

Week 12
3/13/12

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you so very much for joining us. I'm Betty Robison and this is my husband, James.

James: We've got a real situation here. We've got someone -- and by the way, whatever you do, you keep your seat belt buckled, and you really stay with this because we face some real challenges.

I know one thing about all of our viewers all over the world, I don't care whether you're in the U.S. or Canada or in Australia, wherever you are, you really care about others, you want what's best. You really want people to be blessed and when you've been blessed you like to bless. One of the things I know about our viewing audience, I'm convinced this is true, they live beyond their world and they make a difference in someone else's world.

Well, we've got a guest that if you'll hear what he has to say, it's going to make a difference in not only your world but the whole world -- and it is a businessman, a successful businessman. As a matter of fact, it is a family that has the second largest chicken producing company in the world, the Pilgrims Pride. Those "No yella chickens," Beau Pilgrim says.

Well, Beau is our guest's uncle, his dad is Beau's brother. This family developed the business. But this family member moved out of the business, even though he is still in business but he just began to share Jesus continually because that's what a lot of successful people do.

Whether you believe it or not, we have a lot of people who help us in our mission interests who are quite successful and they're feeling the pain of people not liking them. It sort of makes you want to go off and hide rather than keep -- blessing people. You need to be real careful.

Would you welcome Buddy Pilgrim to *LIFE Today*?

Buddy, glad to see you.

Buddy: Thank you, James. Thank you, Betty. Nice to be here.

James: I like the chicken. I bet you like those cows that old Kathy's got over there at

Chick Filet telling everybody to eat more chicken. Buddy, I want you to -- really, you're in love with Jesus and He obviously changed your life. We can spend the whole program just talking about that but I'm asking you very directly to share with our viewers about business and about business people and what's on your heart. But I want you to start, if you don't mind, with something that really startled me when I heard you speaking to a real group of national leaders. And you really came, in my opinion, in such an effective way to show all of us that the love of money may be the root of all evil but money might not be the problem as much as it might be an answer. Then you just took off as a businessman and I want our viewers to hear what God's put on your heart.

By the way, I want to put his e-mail address up right now. I want you to know where to get to him where you could say, "Buddy, come to our church and speak to us." As a matter of fact, this businessman will preach -- speak to, preach to our whole church, not just our businessmen -- everybody! Because everybody in your church needs to hear what's on his heart. There is the e-mail address. You can go to *LifeToday.org*, if you say "I didn't have something to write with" and you'll find it again because we'll have it posted there.

Buddy: Thank you, James. I appreciate you making that comment as well because the most common misconception pastors have when they call me to minister in some way at their church is they'll call and say, "Come speak to our men's group."

I say, "Well, do your women not want to be successful in business as well?"

[Laughter]

Because I believe women ought to be successful in business as well. Amen?

Or they'll say, "Just come speak to our leaders."

I say, "Well, don't you want those people who you don't view as leaders yet to become leaders and become successful in business?"

So God's Word applies to the workplace no matter where you are, whether you're in the back dock or in the president's office, whether you're the secretary, or the C.E.O.

When I left Pilgrim's in 1998 the Lord led me to start the ministry that I have today. It was a very specific calling. I teach the word for the workplace. I don't try to teach the word for family life. James Dobson does that. I don't try to teach relationship. I don't try to pastor people; I'm not a pastor. If you come and tell me all your problems, I'll just tell you, "You need to just get over them and move on." I'm not a pastor.

James: Go eat some chicken!

Buddy: That's right!

But I do know what I'm called to do. I'm called to apply the word to business and to help people see that the Bible is the best business textbook there is. Usually I have my hand on my Bible and I guess this iPad kind of is because that's what I got the scripture in tonight rather than bringing my Bible.

What you mentioned a minute ago when you heard me speaking to that group, it was really a group of national religious leaders, a very brief presentation I made down there that day, I started with a scripture that by show of hands only two people in that entire audience of national religious leaders had ever heard of. It's a scripture that I think is pretty significant. It says a lot. It is in Ecclesiastes chapter 10, and I always lead into verse 18, it's verses 18 and 19. Verse 18 says:

Through indolence the rafters sag, or through laziness the rafters sag, and through slackness or through idle hands the house leaks.

Now that tells us something right there. Unless we get up and do something, things don't get fixed. That's true in our country today, too. We can sit in our closets and pray all day long but we've got to get out and do something as well. If you want to help the poor, help these girls that have been taken into the sex trade, you've got to sometimes get out and do something as well. So that's verse 18.

