

1/20/15
Week 4
Governor Mike Huckabee

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty and this is James. And we have a dear, dear friend with us today.

James: We've got Governor Mike Huckabee with us. Governor Mike Huckabee stays with the G's, you know Governor. And now he's got a book; it is just now like you can get it. It is amazing -- *God, Guns, Grits, and Gravy*. What in the world are you talking about? Would you welcome Governor Mike Huckabee to *LIFE Today*?

Mike: Thank you, James! Great to be here.

James: Welcome home!

Mike: It's great to be back. Thank you for having me.

James: Does an Arkansas boy feel comfortable in Texas?

Mike: Except during football season, yes.

[Laughter]

Thank you so much for having me. This book is going to be a lot of fun for people. If they live in the land of God, guns, grits and gravy -- and people say, "Where is that?" It's anywhere in the America that is not in New York, Washington, or Hollywood.

[Laughter]

What I try to do in this book is to say, look, there are three bubbles of influence that really set the table for American culture: New York, Hollywood, and Washington, DC. And whether it is fashion or finance or politics, news, entertainment, really, our world is essentially created by the people who live in those, what I call bubbles. They are bubbles because those folks don't get out much.

I go to New York every week; and I'm there every week to do my show for FOX. I go in as late as I can, I get out as quick as I can. A couple of days is all I need. People ask me, "Have you moved to New York?" I say, "Not unless they let me duck hunt in Central Park."

[Laughter]

It is not my kind of town. Here's what I've learned. People there think that they are all of America. They don't understand those of us who live out here in what some people call "fly over country." So the land of God, guns, grits, and gravy is really an explanation of the difference between the Bubbleville of those areas, and what I call the Bubbaville, where Bubbas live; where people live who drive trucks and who hunt and fish.

James: And who work!

Mike: And who work -- and work hard!

James: On purpose they work!

Mike: Yeah! And people who go to church and they pray and they teach their children to pray and they don't use profanity in settings, especially around women. I used to watch movies, James, and I'd watch a movie and I'd think, this is going to be pretty good. Then there would just be this gratuitous profanity and it was such disgusting language. I thought, why do they put that language there? People don't talk like this in real life. Then I started working in New York and I found out oh, yes they do.

[Laughter]

Yes, they do! But growing up in our world, again, the land of God, guns, grits and gravy, well, we would have been slapped to the floor if we had said things like that. And you never cursed around a woman. That was just -- and women just didn't use profanity. If they did, they were considered trash.

James: I lived in a low level area. I lived in poverty areas and we had rough, we had gangs but I can remember the first time I heard somebody use the F word. And it shocked me and I turned... And here I'm not a Christian, I didn't have a father, we were poor, but I thought, just said that at school? It stunned me.

Now it is almost as though you go to entertainment you'd be stunned if it wasn't almost every sentence. And it's like it's the language that the entertainment community, and even in so many of the publications today, I don't care if you go to Huffington Post to say, "Oh, let's get the news here" and it is filled with all this junk. The whole world is going that way. It is like they're saying this is the way it is with most of America. I've got to be honest with you, Bubbaville and most of America sadly has kind of handed the future off to these people by just trying to take care of business at home and they don't realize all these other people in Bubbleville are giving us the business and literally taking us over the cliff. They seem to not realize it but they better wake up because these are the people that can correct the course, in my opinion.

Mike: That's exactly what can happen. One of the things I want to do is help people who live in Bubbaville feel better about who they are. They don't need to feel embarrassed or ashamed that they're not in New York, Washington, or Hollywood. They need to be grateful that they live in a land where people will still pull their cars over when the funeral procession is coming by; that people will still speak to each other in the store even if it is a total stranger. You learn in New York, never make eye contact with a stranger. It creeps New Yorkers out. "What do you want?"

[Laughter]

No, I'm serious. So you just swim in your own lane. There is just too many people to say hello to, I guess. But we're used to going into Wal-Mart and we say, "Hi! How are you?" "Hi! Good to see you!" And it is just normal. We don't think a thing about it.

