

Week 19

5/7/13

James: I'll be honest, I don't think I've ever been more excited to have a guest than we have all this week, Dr. Ben Carson.

I'm James Robison welcoming you to *LIFE Today*. I promise you, you are going to get a whole lot of life today and all week as we talk to this wonderful gifted neurosurgeon who has wisdom for which we're grateful. If you've not read and don't ask for it every week -- I hope you'll begin now -- JamesRobison.net. I don't have a middle N so you spell it right and go there, but ask for my commentary to be sent. It comes every Friday morning and I touch on issues.

You can go to JamesRobison.net and scroll back through the columns and read about this breath of fresh air because that is precisely what he is. Then encourage your friends to read the commentaries, all of them -- because I'm touching the issues most of us are concerned about -- I believe God's concerned about. We going to join the continuing discussion that Betty and I had with the great neurosurgeon and great bright breath of fresh air, wonderful man, Dr. Ben Carson.

James: I have heard the question that people want answered -- there are many of them they want answered and you've always been so open to answer them; not like you even think you might really have the answer, you at least care. How is it that a neurosurgeon suddenly seems, at whatever point -- and I know for a fact this wasn't the first prayer breakfast he spoke at. He spoke at another one. By the way, they didn't get an advance copy of that one either.

[Laughter]

And he spoke about character and leadership and conviction with Mr. Clinton sitting right to his right, right before the scandal broke worldwide. But he never waivered; he's speaking the truth. What in the world led you to focus not only your attention on assisting those in need, and as you've described, the most important part perhaps of what happens in a person's life, why did you focus on what is going on in the country? What difference does it make?

Ben: Well, it makes a huge difference because as a physician, I'm very interested in healing the organism. But it doesn't do any good to heal an organism and then put them into an environment that is sick because they'll be right back there. So you're taking care of these wonderful little children but then putting them back into an environment where their future is in jeopardy. I like to look at the big picture here. A lot of people say, "You're a doctor. You ought to mind your own business. You have no business talking about taxes and economics. You only should stick to doctoring." What I always say to them is, "It's not brain surgery."

[Laughter]

[Applause]

But we do need to heal that environment. We need to make sure that the people in the next generation have the same opportunities that we had. We can't do that when we're destroying the economic foundation of our nation. You have a very, very powerful nation; how do you bring them down? Believe me, our enemies have asked that question.

The Romans were in the same situation, extraordinarily powerful militarily. No one could challenge them. But through their military expansionism, they began to strain their budgets. But they couldn't figure out how they were going to take care of all this. They started coming up with all sorts of schemes and accusations in order to be able to take money, particularly from the rich. They destroyed the underpinnings of their society, and they destroyed themselves from within. If you were trying to destroy America, how would you destroy America? You probably would not be able to do it with bombs and missiles but how about destroying the economic infrastructure of America? This is something that we have to be careful that we do not allow to occur. I'm not accusing anybody of trying to destroy America by destroying our infrastructure but I'm just saying, if I were trying to do it, that's how I would do it.

[Laughter]

Betty: Doesn't that infrastructure have to begin in the home; don't you think? Because we're so much about education and we need to always be improving our education, public education, but to me, that education needs to start with the foundation in the home and the principles to prepare your children to go.

Ben: Absolutely. The values that a child receives at home are the ones that provide

that child with their identity. All children look for a basis for their identity. If they don't get it from home, they're going to get it from someplace else. Too often it is with peer groups and negative peer groups. And now we also have layered on top of that political correctness.

Political correctness is rampant, particularly in our schools. "You can't mention God!" We have a scholarship program. Our theme is: Think big. We put these banners up. And each letter means something special. The "G" is for God. And some people said, "You can't put that up." In fact some lawyers came to us and said, "You can't put a 'Think Big' banner up in a public school because the "G" stands for God. That violates the first amendment, separation of church and state, and we can't have any government sponsored religion."

Well, I reminded them that the first amendment also says you can have no government suppression of religious expression. So we had a rather vigorous argument. I suggested that we resolve it at the level of the Supreme Court, which seems bold and reckless but it really wasn't because I knew the next week I was going to the Supreme Court to receive the Jefferson Award.

