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Week 32 WFL
The Stream Special
Jay Richards

James: Oh, boy! This is exciting to me. This is quite a day. I'm James Robison; my wife Betty and I welcome you to *Life Today*. I'm holding something that is kind of a miracle. In the book that Jay Richards and I wrote, and he happens to be here with me, we wrote *Indivisible*. And we wrote this together to try to show our nation the way out of darkness. Governor Huckabee said when he read the book, he said that if you read *Indivisible*, the scripture that says "my people perish for lack of knowledge" will no longer hold true. You are going to have knowledge of the truth to literally correct our nation's perilous course.

Jay and I found out that people created in the image of God don't have any challenge they can't meet. We don't have an energy crisis, we have a wisdom crisis. We have a lot of crises that if people would come to the table of reason, beginning reason with God, there is no end to what can happen. The fact that I'm holding in my hand an iPad that I actually can turn on and turn off because the way I used to turn Betty's table top computer off was unplug it. She said, "That's not good for a computer!" So this is the least likely guy to be talking about these things. But Jay -- Jay Richards is here.

By the way, would you welcome Jay Richards? He was the co-author of *Indivisible* but he is the executive editor of *The Stream*, which we're going to talk about. Listen to me. I want you to listen close. If you care about your children, your grandchildren, anybody's children, if you care about anything that matters, if you believe there are things that matter, that there are principles, which Jesus referenced as a solid rock upon which you build your life, your house, your future and it will stand and remain standing in the face and fury of storms that are sure to come.

If you believe that there are some sound principles upon which we can build then you need to hear what I'm going to share today. Because listen, the Bible says that people perish, God speaking through the prophet Hosea, "My people perish for lack of knowledge." Knowledge of what? Just learning? No! The knowledge of the truth, transforming truth, transformed hearts and minds that transforms lives and futures because we have understanding of the time and how to deal with the issues we face.

Jay, you joined me, now it's about five years ago. We knew our nation's on a perilous course. You actually, as a student, having grown up in Amarillo, had a little religious background but that's all it was, a little religion, while you went to school you became very liberal. You were not believing the things you should believe. You had some socialist/Marxist ideas, and then you had a head-on collision with God, which C.S. Lewis kind of initiated. At Princeton you were totally changed by the power of God. What happened to you after that change?

Jay: Well, honestly, I mean I struggled in college. You said I grew up a Christian and believed all the things Christians believe but just being assaulted of ideas that I simply hadn't heard. Both my political and economical ideas were just questions about the existence of God. But once I became more convinced of the truth of that I thought, this is something I want to spend my life doing. I want to spend my life at the intersection of Christian truth and the questions in the public square was politics or economics, and how the Christian worldview applies to all of these issues of the day. Because there's a reason, millions of us are Christians in the United States and are trying to figure out how we lost the culture.

Part of the reason that we've lost the culture is we actually don't know how to apply the faith to the issues of the day. We also don't know how to work together. We're a lot better at building 10,000 little silos and either keeping to ourselves or spending time sniping each other. So I'm convinced -- and honestly, the spirit brought us together -- because if we want to do something about the culture or we want to turn things around we've got to figure out how to work together as the people of God. Admitting yes, there is some big stuff we disagree on but there is a lot of stuff that we agree on and we need to come together around those things.

James: And where you have a democracy and we have the opportunity of choosing our leaders who determine the policies and the positions and the posture of the nation and the direction of the nation then we're responsible for the future, and for those who we turn the future over to.

Jay: Absolutely! That's why we are in a different position as you said, the ancient Jews or the ancient Egyptians who, their political situation there just wasn't much they were able to do about it. But we're ultimately responsible for the leaders we have. There is a sense in which we get the leaders that we deserve.

So look, if we can't learn to think clearly about really basic issues, about economic freedom and limited government, religious liberty, marriage, the very nature in reality of marriage, if we can't think clearly about that and we can't explain it to our fellow citizens, then in some ways we are going to get the society that we deserve. I worry about that.