I like that culture, James. I like that sense of community. I don't think we need to be ashamed of it. I don't think we ought to raise our kids where they feel like they're being deprived because they live in a small town, because they live in a place where people still raise the flag, where they tear up when the national anthem is played. I want people to love this country.

So I do this book for two reasons. One, to let people in Bubbaville feel that they're okay. But I also want to explain who we are to the people in the bubbles because they don't get us. They don't understand us. The truth is we understand them pretty well because every movie and television series is set in where? -- Hollywood or New York. We even know the neighborhoods of New York without having been there. But they don't know our neighborhoods. They don't know how we live.

I know from conversations, just the ownership of a firearm scares the living daylights out of a lot of people in New York City, even people that I work with. You'll talk about something regarding a gun and they get tense like they're ready to dive up under the table, like something is going to happen. I'm thinking, guys, we grew up with a healthy understanding that firearms are there to protect us, they're not there to hurt us. And we grew up with such a healthy respect and it is drilled into us...

James: ...Sporting activities that is exciting to people.

Mike: It is all about safety, it is all about responsibility; lessons that then transfer as we live the rest of our lives learning, take care of our business, be safe, and be responsible. And if you're not responsible what happens? You lose privileges and rights. It is a great life lesson. And most of us learn it when we're five or six years old with a BB gun.

James: And we really did. The whole idea right now of the Bubbleville that concerns me is it seems to be an attitude that the people who have been successful are really public enemy number one. I know a lot of people who are successful.

As a matter of fact, we're drilling water wells right now. We have people who drill a water well, that's \$4800. We have people who will drill several water wells. They have been successful and they're full of love. I'm finding a lot of wealthy people that are tired of being perceived as public enemy number one and they're beginning to focus their attention on how can we help the people who have been overlooked? They have not been focused on to help, they've left it up to Uncle Sam, made him Father God, God almighty -- and he is not God almighty, he is not even a good uncle any more, and we're going to have to get this under control.

I'm finding some of the successful people realizing that the ability God gave us to succeed we need to pass it on and not just hand it off with our taxes to Uncle Sam. I am watching what I perceive to be an awakening where the upper end is saying, hey, we've got some responsibility, not just paying taxes or being perceived as the enemy, and where people who haven't made as much need to see them as this is opportunity. We can all ascend if we go together. I see a tremendous need to pull together.

When I read your title here, you are saying that the average American is not to be overlooked. The upper end and the upper echelon of quote "big shots" in the political echelon of the elitists, you better learn to speak the language of the people and not manipulate them anymore. We better begin to communicate. I hear you attempting to

communicate with the greater population in America, the only ones who can correct the course and we better communicate well.

Mike: And this book is written for people who sweat through their clothes every day, who lift heavy things, who get their hands dirty. I didn't write this for the people at Harvard; they're not going to understand it, it will be over their heads. This is written...

[Laughter]

This is written for people who whether they have a great education they are smart people. Because I'm going to tell you something, country people are resourceful people. Poor people are resourceful people. You know why? -- Because they have to be. They have to learn. I grew up like you did as a poor kid.

Let me tell you something. We didn't have all the elaborate toys so if we wanted to play King Arthur and the Knights of the Roundtable, a trash can lid became our shield, a yardstick was my sword, my bicycle was my horse. We put cards in the spokes to make it sound like a motorcycle. We made up things.

Betty: There is nothing wrong with being creative!

Mike: We were creative. We learned to be creative.

James: We had some serious fights too.

Mike: Yes, we did. And it is a wonder. Our parents would always say, "You're going to put your eye out!" It is a wonder I have anything to see with!

[Laughter]

But we survived our childhood. We didn't have helicopter parents hovering over us to make sure we didn't stump our toe or somebody said something to hurt our feelings. We got our feelings hurt a lot and we hurt some people's noses in the process; that's how we learned to grow up.

You mentioned about the people drilling water wells. Let me tell you something. In the land of God, guns, grits, and gravy, you know who the most generous people in America are? A survey, and I quote the survey, the most generous people in America are not the people living in the bubbles. People who are off to the left politically who

are all talking about how we need to help the downtrodden, they give the least amount of money to charity in the country! You know where the most money comes from? -- From the southern poor states where people go to church, where they love God and they have an understanding of stewardship.