Well, verse 19 says this: Men prepare a meal for enjoyment, (that's fine,) wine makes life merry -- (Well, it may if you don't drink too much of it.) And the last part of verse 19 says: and money is the answer to everything.

Now I find very few people that know that that verse is in the Bible. Some translations say, "Money answers all things." The Hebrew word says: Money responds to all things.

Now obviously money doesn't substitute for Christ in our lives but what that says is you can't really accomplish much of anything in this world, in this natural physical place where we live without money. You just can't. You can't run a ministry successfully without money. You can't run a business without money. You can't steward over your family without money. You can't run a church without money. You can't run a political campaign without money.

I was saying as we were talking over dinner tonight, there was a reason that al-Qaeda picked Osama Bin Laden to head up that al-Qaeda group; Osama Bin Laden had \$150 million -- he had money. You can't be a successful terrorist without money.

[Laughter]

That's the truth! So we need to recognize that.

And there is this subtle teaching, I think, that's not only slipped into the church but I think it's slipping into our entire country that is extremely dangerous, that demonizes wealth, it demonizes business, it demonizes profits, it particularly demonizes big business. It's kind of okay for a politician to say something good about a small business. You can talk about well, we need to help small businesses but do we not need big businesses to be successful? Don't we want them to make a profit as well?

James: Most big businesses started as a small business.

Buddy: That's exactly correct. They absolutely did. And the only way you grow is by continuing to reinvest your profits. The only thing that gives a business the opportunity to hire more people, to give raises, to expand, to build new buildings, to buy new equipment, to do all these kind of things, which ultimately benefit customers and benefit employees, benefit suppliers is profit. If you don't have a profit, you can't do anything of those kinds of things.

Yet profit is so demonized today and money in general is so demonized today. So I want people to understand the Bible is serious when it says, "Money is the answer to all things." It takes money to accomplish what we need to do here on earth. Once you understand this basic principle about how important money is to accomplish things, it kind of leads to the next logical question, how do you generate money? Or better said, how do you generate wealth because money is nothing more than a common denominator for the exchange of wealth.

Money at a dollar bill or hundred dollar bill, in and of itself is not anything important, it is the wealth that it represents. So it begs the question, how do you create wealth? That's a vitally important topic and it's becoming more and more important in today's politics as well where all of this stuff is being demonized as I said a minute ago.

The most fundamental teaching that I teach in my ministry is a message that the Lord gave me several years ago. Frankly, I was attending a meeting where two different preachers back to back had taught on prosperity.

Frankly, I believe God wants to prosper and bless you but the blessing also includes prosperity. So I was listening to this and I know that in a lot of prosperity believing churches people -- this may not even be what the pastor is necessarily teaching but people go away believing for prosperity in this way: That all I have to do to be blessed, financially is to sow, to give, and it will be given to you, pressed down, shaken together. So all I have to do is sow my \$20 in the offering plate and sit back and wait for miracle money to show up in the mailbox.

James: And that's really a misrepresentation of seeds. There is no farmer that just goes out casting seeds at random. You want a fertile field, you want to prepare the ground, you want to know it is prepared ground, you want to watch over it, and you want to pray for God to bless it. You can give to *LIFE Outreach* and give and think you're going to get all of your bills paid if you don't manage -- if you manage your affairs like the federal government you're going to have the same problems they have. We need to be good businessmen and that's what you're talking about.

Buddy: Exactly, so the Lord began to give me this message to share it particularly within the church but I share this in and outside of the church.

Next week I'm going to speak to the Missouri State Legislature and I'm going to talk to them about the only way that wealth is generated. And here is the foundation of this message, a business transaction is the only thing that creates, that manifests, that brings about wealth. Nothing else other than a business transaction manifests wealth. You can have oil in the ground and if you don't ever get it out of the ground it really is of no value. It's got potential value there but until you draw it out of the ground and begin to use it in the exchange process, which is business, that's the only time the value is manifested.

So the Lord gave me this message and that's the fundamental, it's the most important point is to understand that a business transaction is where all wealth is manifested. Business is so often dismissed within the church as being secular. Well, we don't want to get involved in the world system. We're holier than that. We want to turn over this stuff that has to do with the world to other people. Well, that's what we've done.

See, if you view politics and business as being the world's system of operating instead of God's system of operating, and you turn it over to people that don't know God, you'll only get ungodly results. But if you realize that business is not the world's system, it is God's system and we've turned it over to the world and that's why we get the ungodly results. Politics aren't the world's system, God's designed that people should work together in a political manner in some way but we turn it over to the world, we can only get ungodly

results. And then he gave me just chapter and verse to show me how he can show that each of these things are true and I can confirm it in scripture.