Look, there is nothing that the Holy Spirit and the lives of this church can't do. It's not nearly as bad as the Christians had in the first and second centuries of the early church and they turned it

around; in fact, transformed the Roman Empire. So it is important for us to remember that here at the beginning of the 21st century.

Betty: Well, sadly, we have, as Christians, we have dismissed ourselves. We say, "Oh, that's political." Well, no, they're discussing our values, the principles of God which we place our foundation of our country even on. But yet we said, "Oh, no, we're not supposed to get into that." That's irresponsible.

Jay: It really is irresponsible. Of course, we don't want to politicize the gospel, there's no question about that. Jesus isn't a democrat or a republican, that's not the issue. But the Christian faith and the realities that we believe as Christians have implications. They have implications for the way we vote, the size of government, and the way we live our lives. So as responsible citizens we should be expected that faith is going to have something to say about how we live our lives publicly.

James: Here you are really reaching out to the great billion people in the Catholic church, I'm reaching out to the billion, let's say Protestants and Evangelicals, all these people, and say look, if we know Christ, if we know him and we know there's truth we can find common ground to address our common concerns.

Now here's what the Lord did as we were praying. He revealed to me that we have a vehicle, I'm holding it in my hand, but what the Lord showed me is we can stream truth from these incredible people that the media has totally ignored. You have introduced us to some of the greatest writers and thinkers, several of them are women that are young and full of the life and truth of God. I'm amazed at them.

How did you find them? All the contributors you have got in *The Stream* -- both men and women?

Jay: Honestly, they found us. It was really a mix of us hunting down people because the reality is that a mount of information available now proliferates, in fact some people say it doubles every 12-24 months -- just a huge glut of information. So the question is how do you sift that? How do you know there is one story that you're reading about Franklin Graham or Pope Francis, how do you know which one is telling you the truth? So we realize what is needed is that sort of tool of discernment.

So we honestly, we went on a search for the best writers, some well known, some not so well known that we thought did a really good job of doing this, that had the gift of discernment; it's a spiritual gift. And it becomes more important as the amount of information and disinformation becomes voluminous.

So some of our writers and it is funny, you wouldn't necessarily know if they're Evangelicals, you wouldn't know if they were Catholic because they're speaking as Christians to Christians and they're interpreting the events of the day. It is exciting to be able to have the technology where in principle we can reach basically anybody with an Internet connection.

James: You just mentioned that much of what is said, let's say whether it is about the Pope or Franklin Graham or some preacher, it is not actually what they said. One of the powerful articles on *The Stream*, which you can go, stream.org, you can go there. You can actually now, there is a little place where you can make that the page that you go to. What do you call it?

Jay: It is called the home page. So people can go on and they can actually see...

James: See! How is it that God is talking to somebody as less than Simon Peter in intellect, God -- that's for sure.

Jay: So they can go right on the main page, go to stream.org and just look for it. It says, "Make this your home page." So what that means is every time you open up Google or whatever, there it is. So you're getting the news of the day and you're getting commentary on the news of the day.

James: You're getting the news that matter to people who care and certainly matter to Christians. You're going to get insight from all of these different veins of wisdom that are coming.

I'm telling you, Jay, what we found out is the media is manipulating the Pope. They're trying to make him a representative of their particular political persuasion. They will do the same thing to Franklin Graham to make him appear not to have real wisdom himself. And what we're going to give you is the truth. When something is not right, we're going to show you.

By the way, if you go to *The Stream* and you look right up here at the top, this is on an iPad. Look, I actually turned it on. I found *The Stream*. You can touch most popular. And most popular will pop up here. Here is John Zmirak, but he says it's got a Z-M-I. We had to ask John, "Tell us how to say your name." It is more difficult than Robison, Row-bison, Robinson, whatever.

