

Week 52
12/19/11

James: Thank you! Thank all of you. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to be able to share with you -- I want to show you something right here: *MORE than ENOUGH*: God's plan for your financial peace and provision. It is interesting that right here is a penny. By the way, it has the portrait of a very truly great man who really loved God, Abraham Lincoln. Above it, it says "In God We Trust." Sadly, too often people trust in what this represents -- money -- rather than the God who not only provides for us -- yes, even the wherewithal, the money, the jobs, the opportunity -- but also the direction and guidance so they'll know how to manage it and not let it manage us, and then mismanage us. That's what happens to far too many people.

We're going to be sharing with you an opportunity to find out how you can have more than enough because God has promised to give you the direction, the wisdom, and the oversight so you can manage what he entrusts to your watch-care. Listen closely to this incredible promise. In Second Corinthians chapter nine, Paul is talking to the Corinthian church about putting God first in all areas. They were so twisted that he did not even want to come to them and ask them for something so he earned his own way so that he would not appear to be depending on them. He said this really wasn't best. You need to understand that learning to give and learning to share is a very important part of your life.

And then listen what he says to those who will receive and heed the message: God loves a person who gives cheerfully -- who gives cheerfully, not who gets all the time -- who gives -- who gives life and love, and yes, resources. In other words, you notice someone outside your world and you make a difference. That's light piercing the darkness. God will generously provide all you need and then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. God's plan for your financial peace and provision; God's promise to take care of us.

Betty, we've got Jimmy Evans with us. His marriage and family seminars are fantastic. He's been here many times but he teaches on financing and financial resources and management to couples. Would you welcome Jimmy Evans to *LIFE Today*? Jimmy, good to see you!

Jimmy: Good to be with you guys. Thank you, Betty. Good to be with you!

James: Jimmy, couples really need to learn some things about how to manage their financial affairs, and God has really blessed you and Karen, and all you -- not only in the churches that you've pastored and led but in this incredible marriage and family seminars that you've taught and your television program. Give our viewers some insights that would help them.

Jimmy: Well, Karen and I began our marriage broke. We were completely broke. I made \$600 a month; I made \$7,000 a year for the first several years that we were married. We never had enough money. We were just -- and poverty is a curse. If anyone believes that there is anything blessed about poverty they've never been there -- but we were there.

And interestingly, James, when I made \$600 a month, and we had a new baby, and we were about 21 years old, and Karen was a stay-at-home Mom, we went to church one Sunday and the pastor read that verse and he was talking about giving. It infuriated me. I thought, "Listen buddy, I feel a lot more sorry for me than I do this church. If you want my money, you've got another thing coming."

Well, Karen, though, liked the preacher and liked that message and she wanted to give \$40 to the church. I just thought I married a crazy woman, and it transformed our lives. I want to talk about some principles if I could on this program because this resource that you have here, *MORE than ENOUGH*, thank you for letting me be a part of that. I loved it.

I love to talk to people about money and about God's blessing because Proverbs 10 says it's the blessing of the Lord that makes a man rich and he adds no sorrow to it. You don't lose your health, your reputation, your family. But riches doesn't necessarily mean millions of dollars but it means more than enough to do what God wants you to do in your life. The opposite of that or the alternatives are not enough and that's a curse. What a curse to live your life not having enough or just enough! And if I just make one little mistake I blow the whole thing. More than enough means we're taken care of and we can take care of other people. That's everyone's dream.

I know you have that dream. But also Psalm 35 says God takes delight in the prosperity of his servants. What kind of evil parent wants their children broke? You'd have to be evil to want that. And God is the best father in the universe and he wants all of his children blessed. I truly -- when Karen and I got married I had a poverty spirit. Our family didn't... we weren't in poverty but we were next door to it. We just fought for everything we had. I just never -- I just never thought I'd really ever have very much and I probably would never have had very much if God wouldn't have gotten my attention and began to teach us the financial laws of blessing. And one of them, the first law of financial blessing,

is the law of ownership; that we can't own anything, is that the earth is the Lord's and all it contains. And that's why when that preacher, when I went to church that Sunday, the preacher said that we couldn't own anything. I thought, "Well, I haven't owned very much in my life but that's my mustang sitting out there in the parking lot. And don't tell me I can't own anything." He just offended me.