So I don't want people who live in this wonderful "fly over country" to think, oh, I wish we could be like them. I'm thinking, no, you don't want to be like that. You want to be generous. You want to be that person who makes the sacrifice and doesn't have \$4800 but will spend it anyway because you say, "I've got all the water I can pour in my house. There's people that don't have any." And that's who is giving, in many cases, the sacrificial gifts; of good, responsible stewards who are giving out of a heart of compassion and generosity.

James: You know what would erect us too, when we were kids without anything? Had somebody been telling us they were going to come by every week and give us a check, "Just stay where you are." You and I knew, if we got out of where we were, we had to work our way out. If we wanted anything, we had to go earn it. Nobody was going to come give it to us.

What's happened today is these manipulators have told people, "We'll take care of you and give you everything" even though we're supporting all kinds of derelict habits and we're even supporting drug habits -- all kinds of excesses. And there is no accountability, no responsibility because there is no one at home close overseeing what's going on with all the people's money that we're just doling out and we're actually destroying the incentive and tenacity that literally gave us the ability to go out and make something out of very difficult circumstances. There wasn't anything going to stop me. If I wanted something, I had to work to get it. Somehow we have sold the lie to the American people.

Mike: We have. If we tell people that we're going to pay you to not work but we're going to punish you if you do by putting you in a higher and higher tax bracket, and the more that you earn the harder you work, if you work two shifts, you get less money because the government will take most of the second shift.

I'm not talking about rich people; I'm talking about people just wanting to reach the next rung in the ladder in middle class. If they work two shifts at the factory they don't get double the pay, they're going to get barely over the first shift because the government will say, "Oh, you're making that much? Well, you must be doing something wrong." Now in the meantime, if you really want to get some government

help, go home, put your feet up, watch E.S.P.N. all day and you'll qualify for a bunch of grants.

People in what I call "the real world" understand if you pay people to not work long enough they'll get used to not working. And if you punish people for working real hard they'll figure that it doesn't pay to work real hard.

We grew up in a time and in a world where working hard was what it was all about. I'd still be in poverty in Hope, Arkansas had it not been for the fact that my dad said, "Son, you want BB's for your BB gun? Go collect pop bottles in your little red wagon. When you get enough to go to the western auto store, you can buy you a tube of BB's for your Daisy 25 -- and then you've got some BB's." "You want a ball glove? Well, go sell cards door to door or see if somebody needs their leaves raked." I understood that, and I'm not the worse off for that, I'm the better off for that.

I loved the stories that I can convey to people. I'm going to tell you one that you're going to love. There is a makeup artist in Little Rock, Arkansas named Nancy. She was out with some girlfriends one night. They were eating dinner at a restaurant. She had an early call the next day. She wanted to go home and get some sleep. None of them wanted to go, they want to sit around and talk. They wouldn't take her home and she had ridden with somebody else so she called to see how much a cab would cost. It was going to cost her \$25 to get a cab home in Little Rock.

She said, "I'm not doing that."

She looked next door. There's a Papa John's Pizza. She picks up her cell phone, she calls Papa John's and said, "I'd like to order a pizza for delivery."

They said, "Where would you like it delivered?"

She said, "My house and I'd like to ride home with it."

[Laughter]

Nancy...

Betty: Now that's incentive!

Mike: A \$10 pizza and for \$10 she gets a ride home and a pizza. Now let me ask you something. If you are in a bind who do you want to be stuck with? Nancy who will

get you home or some N.B.A. from Harvard with a B.M.W. who wouldn't figure out in a dozen ways he'd have to go to an A.T.M. to figure could he pay for the taxi?

I'm telling you, don't tell me that country people and people in rural America aren't smart. Even if they aren't well educated, I'd much rather, if I'm stuck on the roadside see some good ol' boys in a pickup truck who might have fixed something before than somebody who had never opened the hood other than to show off what a big motor he has. I'm telling you, there is something to be said for the way we live out here in the land of God, guns, grits and gravy.

