

1/01/15

Week 1: India Food Factory

Jimmy Evans #2

James: Wow! Hey! Hey! You know what they're excited about? We're talking about the path to financial freedom. And it isn't because the government sent you a check, it is because you learned the source and the one who directs and gives oversight appropriately.

I'm James Robison; my wife Betty is here. We've got a wonderful guest, Jimmy Evans, you're going to see him and hear him in a minute. He joins with our pastor at Gateway Church in Southlake, Robert Morris who used to be on staff here. He's just a gift.

And then Creflo Dollar is one of my best friends that I so appreciate and admire. They have joined together to talk about financial freedom.

I want to say something about a couple here. Dr. Ressler is out here; Lawrence Ressler and his wife Sharon and he is the President right now at East Texas Baptist University. That's where I went. Some of you say, "Well, did you go to school? We can't tell." Well, I did, and anything good I got it there and from God. You know what? They encouraged that.

I got so busy preaching, Betty, as you know -- and the school, including the president back then, Dr. Bennett said preach because God was just all over the place. And they always encouraged me. But this past spring they brought me back there and I spoke. They surprised me and gave me an honorary doctor's degree from East Texas Baptist University.

And I want to thank you, Dr. Ressler, and thank all of the faculty there and the board of directors, everybody, and the student body. Welcome Jimmy Evans to *LIFE Today*.

Jimmy, good to see you, buddy.

Jimmy: Dr. Robison, Betty, how are you?

James: You don't have to call me doctor, okay? You just settle back there.

Jimmy: Well, Robert Morris got an honorary doctorate and he asked if he could start writing prescriptions.

[Laughter]

James: I haven't tried that yet but we are trying to offer spiritual prescriptions in the financial freedom, which God has given you such a wonderful insight because you're teaching on marriage and family. Would you agree that family issues that lead to divorce are often, let's say, impacted by problems financially?

Jimmy: Most people filing for divorce say they have financial problems. I don't believe there is any greater stress in life than financial stress. When you're under financial stress it is every day, it is every moment. It affects you emotionally, it affects your relationships -- it even affects your relationship with God. Because when you're under financial stress there is questions about what's going on with God? Where's God? Why are you blessing other people and not me? And one of the things that I want to talk about on this program today is God and the question, is God fair? Is God fair with us as it relates to finances because some people are very blessed. When we say prosperity, the definition of prosperity is having more than enough to do God's will for your life.

James: Say that again.

Jimmy: Having more than enough to do God's will for your life because there are only two other alternatives.

James: And he provides that by the way.

Jimmy: You bet he does. He wants us to be a blessing. So the only other two alternatives to that is not having enough. Well, that's the pits. Or having just enough; so I don't have enough to give to you guys, I have just enough for me. So how can I be a blessing to other people? How can we expand the kingdom of God, how can I help other people in need when I just have enough or I don't have enough? See that's what the devil wants. The devil wants us to live a life where we don't have enough, and we certainly don't have enough for somebody else. God wants us to live a life where we're a blessing.

When I say having more than enough to do God's will for your life, well, for some people that might be \$50,000. But for other people that might be \$500,000. It's not a certain amount of money. It's not like everyone gets a million dollars. What God wants for me is for me to have more than enough to do his will for my life so that I can be blessed and I can be a blessing.

I want to go back to the question I was asking, is God fair? Well, in Genesis chapter one there is a law in the Bible and we talk about it in this Financial Freedom series. So I'm going to talk just a tiny bit of it but if a person wants to hear this whole message it is in this Financial Freedom series. But in Genesis one God said to Adam and Eve, "I want you to go into all the world and I want you to fill the earth and I want you to subdue it."

In the next verse he said, "See, I've given you seed." He told them what to do and then he said seed is how you're going to do this. Well, today the earth is full of people, over seven billion people. Well, we're all a product of seed, our parent's seed. Well, the earth is full of produce, it's all seed. And so God said to Adam and Eve, "Here's what I want you to do." And he said, "Seed is how you're going to do it."

Well, in Galatians five the Apostle Paul says, "Don't be deceived, God's not mocked." And that word *mocked* means to throw your nose up at God. Don't be deceived, God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, that's what he's going to reap, either good seed or bad seed.

Well, so here's the issue. We all have seed. We're walking warehouses of seed. And some people feel like God is not fair to me. He's giving other people something and he's not giving me enough. We all have seed.

