

## Suggested Interview Questions for Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms and author of *Love Heals*

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*“Love is the most powerful force for change in the world.”  
--Becca Stevens*

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- The title of your book is also the tagline for Thistle Farms. Can you describe why these two words, LOVE HEALS, mean so much to you?
- You founded Thistle Farms twenty years ago as a place of healing and recovery for women survivors of trafficking, prostitution and addiction. Is childhood sexual assault or abuse a common experience among these survivors? How did your own abuse during childhood shape the work you do today?
- How do you see the #metoo movement affecting women in your ministry? How has the #metoo movement affected you?
- Do you think our nation’s #metoo movement has helped us discuss sexual assault with more compassion and awareness? What more can this movement do to empower survivors? What are your thoughts on accountability and healing for the abusers?
- Our nation is also struggling under the weight of a rampant opioid crisis. How has addiction impacted the women survivors at Thistle Farms? Is it possible for addicts to survive opioid addiction and rebuild their lives?
- Many of your program graduates tried numerous programs before finding healing and stability at Thistle Farms. Why do you think this program succeeds where others have not?
- You write that securing income/jobs for women survivors is a vital element for their recovery and restoration. Why is this employment a challenge for most women who are leaving incarceration or life on the streets? How have you addressed this employment challenge at Thistle Farms?
- The healing practices you describe in your book, LOVE HEALS, are transferable to anyone who needs more love and peace in their lives? What types of daily practices do you find most helpful?
- How has time been a teacher for you in the healing process?

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**Guest:** Becca Stevens – author, justice entrepreneur, founder of Thistle Farms, Episcopal priest  
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