And he quoted Billy Graham. Billy Graham said he had never seen a hearse pulling a U-haul. I thought, well, that's just disrespectful of dead people: A. And B: I'm going to be buried in my motor home with all my stuff just because you said that. But it shook my world when I thought, "What do you mean I can't own anything?" But you don't know a 200 year old person that has anything. They've all gone to be with the Lord or they're dead and all their stuff is here. You can't own anything -- and that rocked my world. The first law of financial blessing is for us to get to the place where we say, "God, you entrusted all these things to me and I'm responsible to you." So that was the first thing.

Karen wanted to give the \$40 that day to the Lord and she did and I'm telling you our world was changed. When we began to give, James -- and I did not believe -- when she gave that first gift, I did not believe that it would do anything other than drive us in the poor house because \$40 to us was like \$4,000 to other people. But when she gave it, we didn't get any checks in the mail, my income didn't go up. I'm telling you, I saw God move.

I'll say one other thing to everybody watching right now that you've got to get this resource now that they're offering but I'm saying, I know God because of giving. I know God -- not through reading my Bible alone -- that's important -- when we gave, God became my father and I saw him begin to provide for us and do things for us I didn't -- I didn't know God knew me that well. That sounds kind of funny. I just thought there are a lot of people in the world, I don't know how well he knows me so I'm on my own, I've got to take care of myself. When we began to give -- actually Karen began to give -- but when Karen began to give I saw a loving, personal daddy take care of every little need. That's what Jesus said in Matthew 6. He said, "You can't serve two masters. You can't serve money and God. You need to serve God. Wherever your treasure is, there is where your heart is also."

And that's where Jesus, in Matthew 6, keeps using the word father, father, father -- "Your father knows all your needs. Your father knows everything about you. Your father will take care of you." Well, I'll tell you what, when we began to recognize God's ownership and began to give, I met my Father God.

James: When Jimmy's talking about the finances, that nothing belongs to us, if you'll

understand that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof and we lose ourself in him, we become an overseer, a trusted overseer, a steward of what he has entrusted to our watch-care. So he really is the owner, we're the overseer. The people who have the most fun are people who manage a property with somebody and live on it and they get to enjoy it and they don't have any of the responsibility but just taking care of it. In a sense, that really is, that other person has all the responsibility.

When we understand that God is really the one who gave us the ability to oversee but he's the owner, then we don't have that possessive feeling, I've got to possess it, and it won't possess us because we've lost our life in him, lost our resources in him, everything is his, he lets us manage it, he lets us enjoy it but he also lets us share it. He will let us multiply and increase it but he doesn't want it to consume us. So when people get that, they've taken a real big step into liberty and freedom.

Jimmy: Well, Proverbs 10, the scripture I just quoted earlier: The blessing of the Lord makes a man prosperous and he adds no sorrow to it. All you need is God's blessing. Well, if you were managing someone's property and they showed up and you said, "What are you doing here?"

And they said, "Well, this is my property."

"Well, no, it's not! Get off my property!"

Well, do you think they're going to bless you? Do you think they're going to reward you for taking what is theirs? Well, when we take what belongs to God, we forfeit the blessing. He loves us. He desires to bless us.

But when we give to God and when we pray about decisions and when we understand that we are stewards and managers, it honors God. And then God knows he can entrust more to us and he blesses us. So the very first step -- and I'm telling you now, this rocked my world. I know some folks watching right now they may be stretched by what we're talking about. I'm telling you, God wants to prosper you. God is your best friend. He is your daddy in heaven. He can't wait to give you more but the very first thing that we have to do is acknowledge him and invite him.