James: And that includes more than money. We're often, because of financial issues, we reduce all of the wherewithal and the seed to sow and we don't see that it could be caring, it could be love, it could be time, it could be encouraging words.

Jimmy: There are word seed, love seed, encouragement seed, acceptance seed -- there is all kinds of seed that we sow. But here's what the Bible says: Whatever you sow you're going to reap. Here's another way to say it: If you don't sow, you're not going to reap. And so a lot of people feel like God is being unfair to me.

Well, you're a product of your crops that you've sown. Wherever you're living today, however much you have or don't have, or whether you have good or bad, there is a law of sowing and reaping that works. So I want to talk about farmers for just a minute -- smart farmers. I come from west Texas and there's a bunch of smart farmers out there. Farmers, the number one rule of farming is...

James: You have to be smart, by the way, out there to grow stuff because it's hard to get the water to the crops and a lot of your dirt that you planted blow away, and then it gets hailed out, and it rains mud. And yet, the farmers out there are some of the most successful on the planet because they're smart farmers.

Jimmy: Well, they don't eat their seed. The number one rule of farming is don't eat your seed. You know when you have a harvest, you might eat some of your harvest, you might save some of your harvest but you have to have enough seed to sow again. So when Karen and I got married I had a spirit of poverty. I didn't grow up in poverty but I grew up next door to it.

[Laughter]

But I had a spirit of poverty. I never expected to be wealthy, I never expected to have money and we barely got by. Well, we met -- the year that Karen started giving to the

church, I made \$7,000 total income that year. And we went to church and there was some preacher preaching on giving. I thought I'll never come back to this church. I felt more sorry for me than I do for this church. I went home and I thought, well, that's that.

Well, Karen came up to me and said, "I'd like to give money to the church." I thought -- I had an out-of-body experience. I mean I just thought I married a fanatic. She's crazy. She is going to kill us. She wanted to give \$40. It might have been \$4 million -- it didn't matter, we didn't have it.

[Laughter]

So she gave it. She gave \$40 to the church. I cannot explain on a calculator what happened. The only thing I know is two things happened: A spirit of poverty was broken over us and we began to see increase come into our lives. I didn't get any huge checks in the mail or anything like that, but we began to see an expansion of our finances that was so significant that even me, with my hard heart, I realized what was happening.

But the point is we were eating all of our seed. And when we went to church that weekend and that pastor was talking about giving, I look back at that time when I was so mad at that pastor; he was one of the most important men in our lives. He changed the history of our lives and our children's lives. We were eating all of our seed. So farmers don't sit around waiting for a harvest they hadn't planted but Christians do. We're expecting something to come in. We say, "Well, I don't have any friends."

Well, how many friend seeds have you sown? How many people have you befriended? "Well, no one encourages me." How many people have you encouraged? Because Jesus says, "Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together."

So number one is: Don't eat all your seed. You have seed that you need to sow for a greater harvest. Number two is: Sow what you want to reap. If I want a friend I need

to sow friendship into somebody. If I want greater finances, I need to be sowing into the kingdom of God; I need to be giving.

I want to say something very important and that is James and Betty are very humble and modest people but they're the same people behind the scenes they are with the people that you see on this set. But *LIFE Outreach* is phenomenal. Millions and millions and millions of people are being affected by this ministry and so I've been connected with them for a long time. They're building a food center in India that's feeding millions of starving children in India, plus everything else they're doing around the world.

Here's what I'm saying. When you give to this ministry, you're sowing a miracle. You're not just giving money, you're giving a miracle. And there are some of you, you're watching this right now and you need a miracle in your marriage, you need a miracle in your finances, you need a miracle in your body or someone in your family is sick.

So when you give (and you're going to get this Financial Freedom series) but when you give, you're not just sowing dollars, you're sowing a miracle into someone else's life. And I know, James and Betty, there are many children and many people alive today because of *LIFE Outreach*. I know that for a fact -- besides the people that have been led to the Lord.

So whenever I'm giving to the Lord, whenever Karen and I are giving, sometimes we're just giving obediently to the Lord but sometimes we have a need in our family and we'll give a gift and we'll say, "Lord, we're sowing this but we don't need a financial harvest, we're blessed. We need a miracle for our grandchildren. We need a miracle over here." So when we're sowing, we're actually asking God to give us a harvest in a specific area of our lives.