[Applause]

James: I'll tell you what. Betty and I, we live in an area that's got some pretty nice homes. We live in a nice neighborhood and we still, we must be Bubba because I promise you, we have the same convictions. We believe in hard work, we believe in loving our neighbor, we believe what Paul said in Philippians chapter two, that we're not to look out only for our own interests but also the interests of others. That really is saying exactly what Jesus said when he said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

You see, Paul said, "Look out for your own interests." You see in the free market world "your own interests" is what causes you to go to work. You're interested in your family, you're interested in success -- nothing wrong with that! But with the same diligence that you look out for your own interests, look out also for the interests of others.

Why can't we all find a way to get in the game so that we're all responsible for what they're doing, not with somebody else's money but all of our money? You would see this whole thing revolutionized, you would free the American people, we would become more productive, interested in our own well-being and more effective in being interested in others.

Mike: There is a way to do that. The fair tax is a tax...

James: That was a good campaign speech by the way.

Mike: That's a great campaign speech.

James: I bet that's in this book right here.

Mike: It is in that book. That is in the book! The fair tax is a tax on consumption not

productivity. Why should you punish people for their productivity? You shouldn't! But if you tax consummation, guess what? The richest people will pay the most taxes because they consume more. But everybody will pay something.

See I believe in the biblical understanding of stewardship. Everybody should have something invested. God doesn't say, "Oh, you're too poor, don't give anything." He says, "Everyone give a tithe." What does that mean? I gave a tithe, James, when Janet and I barely could rub two nickels together. We were looking for the other nickel in the sofa cushion.

[Laughter]

I understand what... But you know what? God blessed on giving whether we had a lot or whether we didn't. God's blessed us recently. We're grateful for that. But I'm telling you something, giving proportionately is biblical.

So if everybody said, "Look, I'm only going to pay a tax based on what I consume," then everyone is going to contribute but they're going to contribute according to that which they have, rather than that which they wish they had. That makes more sense. And one of the best things about that is we would get rid of the I.R.S. They would be gone. Done forever and forever!

[Applause]

James: Let me tell you something. For our leaders to sit down and talk about what he just said would be so much more simple than sitting down and talking about Obamacare or health care when they absolutely are clueless what to do about it. Do you like this guy? Would you just say thank you, Mike!

[Applause]

You can get the book in the bookstores. And I tell you what, Mike, if you don't mind, if there is some people that would like to have it who are watching us, who love to help people just to say thank you, we're sending Betty's, really, her life journey and much of that journey has been with me, and obviously, you know that would be challenging, but God has been giving her strength.

Mike: Betty is a saint! We all know it.

James: A miracle worker! But here is her journal and her journey as well as through

life but also what she wrote as we were dealing with the loss of our daughter and that pain. We'll be more than happy to send you all of those if you'll just do this, help us give a cup of water in Jesus' name. Would you do that? I want you to see a young man, his name is France. I want you to see what he's doing as a young boy to share.

On the mission field

Open captions: My father left my mother when my sister was born. And my mother died two years ago. My mother got sick and she died because of the dirty water.

Announcer: Here in Madagascar life is hard under even the best of circumstances. But for some, it is brutal. For two years France has tried to care and provide for his sister the best he could. The same water that robbed them of a mother now threatens her life too -- and his.

Open captions: Almost all the people here are sick because of the dirty water but we still have to drink it.

Announcer: Despite the cruelty of all he has endured, this remarkable young man has grown a heart of compassion for the suffering. He saw his mother's pain and struggled after she was left to raise a family alone. He remembers her tears.

Open captions: I regret not giving all that I could to my mother because now that I take care of my little sister, I can imagine how terrible my mother's life was when my father left. She was all alone and had to take care of us. Once a month there is a big container from the boat and I get \$2.50 for one day of work, and I can buy some stuff and share it with people around here -- especially the mothers who don't have a job or house. I feel good doing that for other mothers who care for their young ones.

