to know to go with your gut.

End of clip

James: Wow! What Beth just touched on, when you've got pressing economic challenges, to base everything simply on economics... not necessarily best.

Betty, we made a decision years ago for our family. We moved out in the country, a lot of what was around us was farmland and floodplain land but it was a whole community out in the middle of nowhere. And we bought there and actually bought several acres on a beautiful creek, much of it was in the floodplain but it was pretty but it was for our children. It became not only meaningful for the children but it became incredible financial blessing because who would have ever thought that we would have settled in Colleyville on the Colleyville/Southlake border. Well, the whole community exploded in the next 30 years. What a blessing it's been to us and our family.

What kind of a decision? A financial decision? No, a family decision and God led us in the middle of nowhere to accomplish his purpose but there were other benefits. But we didn't put the fringe benefits or the economics first, we put God first.

I want to ask you to do something, I want to ask you to begin releasing a river of love and when that river flows you'll be amazed at how much freedom it gives you. Release God's love, get caught up in what God is interested in and watch God's focus on your interests and watch how he redirects your interest.

I want to show you something, right here are some little bitty shoes and we've got a whole lot of bigger shoes but these are so cute! But we know little children that need shoes and we want to give them shoes for Christmas. Well, we have to raise the funds

now. I want you to listen to one of our missionaries. I want you to listen to the heart of God.

On the mission field:

Isak: We provide food, we provide shelter, we're doing all of these things, water -- that are really matters of life and death for children and yet, at times it feels so nice just to do something out of the ordinary, just to do something that is a little extraordinary and to be able to give children something like a pair of shoes.

[Laughter]

The shoes for life program is not just providing shoes for children like these precious children here in Africa, it is providing shoes for children all over the world, children who desperately need shoes. So I want to ask you to give these children and children all around the world a special gift, a gift that is a luxury, not to you and I, but a luxury to these precious little children... a gift of a pair of shoes and put a smile on a child's face.

>> Thank you, James and Betty!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: "Thank you, James and Betty!" You need to hear that to you! That's a "thank you" to you.

Betty, as I was watching the children there, I saw two little girls with Isak Pretorius, one of our lead missionaries on the continent of Africa, walking with two little girls, I guess they were sisters but they were dressed almost identical; you can see them. And I then looked at the other children there and these are children obviously that had been in the feeding programs and been cared for, likely had a water well drilled nearby, so Isak is comfortable now talking about doing something that is not just life and death but something additional, a little gift that is special.

But what I was thinking is all those children also had clothes on that were given. Do you know where most of the clothes come from? They come from the European nations because the shipping costs are so much less. We don't even ask you here in North America to give clothes for the children because the shipping costs would

actually make it easier to just buy it over there and give it to them, but the European people are giving these children those clothes.

But now we never thought about it, until a few years ago, we never thought about giving shoes for Christmas and I think it is exciting!

Betty: It just brings joy to my heart. You know I can remember our oldest daughter, she loved her shoes. She used to sleep in her shoes. I used to have to take them off after she had gone to sleep and put them back on her before she woke up.

But I think about these precious children, they've never had their first pair of shoes and it will mean so much more than they even realize. It will protect their precious little feet from cuts and bruises and disease, James. And they can run, and you saw the little girl dancing around, I mean it is just so precious! I can be a part of that and you can be a part of that. Let's do this for the children. Let's give them some shoes.

James: You know, it really does stop disease. I know earlier, Betty when we were watching this clip from Africa just now with you, when that toe that was so abscessed and infected you turned toward me. You turned away and that's a normal response.

But if you turn away and then you don't look back and do something, then you don't get to see what I heard you laughing and smiling about at the end of that clip and that was when the little girls were happy and when the little child was dancing. You went from "Oh no!" to "Oh, that's wonderful!" And what made the "wonderful" is someone gave them shoes.

Would you do the wonderful? Would you express the one whose name is wonderful, counselor, mighty God? Would you express the love and life of Jesus by dialing that number that is always there if you want someone to pray for you because your heart is broken?

Always there -- even today, 80% of the calls will be for prayer. I'm asking you to be part of the 20% and even raise the number of calls who will say we're going to give shoes. Could you give 40 children shoes? They cost \$3.60 a pair -- \$3.60 a pair. \$36, ten children pairs of shoes. \$72, 20 children. \$144 and I will always ask you stretch your faith, stretch the love, put arms around as many children as possible, could you help 40 children? Could you do that?

Dial the number, use your bankcard like a check, please? Or go online at LifeToday.org. Would you do that now? We want to get the necessary support to give

200,000 pairs of shoes, 200,000 children, we want to be able to give it to them, everywhere it is possible by Christmas. We've got to get it ahead of time so the missionaries can deliver them.

We're also going to give smiles, surgeries for cleft palate, facial deformity and give children a smile. Those surgeries cost \$500 each. Could you give a surgery, smiles? Could you give two of them? Would you do that? Could you give shoes? Could you do some of both?

We're asking you to simply do what God puts on your heart but do something because it will mean so much if it is ten children and a love gift of \$36, it has a big impact. Thank you for making that call! Thank you for your help. We have some gifts that will bless you but you're giving a wonderful gift of God's love.

Begin video clip

Begin clip:

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer, not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children they've never owned a new pair of shoes and while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

LIFE Outreach International has developed a durable all-terrain shoe especially made for the harshest conditions in children of all ages. By responding today you can help life immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays!

Your gift of \$36 will help provide 10 pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

In appreciation of your gift be sure to request the bestselling inspirational devotional by Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may request the heart of father bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I really want to encourage you if you could possibly help us give a child a smile for Christmas and do those surgeries, they're \$500 each. The shoes, as I said \$144 will give 40 children shoes, 40 pairs of shoes.

But if you could make a substantial gift, and any gift is substantial because it impacts lives but we want to send you the "Heart of the Father" bronze. Absolutely beautiful! You will treasure it. It will become a conversation piece where you can point to the "Heart of the Father."

So help us provide shoes and smiles for Christmas and we say thank you so much for doing it!

Announcer: Tomorrow, a man who worked in the twin towers on September 11th tells his story.

>> Yes, sir, we heard an incredible explosion which kind of rattled the building.