But when we sow, whatever we're sowing, the Bible says, "Whatever you sow, you're going to reap it." So what do you want to reap? If you want a better crop sow better seed. The number three thing is sow according to how much you want to reap.

Here's what Jesus said, "Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over. Men will pour it back into your lap for with your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." Now see here's a statement I want to make. This is kind of shocking to some people. God doesn't decide how blessed you are, you do. According to your standard of measure, I'll measure it back to you.

So Jesus says give and the context there is not money, the context there is anything you give. Give and it will be given back to you, whatever you are giving --

James: Jesus is talking actually about forgiveness in that passage, too.

Jimmy: Exactly, grace, mercy, how gracious are you? How non-judgmental are you? How accepting are you? So he's saying give and it will be given back according to your standard of measure.

See, when I'm giving to the Lord, when I'm sowing into the kingdom of God, I'm actually creating a measure that God measures it back to me with. An example is do you want a thimble or do you want a swimming pool? When it comes time -- see in heaven, this is simplistic but in heaven if I'm saying, "God give me a blessing."

And God says, "Angel, bring me Jimmy's measure over here." An angel comes back with a thimble and says you know.

And God says, "Let me bless you, Jimmy." And I'm waiting for my blessing and I feel this little drop it's like what was that?

James: A mercy drop. But open the showers we plead.

Jimmy: See I want to be praying for a blessing and say, "God bless me" and God says, "Angel, bring me Jimmy's blessing." He will say, "It will take three of us." His standard is so -- the standard of measure that Jimmy uses is so big. We create the standard that God blesses us back with. So every time I give -- so here's what I love about God. The widow gave her mite to the Lord and she gave more than a person that was giving a

lot more money because it is not based on how much I'm giving it's based on how much I have to give. So some people watching right now, you know a \$100 gift or a \$200 gift, that's a sacrificial gift. For another person it might be \$2,000 or \$10,000 or whatever.

But all I know is this, when I'm giving to the Lord, and giving to the Lord means sowing into the kingdom of God to help people, physically, practically, spiritually, I'm sowing. I have a certain amount of seed in my life and if I'm just going to tip God, if I'm just going to be very conservative and I love -- I was reading something about Rick Warren the other day, and God says, "We can give by reason or we can give by revelation." When we give by reason, what it is is I have ten and I really need a lot of these for myself and say, "Here God, I'm going to give you one or I'm going to give you half of one or whatever."

Giving by revelation says this, "God, how much do you want me to give?"

And then God says, "I want you to give three."

I remember the time that Karen and I were giving to a building program at our church in Amarillo and we had been giving for many years. We love to give. And God broke through my hard heart and I love to give. We prayed about what to give and God said, "Give everything."

And Karen came in and I said, "Have you been praying about giving to the building fund?"

And she said, "Yeah."

I said, "What did the Lord say to you?"

She said, "What did he say to you?"

[Laughter]

I said, "What did he say to you?" Because he had told me to give everything. We didn't sell our house, we didn't sell our cars, we gave all the money in our bank account, we sold all of our stocks and bonds, we gave all of the money in our savings account. We literally, when we gave that gift, we walked down the middle aisle of our church and we laid down a check that represented all of the cash that we had. And our dream was to have a house; we wanted to build a house. But we laid our dream on the altar. We gave everything we had to the Lord.

Two months later Karen's parents said to us, "We don't want to wait until we are dead to bless y'all. Build a house and we'll pay for it."

James: That's great! Father through a father.

Jimmy: We live literally in our dream house and I remember when we went and we laid down everything and we got back a debt free dream home. So you cannot outgive God.

Betty: Can I ask you real quick, I know we're about to run out of time but what about the family that says, "Okay, I've mismanaged my finances. I'm in a mess! How do I give? What do I do?"

Jimmy: That's a great question because managing money is a part of stewardship. I think when we get to the point where we know that we've sinned, that we repent to God -- and repentance just means I changed my mind; it means I'm going to be a better steward. It means I'm going to be more careful in the way I get out of this.

But here's the wonderful blessing about like Malachi three where God tells us to tithe. He says, "I will rebuke the devourer." First of all he forgives us. He's a forgiving -- he's a gracious Father. He forgives us.

The second thing he stops the devil from attacking us.