[Laughter]

So I figured I would ask while I was there, and I did and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said that they were all wet. Of course, that was not a violation of the first amendment or anything to do with the constitution. And of course, you can put it up there. And you know people who come up with this silly stuff, what do they know? And they try to tell us that the people who founded this country were not really god-fearing people, that they were deists, people who believed that God just put things in motion. All you have to do is go back and look at some of the letters and the prayers of George Washington. Look at what Thomas Jefferson said, James Madison, John Adams, Sam Adams -- look at all of these people and look at their writings. That's why we included specific quotes in the book, *America the Beautiful* so you could see what these people said themselves. And you can't come up with that stuff when you see it right there in writing. We need to believe.

Don't buy the people who try to rewrite our history. The fact of the matter is this is a Judeo-Christian nation. We have Judeo-Christian values. We care about each other and we need to emphasize the godly principles of loving your fellow man, caring about your neighbor, developing your God-given talents to their utmost, having values and principles that govern your life. And if we do that, we will maintain our position in the world and we will truly live up to our creative "One nation under God, indivisible,

and liberty and justice for all."

[Applause]

James: And if you understand those Judeo-Christian principles and the power and reality of legitimate biblical faith, you know you don't and you can't impose that on anyone nor can you or will you allow it to be disregarded or discarded because you stand unshakably on the unshakable foundation of absolute truth and you build on those principles, and our nation did that. I think it was interesting in your book -- it is a fantastic book.

I just want to say with all my heart, I pray you read every word of it. I pray that you encourage everyone else to read it, that you discuss it because it is simply transforming truth. Truth transforms. Truth sets us free; not somebody's opinion of truth, truth sets us free. We do have a perfect demonstration of truth in action in the person of Jesus Christ, the central figure in human history, in which the very calendar basically evolves.

But listen to what you said here of one of our founders when they were facing extremely difficult times, coming out with an understanding of a foundation, a platform that was going to be bigger than any one of them but necessary with all their diversity, the depth of conviction, all their diverse ethnicity, and all of their credentials, they would still have to come down on something much larger than any one of them, and dependent upon every one of them arriving at that same point. You would say that's a miracle.

We talk about the power of one, we have a great teacher that I referenced a moment ago named Jesus who understood but we don't, the power of oneness, where the parts fit together, each member submitting ultimately to the head so that you can literally reveal the greatness. The one who demonstrated and illustrated was Jesus. So we do not what it looks like in action. We have a perfect example and we understand that. And really and truly, so many of you who listen to us say you understand it but you see, you have actually put religion -- and by the way, let's mention this man Jesus we just commented about and complimented, his real problem was and the ones who brought him to the end of his life here, they couldn't really stop it because it is forever, but it was the government and religion that embraced, endorsed, encouraged, and accomplished the death.

Throughout history, the greatest opposition to Father God, creator God, truth of God, the absolute government, religion -- false religion that doesn't understand Father God,

creator God. Those are the two bigger problems. But I want to say to those of you who are really convinced you really know the truth, don't treat a relationship with God like a membership in some lodge or civic club or some organization. This is a relationship with the living God, born into a family of God; and you don't just go to church, you are the church. You don't just discuss God, you demonstrate God.

Listen to what Benjamin Franklin said and he wasn't actually complimented by even theologians who were very serious about the Bible, as being one of the giant spiritual people at that assembly. But listen to what he said, "In this situation of our assembly groping as if it were in the dark, to find political truth and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, sir that we not hitherto, once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding." Wouldn't that just be a wonderful... something for somebody to stand up and say to congress and to say to everybody in America? "In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room." This is this non-spiritual leader, Benjamin Franklin. Every now and then I get a little more zealous than you do. Forgive me.

[Laughter]

Sometimes, I can really sound like I'm the pastor of a black church. They have told me many times, "Man, you're the best preaching white man I ever heard." I can't help it, so pray for me. Maybe you can minister to me. But "We had daily prayer in this room for divine protection. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered."