[Laughter]

Here's a boot coming down and it is called "Gay Totalitarianism and the Coming Persecution of

Christians." This thing just went in orbit. So it is most popular. "If the Supreme Court Imposes Same Sex Marriage, You Could Lose Your Church."

Look at this one. This is incredible: "Five Reasons Planned Parenthood Founder Margaret Sanger Shouldn't Be on the \$20 Bill."

That thing went in orbit. Why would you not put the founder of Planned Parenthood on a \$20 bill? We've been talking now for years of putting a woman on some of our currency; rightly so, but not Margaret Sanger.

Read why. These are the most popular. Over on the left hand side you'll see the various voices. I have said to you, Jay, you amaze me. The fact that you even listen to someone that doesn't know much about what I'm holding in my hand.

Jay: This is new for everyone though.

James: It's real new for me. But here's the thing. The fact that you said, "James has something to offer." You have much to offer. But you've been able to find as executive editor these incredible voices. Many people know whether it is Thomas Sowell, or Cal Thomas or some of the other well-known writers that are there, part of *The Stream*, and count it an honor to be a part of it because they know what our heart is. But you have found people that are a treasure that most people have never heard of. What were you looking for when you went out and said, "This is a treasure." What did you see?

Jay: Honestly, this sort of question of discernment and also the ability to explain complicated issues because this is really the trick. There's a lot of very important stuff. There are a lot of really smart valuable people.

I live in Washington, D.C. There is wonderful information but frankly, it's not always so easy to digest. So we wanted people that can translate this stuff for people that are busy. Look, we don't all have time to read a 5,000 page monograph on something. So that's really what -- discernment, ability to speak as a Christian broadly or a sort of narrow silo, and the ability to translate complicated issues for everyday people.

That's really what we're looking for. And honestly, between syndicated columnists and then our own original writers we found both the best of the stuff that was already out there and some of the best news stuff that we've been able to discover.

James: Betty, why does it matter to you? You go to *The Stream*. You keep up with what is

going on. You're a homemaker, mother, grandmother; you're an awesome wife. Why do you care about *The Stream* and what it is doing?

Betty: Well, I think I just realized as -- and I can't separate this from what's going on in the world, I'm a Christian so that's where I'm coming from in my relationships and what I believe, what I feel in my heart. So when *The Stream* came along I was so excited about it; that I could go to it and read these articles that really, I felt like had so much truth in them. They are truthful and then I could take them to heart and discern because you can have the knowledge but without the Spirit of God helping you to discern we make foolish decisions, we come to foolish conclusions.

But this, I think we need to, as Christians, be informed. We have a responsibility to be informed for the sake of our children and our grandchildren and the people that we love so dearly in our lives and our country. We have a responsibility. We cannot separate ourselves from what is going on in our world. We're in it. We live in it daily and we have those that we love and we care about and we want a future for our children, the generations to come.

James, if I don't stay informed of what's going on then I've done injustice to myself and to what I feel like God has called me to do as a Christian, and that is to live as the example of him and his life. I can't do that if I'm not informed. If I'm separated from what's going on around me, how can I minister to those that are hurting? They're in the middle of it too. How I can say, "I know the truth and that truth is in the Lord Jesus Christ."

And that's where we all have to start, James, is that relationship with him and for him to give us wisdom because knowledge without wisdom of God is very dangerous -- very dangerous.

James: And you're not even going to get reliable knowledge or information, much less wisdom, if you just go to the typical much of the media sources because they're driven by the ratings, they stir the controversy to keep things coming their way without ever solving a problem. They just keep creating bigger problems.

What we're trying to do is give you very realistic answers. Please, I want you to hear this as directly as I can say it. I've never felt more hopeful because I believe if God's people will wake up, we've got a lot of differences; iron sharpens iron, that means there's friction. You've got to have friction but you don't come together like this. You come together for purpose.