The reason we know that business is God's system is I went and looked up the dictionary definition of business. And the dictionary defines business as the exchange of goods and services -- and by the way, it says in order to make an economic profit. So profit must be part of it, and that's okay. So if business is defined as the exchange of goods and services, then you go back and look at how God designed us. You see, he designed us such that we are, I call it individually insufficient. We need him in our lives, and we need each other in our lives as well. We're more productive and prosperous and efficient as a society when we do business with one another, and one person in the beginning, one person hunts and another one makes spears. One person builds a house while another one cooks. And we exchange with one another and that creates prosperity.

In fact, do you know what the oldest profession is? You know what is usually said today, you know what people usually say the oldest profession is but the truth is, in Genesis chapter four it says, and Adam had relations with his wife Eve, now that wasn't the oldest profession, they were married; that was the oldest pastime but it wasn't oldest profession. Said Adam has relations with his wife Eve and she conceived a child, Cain, and then she did another one, Abel and it said, "And Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was a keeper of flocks." Right? That's the first two children that ever set foot on the face of this earth, and there is no doubt in my mind that God told us for a reason that one of them was gifted in animal agriculture, was a keeper of flocks, and the other one was the tiller of the ground, he was in farming, grain agriculture.

Now if you look up that word flocks, this is just kind of a little side story, most people translate it as sheep; King James translates it as sheep. But the literal Hebrew word means a small group of small animals. And it is translated in many Bibles as flocks. Well, if you've been in the chicken business as long as I have and you see a word flock and it is a small group of small animals, they were chicken farmers.

[Laughter]

That's it! So the oldest profession and the first one ever mentioned in the Bible was a chicken farmer. And his brother, raised corn and I guarantee you they did business until he killed his best customer and then things kind of went downhill.

James: You know what? Here's the thing, we are in the process in our country of not only killing the customer but killing the business person that produces the opportunity and the product. It is absolutely -- it has really reached a point of total insanity.

Buddy: It has! Volunteerism is lifted up so high today and in a very dangerous way. I'm concerned about some of the political talk today about service to community. September 11th has been turned into a national day of service instead of a day to commemorate what happened. Even this past Martin Luther King's day was talked about as a day of service. Well, Martin Luther King didn't march on the mall for a day of service. He marched on equality where people would be judged by the content of their character not by the color of their skin.

And all of this talk about service kind of sounds good on the surface but it's really all about collectivism. And it is elevating volunteerism.

There is nothing wrong with volunteerism. I believe in volunteering but we've reached this point where we demonize people who go out and earn a living, and we elevate those who volunteer and don't do anything. I would say this to you, as much as I agree and I believe in volunteerism, is it really more noble? What is more noble? To go out one Saturday a couple times a year and work the food line at the homeless shelter? Or to risk your capital and to invest your intellect and your labor and your hard work to start a business that will employ the person that is at the homeless shelter so that they can provide for themselves and their family with dignity?

James: Thank God for businessmen! Would you say thank God for Buddy Pilgrim?

[Applause]

I wish I could lay hands, healing hands on the whole nation and heal this divide of pitting class against class. Because that's what's happening and it is crippling our nation, it is crippling our economy.

Father, I just pray that the viewer will hear what you want them to hear, the love of money is the root of all evil. Greed is one of the awful sins that cripples but success and blessing and prosperity, you promise. You led your people into prosperity in order that they could bless others.

And Father, I pray you'll bless our viewers that they bless others and bless our nation. In Jesus' name.

There's Buddy's web address again. I hope you'll have him come speak to your whole church when you get to turn him loose and let him go. You'll have a new congregation. I

think we'll have a new country to think rightly about some of these things because it is sad.

Buddy, we're doing something that our viewers love to do and that's to rescue people. By the way, they can't do it without capital. They've got to have earned it somewhere. It's got to have come to them -- even if it came from some tax program where it is Social Security, it still was provided by the labor of the people who put it in and the employer and it is being provided by people right now who are maintaining it who know they won't ever get anything. We've got to fix that.

But see, you have something to give. I'm asking you to give life. I'm asking you to rescue life. I want you to listen to our mission partner who left her career to go into totally rescuing the people who are trapped in the sex trafficking. Listen to Giselle.

On the mission field:

>> This is Nita and Parmela. They met many years ago when they were both trafficked to the same brothel as young girls. Several decades later the lifeline friends are still suffering from the effects of human trafficking because Parmela has H.I.V. and Nita is dying from AIDS.

>> This is not something that ever should happen to a human being. Ever! Can you imagine to be taken as a nine-year-old little girl, spending your entire life in the brothel and then thrown out like an animal because you can no longer sell your body as a sex slave.