By the way, you illustrate this explicitly not only with Washington but also the comments of the enemy, including the Indians, who kept him as a primary focal point of every attempt to kill him -- and they couldn't! They said the Great Spirit protected him. They couldn't kill him. God had a reason for him.

By the way, he didn't run for president, he was pushed into it. It wasn't something he was seeking. God give us some more people like that who are just leaders. You don't have to decide they are; they don't have to tell you they are, you can see they are. And he says, "We have observed frequent instances of the superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence, we owe this happy opportunity for consulting a peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity; and have we now forgotten that powerful friend?" This is Franklin -- this is not Billy Graham. "Or do we imagine we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, sir, a long time and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without God's notice, his notice, is it

probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, sir in the sacred writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this and I also believe that without his concurring aid, we shall... without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our partial local interest, our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves have become a reproach and a by-word down to the future ages. What is worse? Mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance despair of establishing governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war, and conquest. I therefore beg, leave to move, that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service."

Do you think we need this again today?

[Applause]

Ben: Absolutely! Absolutely!

James: I am, and you'll be with a lot of preachers and you'll be with a lot of conservative and liberal talk show hosts who will actually seem to present a message and a picture of hopelessness. I have to be honest with you, I not only believe in the Blessed Hope, I believe we have hope. I believe if we'll look to that hope, I believe the future is bright, not dim, but I think we've got to be a light. How do you feel about the future? Do you think it is hopeless, dismal or how do you feel?

Ben: I think if we listen to what Benjamin Franklin said, and some of our other leaders, I think the hope is extraordinary bright. I think God blessed this nation because we had god-fearing men who were involved in our leadership. They were people who were willing to sacrifice their-selves. You look at somebody like John Hancock who was an extraordinarily wealthy person. He was willing to give everything he had for this country. There were many people of that -- Benjamin Franklin developed a lot of wealth. He was willing to pay for the Boston Tea Party to assuage the anger of the British with his great fortune. There were all kinds of stories like that.

James: Do you know it is politically incorrect for you to say that?

Ben: Of course!

[Laughter]

James: We do have editorial discretion. We can't edit that out in order to maintain your dignity and your posture.

[Laughter]

Ben: I tell you -- I don't want to get into how much I dislike political correctness because I believe that it is an artificial muzzle that is placed on our society to keep us from discussing the pertinent changes that are going on in our value system while they are changed. And all of the sudden, we'll be somebody else and we won't even recognize who we are. We do ourselves great disservice when we are unwilling to speak up for what we believe.

But Benjamin Franklin and these guys, that was the reason that we went from virtually nowhere to the pinnacle of the world in no time flat. That's the reason that Alexis de Tocqueville came here in 1831. Europeans were fascinated. How could a nation barely 50 years old already be competing with them on virtually every level? This is unprecedented. It is unheard of. And yet, it was going on.

He looked at our systems, he looked at our educational system, our government. In the end of his two volume set, which is quite enlightening, he concluded, "America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

James: True then, when it was said, and true now. And America will cease to be good if we do not continue to trust God, and if we do not turn our hearts and minds back to God. Jesus said there is one good and that is God. And the only way we're going to have goodness in us, genuine, unconditional love flowing from our heart is to have God in us, his spirit, his life, his love -- absolutely essential.

Dr. Ben Carson will be speaking on our anniversary conference, the 18th through the 20th of July. Go online, LifeToday.org. We will actually provide meals for you on sight so that you can be in the afternoon, evening sessions, morning sessions, afternoon and evening, and hear Dr. Carson, many other great speakers like Andy Andrews, like Beth Moore, like Christine Caine, like Tony Evans, like Robert Morris, our pastor. I'll be speaking. Governor Huckabee who worked here with us for four years; he was like our Pastor Robert Morris, he kind of grew up with the ministry, kind of our kids you might say in the Lord. And Dr. Carson will bless you as the others will. Don't miss it! Dr. Sammy Rodriguez is going to also be speaking. What a week it's going to be.

Go online, make reservations, and plan to come. If you don't plan to eat with us, there is a small registration fee. You must register and the building will be filled with people who love God and love this country.