James: In the teaching series and by the way, these two sessions that Jimmy teaches in *MORE than ENOUGH*, he deals with the laws for financial blessing. That's basically what he has touched on, just introduction to it, that's all we can do is give you an introduction in this time frame. We're not Oprah, even though she's retired. We don't have her one hour and all the people paying for that hour all over the world. So we have a brief period

of time. What we want to do is show you the hope and offer you the help that can just enable you to revamp everything. Jimmy, you then talk about reversing the financial curse. What do you see there? Just a highlight.

Jimmy: Okay, a lot of people get in a hole. We were there. Karen and I were just in a financial hole and that's the analogy that I use, whether they jumped in or somebody pushed them in. And some people have done everything wrong; we did everything wrong. We were in credit card debt. We just had all kinds of problems.

But other people have really been victimized by this economy. When the economy went down, they lost their job through no fault of their own. But whatever has happened they find themselves in a financial hole.

I just give three simple steps. And again, I want to say I hope everybody gets this resource because the two full teachings of the five laws of financial blessing and reversing the financial curse, about an hour and a half worth of teaching, my teaching is in here plus a whole lot more, but the three things I tell people about reversing the financial curse is first of all, get rid of the shovel. When you're in a hole it is called the law of the hole, get rid of the shovel. What dug it? What dug that hole?

Well, one of the things that digs the hole is the lack of honoring God -- the lack of honoring God's ownership. Another one though is a lack of diligence. The richest man in the history of the world wrote a book. His name is Solomon. It's the book of Proverbs. And in the book of Proverbs he shares every financial secret that made him the richest man in the world. That's why people ought to read a chapter in the book of Proverbs every day. His number one secret is diligence. He says, "The diligent hand will rule. The diligent shall be made rich." If we want to be prospered, we need to be diligent with what God has given us. So that's one of the -- you have to honor God. Get rid of the shovel. If you're not diligent with your money, if you're not a good money manager -- one of the CD's in here is on budgeting and being a diligent money manager -- so being diligent in that. So get rid of the shovel. What mistakes are you making? Do you have a debtor's mentality? Do you have a get-rich-quick mentality?

Some people are just not faithful with money. In other words, they don't regularly save, they don't regularly do the right thing faithfully. They're always trying to get rich quick. And the Bible says that he who hastens to get rich will not go unpunished, but he who is faithful will be blessed. So those are just a few of the things I talk about in there that dig the hole. But here's the real one I want to talk about, is the second step of getting out of the hole is taking the hands above the hole and letting them help you out. There are always

two hands that are there to help us out of the hole. The first is experts. We've never had the financial information today that we have.

But I want to go back to Solomon for a minute. Solomon was the richest man in the world because he was the most teachable man in the world. God came to Solomon one day and said to him, "Solomon, ask me for something. I'll give you anything that you want."

And Solomon said, "God, give me wisdom."

And God said, "Because you didn't ask for money, and because you didn't ask for a long life or the lives of your enemies, I'm going to give you wisdom and I'm going to give you everything you didn't ask for."

Wisdom precedes wealth. Every wealthy person I know, James and Betty, is teachable. The wealthiest people I know are surrounded by financial counselors. People who are chronically broke won't even read a book about it. They won't get any help about it. We are surrounded with more financial information in the day we live in. This resource you've got here is a lifetime worth of information.

James: It is the hands above the ditch, the pit, the hole you've dug in to lift you up.

Jimmy: I pray that people that are watching will get this resource because I'm telling you right now, it is life-changing... it is marriage saving. This is a resource because I've got some of this material in there but I know the others that have the materials in there and your book, James, I'm just telling you, you've done such a phenomenal job of putting this information together. I love sharing what I have to share because it is our story. And we experienced the heartache of always having lack -- we were in the hole but we're not in the hole today; we're blessed today.

But you have to grab the hand; you have to get help. Getting help is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of wisdom.

You find Phil Nicholson, one of the greatest golfers in the world, has his coach standing next to him all the time. The most successful people on earth are the most teachable people on earth.

But people who chronically fail will not learn. The other hand above the hole is God. And Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes he will lead you into all truth and all truth means all truth. That means that when we're going through something, when we have a difficulty, God is not against us, God's for us. He can answer every question. He can tell

us which house to buy. He can tell us which car to buy. He can tell us which job to take. He can tell us which major to choose in college. Ask God. Get financial help, and ask God.