The third thing he says, "I'll open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing you can't receive." That repairs all the financial problems right there. When God forgives

you, he stops the devil from attacking you and he begins to supernaturally open the windows of heaven. Not only does he forgive us and repair the problem but now we're blessed. I know so many people, I know there are people watching, you're in debt, you have financial problems, whatever, and Robert and Creflo and I, the information that we've put together here, it will bless your life.

What we want to do is just to help you to experience the blessing that God created you for and to let you know you're not a second class citizen. God isn't against you. He's your friend; he's not your enemy.

I started out behind the eight ball but by God's grace I mean I would be bankrupt many times and be living with a spirit of poverty but God has taught us these principles that are true for all of us.

My prayer, James and Betty, would be that people would really take the opportunity to get these fantastic resources and as you are getting these resources you are sowing into one of the most effective ministries in the world that's reaching people all over the world and literally saving little kids' lives.

James: Do you appreciate what Jimmy has just shared with us? Boy, I think it is great! Let me just develop something here if you'll just listen to me a minute. You've heard me many times say, if you want your prayers answered be an answer to somebody's prayer. So really start thinking this way right now. This is Isaiah 58. It would be good to just kind of note this, before the day is over, the evening is over, go read it. And in here the chosen fast is setting you free, breaking bondage.

But here's what he said when you notice the hungry, the downtrodden, the poor, and you give to them, then he said, "I will answer speedily. I will answer quickly." If you want your prayer answered be the answer to some mother's prayer for a child that's hungry or hurting or someone in need. In other words, walk around seeking to be an answer to a prayer.

How about we live to be an answer to Jesus' prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done" right here now? How about we pray to be one with the father in unity as a

family with one another? How about we be an answer to that prayer? Watch and see what happens to the flow of God through our life not only in provision but in direction for everything we do. And watch how many people you are able to bless.

Let me show you something right now. I believe it will move you as much as anything you have seen in a long time. And this is precisely what we're talking about. Look and see where I can sow a seed that becomes an answer to a need and a prayer. And then let's watch what God does to enable me to continue doing that for his glory.

Watch closely. I think you're going to want to be a part of this.

On the mission field

Announcer: The world is passing by this seemingly unnoticed young boy and his constant companion, hunger.

It's a scene played out millions of times a day in a country of over one billion people.

In the midst of this crisis and the startling numbers, there was a little boy from the slums of India who became an inspiration to many.

>> This is Santoosh. As you can see he's not doing very well. In fact, he is one of the most malnourished children that I've ever seen in India. This young boy right here, the first time I came in here to visit him, he was being served a plate of food. He had a little plate of rice with some lentil soup on top of it. And you can see that he's severely malnourished.

But when I came in the door he smiled and said "hello" and he asked me if I would come in and share his meal with him; that's the kind of heart that this little guy has right here. He has a heart that wants to give even of the very little bit that he has. He's a sweet boy.

He is not very well right now. We're hoping to be able to feed him, nourish him, and give this child a future and a hope. Right now the future and the hope of this child is

not very good. In fact, it is a pretty devastatingly bleak situation as you can see. This here, sad to say, is a real picture of what is happening in this nation right now.

There are so many children that are sick, so many children that are malnourished, so many children that are abandoned. Disease has taken a hold of them. Disease has taken their mom and dad because of poverty, because of all of these conditions. They're suffering.

Please prayerfully consider partnering with us so that we can give hope and life to children just like Santoosh.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, I'm telling you, I'm just looking at a miracle. The missionary, Dwayne Weehunt came here from Baylor for a Bible study and got saved. Now he is a missionary in India and our partner.

That little boy, Santoosh, he moved us as deeply as anything we've ever seen. And I regret to tell you that Santoosh died. He was sitting with Kathy Troccoli and her heart broke when he picked up a picture and pointed and talked about it was his daddy, his papa; and his daddy had died. Santoosh died shortly thereafter.

One in three malnourished children in the world are in India. Now we started just like we're Mother Theresa, was being the hands of Jesus and showing them Jesus and feeding those children. Well, we've just kept going in those areas. But we've reached a place, Betty, where right now we've got 5,000 because see, most of our feeding has been in Africa where it's been crisis after crisis, drought, horrible things happening, so much death. We've been able to save 8-9 million lives that the governments have reported we've saved their lives; praise God for that because we've reached even more for that for Christ. In India, we've reached over 10 million people who have accepted Christ.