I want to show you something that I think is going to touch your heart because the fact is hearts will stop beating if we don't have love in our heart.

On the mission field:

>> The beating of a heart... you can hear it, you can feel it. It's not often that you can see it. Meet Dominga and her two sisters. They represent countless numbers of children all across the continent of Africa. These young girls show the early signs of malnutrition: Hair turning orange, their skin deteriorating, bodies weak, at times lethargic. Her frame so frail you can easily see Dominga's tender little heart doing all it can; fighting, pumping to keep her alive. Dominga may be unaware that malnutrition is dragging her to death's door but the beating of her heart counts down the days she may have left. If Dominga doesn't get enough food soon, her heart may be silenced. The solution is simple: Mission feeding saves lives.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Yes, it does. And the only way that we can keep those little hearts beating, and actually reach them before they get to that critical state to where it is touch-and-go, in either 24-48 hours we can lose them, but the miracle can still occur.

But mission feeding, as you just heard, that's where we literally put the necessary nutritious ingredients especially designed for that particular area of need. And we give them that porridge-like mix and it turns everything around. In a matter of months, they are stabilized, their lives saved, their future secure.

These beautiful bowls, they're heat resistant; in the bottom it says "life." That is precisely what is here -- life. These bowls are an expression of love on the part of the viewers just like you who watch the children who bring plastic bags, dirty rusty cans, and when the hot porridge or soup mix went in it would burn their little fingers. Sometimes they would hold those plastic bags and it would burn right through the bottom and they would drop down in the dirt to start trying to get that soup up out of the dirt because they were desperate.

You said, "Can't you give those precious little children bowls?"

The missionaries said, "No! We can't spend money on bowls when we've got to have food to save their lives."

And our viewers said, "We will! We love those children so much we'll not just give them food but we're going to make it easier for them to get the food."

They treasure those little bowls. It is a special gift of love that saves their lives, keeps their little hearts beating, gives them a future hope, gives them possibilities. We've taken people who were dying by the thousands, stabilized them and showed them how to bring the old Portuguese farms back to life. The Portuguese left years ago from areas like Angola but those farms were there. They just needed to be brought back to life. Now the people who were starving are growing food and feeding thousands of people themselves. They have learned how to live. We didn't just give them a fish, we taught them to fish. And it all starts with mission feeding; it saves lives, it gives lives, it gives them a future.

I'm asking every person watching all over the world to go to the phone right now or go online LifeToday.org. You can go there. Many people do that and I'm thankful you do, and you make the best gift you can because you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life. Your gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months. \$1,000 we can feed 100. At whatever level you can help, please do so. Would you do it right now? Mission feeding saves lives. You're the reason we have mission feeding. You're the reason it is even possible and sustainable. Please don't put this off. Go right now and make the gift God's put on your heart. We have special gifts to bless you as you bless others with the greatest gift, the gift of life.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment a child is drawing his last breath, struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone, and without our help many like him face death as well.

Today you can make a difference. You can help save a life. Life's mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of 400,000 suffering children in remote areas of Africa.

With previous food reserves gone, and parts of Africa facing its worst drought and food shortage in years, we desperately need to replenish our supplies immediately. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift, we would like to send you A Good Word for a Great Day, a 365 day devotional providing an inspirational new word, Bible verse, and promise for each new day.

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, you may request The Family Reading Bible featuring easy-to-use reading tracks, questions, and fun facts to help engage your children in God's Word.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children, and you may also request the 50th anniversary commemorative bronze, Brotherly Love.

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

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, I want to say thank you so much for your help. This beautiful book, *America the Beautiful* by Dr. Carson is now available in paperback. I tell you, the publishers have had a hard time keeping up and I'm glad. This contains so much of the same truths we shared in *Indivisible*, and it is written more in a story form. It is fabulous. If you'd like to have it, and you help us with mission feeding to save lives, you just ask for Dr. Carson's *America the Beautiful* and we'll gladly send you the paperback version of it to say thank you for your gift, along with the other gifts.

Thank you so much for your help.