The third law is get away from the hole. Don't live on the edge all the time. Downsize. If the house you live in -- debt creates stress that robs the joy of life. It doesn't matter how big your house is, it matters how happy you are in that house. When you have a huge house payment and when you have too much debt, what it means is whatever you're living in or whatever you're driving, you're not going to have the joy of it because the stress takes the joy out.

And the issue here is not living within your means, you live under your means. Live in a smaller house. Karen and I lived in cracker box houses. We drove old junkie cars and some of our best memories are those times. I'm glad we don't do them anymore but we were blessed in those places because we were living within our means. So people need to downsize, they need to save money. They need to have a savings account. I think every person needs to give at least 10% of their income to the Lord and they need to then save money. And if you're giving and saving and living within your means, you get away from the hole and you live a blessed life.

James: Do you like what you're hearing? Do you appreciate what Jimmy is saying?

[Applause]

Sometimes wisdom really does come knocking on the door and that is what we're doing right now because God put it on our heart. We've learned some things. Jimmy referred to the book, "True Prosperity." It is inside this package with the CD's.

Here's the story of my life, basically, and how God has blessed me with true prosperity; more than riches or wealth, but its living richly and living a life that is full of the wealth of the joy of the Lord that all the riches of the world can't buy but God doesn't hinder us from gaining and succeeding in life. Here is the story of a product of a rape, no father, lived in poverty, didn't even have an address, lived in the alley or back on the dump or back on a river. But God sent before me adversity and life. I chose life. I chose blessing. I've been diligent all of my life and God blesses that diligence. This is part of the series.

Let me just reference some of the others that are here. You're going to hear from Dr. Caroline Leaf who talks about the difference in the way men think and women think and what is actually different in the brain so that you're not just different spacey-like, you're actually different in a healthy way to balance everything. You've got to see how necessary each other person is.

Robert Morris, from *The Blessed Life*, teaching on breaking the spirit of mammon and am I generous? I just heard Robert preach on *The Blessed Life* at our church, after he had already taught it here and taught it earlier. I said it is so awesome. I said, "Robert, we've got to go all across the nation with this message."

"What do you mean 'we'?"

I said, "I'm going to help you go all over the country with it." It is so great, it transforms! Well, we've got basically the insight that will help you right here in the series.

And Jay Richards, *Money, Greed, and God*, we have made an enemy of the wrong target. We're targeting the actual potential to create wealth and prosperity in which everybody can be blessed. We're making that the enemy because some people abuse it or become greedy. What Jay shares is absolutely awesome.

Creflo Dollar has got an insight, I'm going to tell you, some people pigeon hole him in the wrong place. He is not defining prosperity by so much stuff. He is showing people how you can come out of the pit of despair and defeat and not be dependent upon any source other than God, and how you can get your feet on solid ground.

We want to send you *MORE than ENOUGH* because that's what God wants you to have. If you'll simply do this -- and I'm going to ask you to do it, it is basically what we're talking about, be generous -- right now as we end the year, Betty, and begin a new year, we have just heard from the missionaries that we have got an incredible threat on children below five that are going to need special emergency nutrition. That means intravenous feeding. That means they're going to need powdered milk, sometimes sugar and water. They're going to need something to stabilize them, and we need over 400,000 meals. And those little emergency feedings cost 50 cents each. Well, it didn't take me long to compute that. We need a couple hundred thousand dollars immediately. It's not something we'd thought about.

So here's what I'm going to ask you to do. You simply make a gift to help us help others and we're going to send you *MORE than ENOUGH*. If you'll make a gift of \$100, let me show you what we want to send along with the book, along with the teaching, the CD's, with all of these lessons, we're going to send you *Money, Greed, and God*, one of the most important books, I think you'll ever read. *Who Switched Off Your Brain?* Understanding how the minds work.