This is the ending if we don't do something to help these little girls, if we don't do something to stop this, if we don't provide safe homes for them, if we don't provide *LIFE* Centers where we can save and rescue these little girls, this is what happens to them. They end up being thrown out like dogs on the street. Their innocence was robbed from them and this is what they have to do now.

But why? Why do they have to go through this? We can do something so they don't end up like this. I just want to do more.

[Crying]

In the studio:

James: Some of those precious little children you saw there at the end are targets for the

sexual predators who take them and use them in the sex industry. In Nepal, there are many children who are in desperate situations and they're easy to take.

We really believe God wants us to build a *LIFE* Center there to help Giselle who was a fashion model and she saw the need. She actually herself was held captive in that trade for a brief period when she was young. She went on to be very successful after she was freed from it but she never forgot. And she's gone back now and we decided we would help her.

When I say "we," it includes, Betty -- we can't do it without the help of our viewers. She has started a business there for these girls to make a living making beautiful beads. We want to send this to some of you who will help rescue one of the children as a gift; just to send one that was made in love and appreciation for the job.

Here's what it takes. It takes \$128 to rescue a life. And we have been blessed, Betty, by someone that had such a broken heart that they said, "We'll match every gift." Which means if you'll help rescue one of these precious children or one of these people from the sex trafficking, it will actually be two. And it also means if you'll give \$64 it will be matched and we will be able to rescue another.

We need \$225,000, which will build quite an elaborate *LIFE* Center there because the dollar goes so much further and the labor there, what we're able to do, and the material. So we're asking every one of you to help us.

Betty, I believe every viewer will do something.

Betty: I do too, James. You and I are so blessed. We have five beautiful granddaughters and I can't even imagine, or picture them having to go through such a tragedy as these girls, all these children do. It is hard to even think about. And these children don't even have a chance; they're helpless and they're hopeless unless we care, unless we offer hope. I hope you will join with us and let's do something for these children.

James: I'm sending the book, *Indivisible*, that Jay Richards and I wrote, "*Restoring Faith, Family, and Freedom*," which is really a road map out of our wilderness and our need in our nation back to a solid foundation. You're going to love the truth that you see that will set us free as a nation again. I really believe that: Restoring faith, family, and freedom before it is too late. We want to send that to you to say thank you.

For any gift that you make, if you will help us rescue one of these children, we will also send with the book one of the sets of the beautiful beads made in love.

If you'll help build the *LIFE* Center, we want to send the beautiful "Lion and Lamb" bronze to say thanks. We're asking for a gift of \$1,000 or more, it may be that you can give \$5,000 or more. Whatever you can do, we're asking you to make these gifts. Let's do this to rescue these precious children and these women from this horrible trade, they are prisoners.

Call, use your bankcard like a check or you can go online *LifeToday.org* and make the gift. If you make a check, make it out to *LIFE*. Please call and let us know what God is leading you to do.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Human trafficking... it's impossible to believe but at this very moment innocent children, many very young are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable, and someone must save them!

With your help today we can reach, rescue, and restore their hope for a better future and we can also build the New Hope Life Center in Nepal, which will be a safe house for children for years to come.

And now a miracle opportunity of \$384,000 matching gift with a cost of \$128 to rescue a child, that means your gift of \$128 will be matched to help rescue two children. And \$64 will be matched to help rescue one more child.

With your gift please request *Indivisible* by James Robison and Jay Richards, a soul-stirring read for every Christian who desires to restore America to the values that formed our strong foundation built on faith, family, and freedom.

With your gift of \$128, which today will help rescue two children, you will receive a unique and beautiful necklace handcrafted by women who are survivors of human trafficking and slavery.

Finally, please prayerful consider a gift of \$1,000 which will be matched to \$2,000 for the New Hope Life Center and you may request the beautiful bronze sculpture, "The Lion and the Lamb."

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

In the studio:

James: I really believe that *Indivisible* points us in the direction we must go and the correction that we must make. I think you're going to find it to be one of the most inspirational reads of your entire life and I believe it can change our nation. I want to remind you that Buddy Pilgrim, there's his web address, and you can get Land of Blessing, the teaching that he teaches on business. It's great. I encourage you to get him in your church sometime.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Buddy Pilgrim for coming and sharing?

Buddy, I love you!

Buddy: Thank you, James.

James: Bless you! Bless your family. Thank you for helping us bless others. Thank you for helping us rescue lives.

Beth: I'm going to stand here until somebody gets a word because I'm going to tell you something, many of us have been disabled by our past actions.

Announcer: Beth Moore tomorrow!