Announcer: Think about it, in a place of extreme need, under circumstances that would leave most people crushed, bitter, and broken, France counts his blessings, thinks of others, and gives generously in the midst of his need, simple acts of generosity. Yours today could save a life like that of France or the little sister he cares for. You see clean water is life to them and a hope for a better future.

End of clip

In the studio

James: All of you thank God for the example of that young man that you've just seen in one of the poorest nations in the world, Madagascar.

[Applause]

There is a young man... Actually, Governor Huckabee, he is doing what we were talking about. He is loving others as he loves himself. He cares about himself; he's trying to take care of himself. He is making a little bit of money but he was spending his time helping others. Isn't that what we can find great joy doing?

Jesus said, "If you give a cup of water in my name you won't lose your reward." I really believe what Jesus is saying, Betty, is if you understand the power of generosity and love expressed you can't possibly lose. You see, because when you serve and you bless that in itself is blessing -- it is unspeakable blessing.

Betty and I have never in our lives -- never -- in over 50 years that we've been married, we have never given a gift thinking the person we gave it to might do something for us. We've always given it to bless. We've never actually made a gift thinking what would come back to us, knowing that when you sow you do reap. But we found such joy in giving to bless; that was all the reward we need -- and the focus was there and it still is.

We have found that you, the viewer have found indescribable joy doing exactly what that young man was doing -- we can do something to help others. Let me tell you what we can do. He's trying to get some water when they deliver some, we can drill a well right in their midst. We can give them fresh clean water and eradicate so many of the diseases.

Would you right now reach out and touch someone with love? Would you go to the phone, dial the number, it's always there as a prayer number if you need someone to pray with you and it's paid for by love. Would you dial the number today and say, "I want to help drill a water well in that village"?

Our goal is to drill 500 this year. We have drilled 4,000. When I say "we" that's all of us together. Betty and I enjoy giving to every water well emphasis. Can you drill a well? Do you have a \$4800 gift or would you make one? Would you make a part of that gift

amount? -- \$1200 and pray, "Lord, raise up three more." Could you give \$2400 and pray it will be matched by someone else?

Please keep this in mind because this is where most of the support comes. A gift of \$48 gives ten people water the rest of their life. \$144 as an example, 30 people water for the rest of their life! There is a level at which all of us can participate.

We have some gifts to share with you that I know you're going to appreciate. Our viewers have asked, "Would you please give us those Water for Life coffee cups again?" I'm telling you, once you drink coffee out of it, you'll want to take it wherever you get coffee and you'll want your friends to have them. And you know what? It brings up the conversation about blessing others with a cup of water. We're going to send them to you to say thank you.

And we've got the beautiful Kinkade painting, it is a canvas, it is framed just like you see it and you will cherish it. We want to send it to you if you'll make a gift toward a well of \$1200 or more. If possible, I hope you'll give a well.

Please dial the number. Use your bankcard like a check or go LifeToday.org and make the gift right there. Thank you so much for sharing! Thank you for sharing the love of God in a very meaningful way.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice: drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution! *Mission Water for Life* is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people; \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh, clean, disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift you'll receive the brand-new *Free to Be Me* 40-day devotional where Betty shares the challenges, victories, and insights God gave her while struggling

through fear and insecurity. You'll also receive Betty's book, *Free to Be Me*. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request *LIFE's* inspirational coffee mug set featuring encouraging quotes and scripture to brighten your mornings for years to come!

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: In addition to the gifts that we have mentioned, if you'd like to have Mike Huckabee's book, *God, Guns, Grits, and Gravy*, I think it will inspire a lot of people to do the right thing. Weren't you inspired by that young man?

Mike: He blessed me! Because if he can give out of what he has, which is nothing, it makes us all realize we can give out of the something God's given us. It's a beautiful story!

James: I'm finding people experience so much joy doing it. Mike, I love you. You know that, buddy! Would you do another program with us this week? Let's talk about -- I mean a lot of people are asking me, "What do you think Governor Huckabee is going to do? You think he might run for president in the future?" Can we talk about that on the next show?

Mike: Well, we are now because you just brought it up.

[Laughter]

James: All right. Tune in! We'll talk to Mike later in the week. God bless you. Thank all of you for being here!