And then many people have come to me and said what Rabbi Lapin shared out of the Old Testament as a Jewish rabbi, he has seven children. He and his wife are blessed beyond measure. He says if people would only understand the Word of God, the principles of God, the truth of God... unshakable. And many of my friends have said, "James, I have so highlighted in this book that I wish I could read the whole book or at least every highlight to every person I get around. What would it take?"

Well, we're asking you, make a gift of \$100. You think about how many of those nutritious meals we'll be able to get out for that. We want to send you something that will enable you to be blessed, to have enough of the blessing of God to be able to meet other needs -- legitimate needs. Ask for the material. Just say, "Lord, give me wisdom." I believe we're offering you a real answer to the prayer that you've been praying, "God, show me the way." And these gifted communicators and teachers, joining together to help you. I pray you'll ask for it.

Begin Video clip:

Announcer: In recent weeks, we've seen more and more young children under the age of five coming to our *LIFE* Centers, clinics, and feeding stations -- most are severely malnourished, requiring special care to properly feed them. Mortality rates are quickly on the rise and it is a need that certainly cannot be ignored.

With your help we can provide an additional 400,000 emergency nutritional feedings that are specially formulated for children under five, including powdered milk and intravenous feedings. At a cost of 50 cents per meal your life-saving gift of \$25, \$50, or \$100 will help provide 50, 100, or 200 emergency nutritional feedings.

With your gift we'll send you *MORE than ENOUGH*, a new dynamic eight-part audio teaching series that will show you God's plan for your financial peace and provision.

Also included is James Robison's insightful book, "True Prosperity." With your gift of \$100 or more to help provide 200 emergency feedings, you may also request these dynamic books, *Thou Shalt Prosper* by Rabbi Daniel Lapin, *Money, Greed, and God* by author Jay Richards, and *Who Switched Off Your Brain?* by Dr. Caroline Leaf.

Finally, as a special challenge, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide 2,000 emergency feedings and you may also request the back by popular demand, "As the Deer" bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your gift online today at LifeToday.org.

End of clip

On the mission field:

Translator: There are different levels of malnourishment I see in the children here. Twenty percent are malnourished. Ten percent are severely malnourished. Children under the age of five have a weaker immune system so when they suffer with malnutrition it increases the chances of them dying.

Jim: James and Betty, I'm in Central America right now with the mission team and we've visited a clinic today and talked to a doctor who basically just reached out to us asking and saying that he so desperately does need emergency nutritional feeding program at his clinic. What he is experiencing is much like clinics around the world where we're ministering. So I'm bringing the plea of doctors like the good doctor here and other doctors in other clinics that we're wanting to support with our emergency nutritional feeding program.

So please reach into your heart and make the best gift you can when you go to the phone or go online and help us fight the good fight for these precious children under the age of five who so desperately need this emergency nutritional feeding.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I am praying that you will ask for the material, *MORE than ENOUGH* for \$100 for the three extra books that will be such a blessing to you. So many of you have written, you've called the prayer line, you've said, "Pray for us. We've got some real financial challenges." We know the nation does. There are financial issues all over the world but we start the solution right at home.

Then remember, when you ask for the material, some of you may say, "You know what James? As a year-end gift or to start the new year, I want to give \$1,000. I want to give a large -- I want to give a great year-end gift to help you touch people all over the world, to help you with those emergency nutritional feedings." Pray about that. Let God direct you.

We're offering "As the Deer Panteth after the Water," the beautiful bronze. Actually, one of the most requested bronzes that we've ever created. And we know many people are saying, "God, I need your blessing! I need you to touch my life in the areas of my need." You touch someone else and you'll be amazed at how God focuses his attention on the areas of your need when you meet someone's need.

Join with Betty and me in saying thanks to Jimmy Evans for being with us. Jimmy, you and Karen are such a blessing! Thank you so much! There's Jimmy Evan's web site. You want to know where they're on television, when you can see that program or be in one of those seminars, go on that web site and you can go and attend a seminar.

Announcer: Tomorrow on *LIFE Today*, James and Betty encourage us to walk in financial peace, provision, and prosperity and truly experience *MORE than ENOUGH!*