If the people who love God, who believe in the importance of family and freedom, who believe even when it comes to economics that the free market system is the most productive for all people in the world -- I mean it just is -- and the people who understand the importance of limited government, a fair and stable realistic taxation system that works, putting policies in

place that are effective and sustainable, the people who understand that have got to understand, all of you who have perhaps a Libertarian form of view economically, if you don't understand without the people who understand faith and family, and the value of life, and integrity and honesty and personal responsibility, even in work, you're not going to solve the economic challenges you see.

If you have faith in God and you don't understand the necessity of not just you balancing your budget but the federal government balancing the budget and not on the backs of the people, if you don't understand that and we come together, we can't correct the course.

But, Jay, if the people today who say they believe in God, believe there is a foundation which Jesus said is rock-solid will stand the force of any storm if you build on it, if they believe this and we come together, I'm hopeful that we can actually correct our nation's course. Tell me honestly, as an academic, as a person looking in that has studied, do you believe that we have great hope to correct our course? Do you believe that it could happen in short order?

Jay: Absolutely! And I honestly wouldn't be doing this if I didn't believe it. If I didn't believe in fact there is still a lot of potential, there is still millions of faithful Christians, there is millions of people that are concerned about the direction of our country.

As you said, a lot of people don't really understand the importance of faith. They tend not to be comfortable around people of faith but they're good on economic issues. They've got to understand that they need us and we need to understand that we need them. But if we can learn to think together and defend these truths together and work together instead of fighting each other, I'm absolutely convinced that we can turn this thing around.

James: I think the two of us sitting here together is a miracle in the way God brought us together. I've always been as strong an Evangelical perhaps as there is on the planet, and for me to have the love God has given me for a great academic that has chosen to be worshipping with Catholics and seeing an awakening there like I'm praying with the Protestants, for us to become one is the miracle that I believe the world is not only waiting to see but I believe Jesus prayed for in John 17.

And that is not only we're one with the father, that's the relationship, we all have to understand, there is one God, one way, one mediator, it's Jesus. One way! And there is one body, the body of Christ, those who really know him -- that's the family of God. We need to come together with our difference and our diversity, not compromising, but come together one with the father, purified by the truth of his Word, sanctified by it, but then perfected in supernatural unity. I believe that's what God wants to bring together. This is the reason for *The Stream*. This is why we're asking you to go to *The Stream*, make it a go -to site. As you are praying in your

devotional time, go there and say, "God, give me some wisdom." Then forward it; use your Facebook forward, tweet about it, get people on it, and let's get the word out. We can take the message of truth that transforms hearts and lives to the ends of the earth and I challenge you to do it. Stream.org, pass on the insight.

Do you appreciate Jay Richards? Do you thank God for what we believe is an answer to prayer? I want to say to all of the leaders in the Evangelical church, all of the leaders in the Catholic Church who came together to pray, God help us deliver the truth. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God. That river, we believe, is a river of truth fed by many tributaries. Jay, one of the greatest things we do in our life here at *LIFE Outreach* and *Life Today* is to give people a cup of water, which we seek to do with *The Stream*, we seek to do with *Life Today*, all of our outreaches, but we also literally seek to give people water for their life because so many are thirsty. I want you to look, I want you to listen and observe and ask God what he wants you to do concerning giving someone else Water for Life so we can point them to the water of life. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Ralph: Today is a great day of celebration at *LIFE Outreach*. The water is coming up. The kids are cheering. We were just able to drill in this village today. For about three days they've been drilling; they finally struck water. I'd say within somewhere about half an hour that water will be just as clear as it can be coming out of somebody's faucet back home.

Announcer: This water well will transform the lives of these children and their families forever. Yet thousands of miles away these children are not so fortunate.

Announcer: This child is one of the nearly 800 million people who lack access to clean drinking water. And if that doesn't change he can become one of the children who die every year from having to drink unclean water. But there is hope for this child and others like him around the world. For such a devastating problem, a clean water well offers a profoundly simple solution -- and a promise for a better, brighter future.

Ralph: So please go to your phones, go to the web site, whatever is the most convenient and give that generous gift today because it is through the generosity of people's giving that lives here can be changed forever. You will provide clean drinking water that they so desperately need. God bless!