But, Betty, we've been taking children that were being trafficked; we've built children's homes. Here's what we need, we need a food factory. We have to have over \$2 million for that food factory.

Here's what it will do if you will help us build it right now. We want to send you the Financial Freedom series and we're asking you to make a gift. We really don't sell product. We ask you to make a gift to be an answer to prayer and meet a need and be a miracle worker -- literally, be a miracle, be a part of it and we're going to send you something that will open miraculous blessings in your life with an understanding of how God wants to flow the river of his life and love through you freely and we just release it.

So what we're going to ask you to do is help us build that center. And we need a miracle. As we end a year and begin a year, what a way to close out a year. A lot of you take advantage of great year-end gifts, it will help you. Thank God we can do that. We should have credit for that. But also, as you begin the New Year how about we begin it by sowing the best possible seed? Would you help us build that center?

Let me give you an example. If you made a gift of \$40 and we'll send you the audio tapes, if you'll do that. If you'll make a gift of \$120 we'll send you all of the material and the books that are part of the series. And a gift of \$1200 and we'll send you all of that plus the beautiful glass sculpture, "The Blessing."

But here's what I want you to know. This is what's going to happen. Your \$40 gift or \$120 gift or \$1200 gift will be multiplied ten times in its impact. That \$40 will have a \$400 impact that \$120 will have a \$1200 impact because we'll go from 5,000 to 50,000 that we're able to feed. You're going to save the little boys and girls like Santoosh. You're going to save entire families.

Father, I pray everyone watching right now will go to the phone or go online and say, "Here is my gift of love and life" and sow the seed you put on their heart; in Jesus' name.

Would you right now dial the number? If you've got a broken heart, it's a prayer line that love paid for, it's an 800 number because we love you and someone helps us reach out to you. Would you reach out today and say, "I want to be part of a miracle"? "I want to be an answer to a prayer. I want to save a life and point them to the source of life, Jesus and his love."

Make the best gift you can for the glory of God. Would do you that? Ask for the gifts that we have for you to bless you, and we're so happy to send them to you. You can go online LifeToday.org or go and dial the number, use your bankcard like a check, that's how you should use it all the time. Thank you for making that gift. If you write a check, call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail, make it to *LIFE*. That's what you're giving.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Hunger, malnutrition, starvation; all global concerns, especially for children and for the families who have to watch them needlessly suffer.

With your support *LIFE* will complete construction on our first food factory in India. Once completed, the factory will go from producing 5,000 meals per day to 50,000 meals per day, helping to feed ten times more hungry children. That means your gift of \$40 will have a ten times impact of \$400. A gift of \$120 will have a ten times impact of \$1200. And your generous gift of \$1200 will have a ten times impact of \$12,000.

With your gift of \$40 or more, request the audio and video series *Your Path to Financial Freedom*. In this series Jimmy Evans, Creflo Dollar, and Robert Morris team up to deliver real answers for your financial freedom from a biblical perspective. The package, available in CD and DVD or optional flash drive, also includes Jimmy Evans booklet, *Blessed and Financially Free*.

With your gift of \$120 or more you will receive *Your Path to Financial Freedom* along with Robert Morris' book, *The Blessed Life* and Creflo Dollar's book, *The Holy Spirit: Your Financial Advisor*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 or more and have a final opportunity to request our commemorative glass sculpture, *The Blessing*.

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

End of clip

Begin video clip

Jimmy: Jesus says "give and it..." And what "it" means is anything. Anything you give this promise is for -- anything! Love, blessing, prayers, encouragement, financial blessing -- whatever it is that you give, he says it is going to come back to you. When you give to the Lord it's going to come back to you according to your standard of measure.

Now listen to what I'm about to say now -- listen to what I'm about to say -- I'm about to slap your brain. Can I slap your brain? I'll be gentle. I'm going to slap your brain. Listen to what I'm about to say. God doesn't decide how blessed you are, you do.

End of clip**In the studio**

James: Betty and I want to say thank you for sowing a seed of love, sowing a miracle like Jimmy Evans said. We're anxious to send you all the material and help you walk the path to financial freedom. Will all of you here, who are going to walk this path and who are going to be part of a miracle, would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Jimmy Evans for being a blessing? You are a blessing. Thank you! Thank all of you so much. Thank you. I wish I could give you a hug. Let us put something in your life that will not only change your life but all the people you will be able to touch. Thank you!