End of clip

In the studio

James: And it is our joy to do that. Isn't it, Betty? When you see that, what happens when you have seen the situation where it's just so filthy and miserable and then all of the sudden you see that water come up and the joy?

Betty: Of course, I love to see the scenes like we just saw where they're jumping up and down in the water. That's real joy -- that's real show of happiness on the part of these precious children. They know what it means if they can avoid getting the sicknesses they can get from diseased water. You saw the filthy water but yet what else are they going to do?

And as we watched the joy of these children we must remember there are some that are where they were. They need our help. They're not jumping up and down with joy. They're crying, they're sick, and their parents are watching them die because they don't have the fresh water. We can do something about that. I hope you'll join us.

James: I'm confident that you will. You have been the most amazing people. As a matter of fact, I think if you watch *LIFE Today* you know, okay, James and Betty are going to ask us to help and it would be so easy just to change the channel and go do something else. The very fact that you're sitting here right now to me says I'm interested. I want to believe it says I care and I want to believe that you're saying if I can help I will.

So here's what we're asking you to do. We only have got a few more days now to get enough of the support to drill 500 wells in more than a dozen nations. Could you drill a well? Would you do it? They're \$4800.

Many people say, "I make that a goal every year and I've been able to do it. What joy!" Can you do it?

Some say, "I can't do that but I can help."

There are many people who give \$1200 and pray for three to join them.

Some will give \$2400 and say, "Lord, get one other to come and we've got another well."

But most of the support comes from gifts of \$48, which gives ten people water, that's how it breaks out, basically the rest of their life -- \$144, 30 people water the rest of their life.

So at what level can you help? But whatever you can do, Jesus said of the widow's mite that was the greatest gift of all because it was what she could do. What can you do? What will you do?

You can go to LifeToday.org, take your bankcard, use it like a check and make the best gift you can. Would you do that? Do it right now please. You'll be going online for one of the best reasons. Or you can dial the telephone number there on the screen. Take your bankcard and tell our prayer partner when they answer, "I want to make a gift to give that great gift of water, a gift of love." Then make the gift that God puts on your heart.

We have some gifts to send you: A beautiful daily devotional that will bless you so much. We have the "Names of Jesus" pens. A Thomas Kinkade beautiful canvas painting that's about this large, it's hanging in the studio. It's beautiful! We'll send it to you to say thank you for your gift. So we want to express love and appreciation to you by the great gift that you're giving others, a cup of water, a well of water in Jesus' name. Thank you for doing that! Thank you for making that gift.

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 "Every Day a New Day" devotional broken out into the four seasons of the year. This daily devotional features scriptures, inspirational thoughts, a Bible reading plan, and a place for you to journal each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request "The Names of Jesus" pen set; one inscribed with the names of Jesus found in scripture and the other reflecting the gifts of the spirit.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well.

And request this beautifully framed canvas print of “The Forest Chapel” by Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

James: From the bottom of our heart we want to say thanks for your help. Thanks for giving water.

And then I want to remind you, go to *The Stream* every day: stream.org. I honestly believe -- see I have a part in God's heart, you do too. One of my parts, I feel like is trying to encourage the parts to come together and all of us submit to the head as a body that fits together with great appreciation for every member of the body so the hand of God can work effectively and we express as his body, his family, his heart to a world in darkness, a world defeated and deceived so often, a world that desperately needs hope and love and the help that we can offer. I think *The Stream* is a vehicle. Let's share the messages there.

Would you thank Jay Richards the executive editor of *The Stream*? Jay, you know I love you, buddy!

Jay: Thanks for having me.

James: I love you. Let's deliver the truth that transforms hearts and minds for the glory of God.

Announcer: If you're in the Dallas/Fort Worth area come be a part of the *Life Today* studio audience. Call or E-mail today to reserve your tickets. You'll be inspired and entertained!