

8/13/18

Week 33: WFL (Last Week)

James and Betty Robison

Rice Broocks

James: We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. This is Betty. Betty, we went to see a movie that was really captivating. It was called *God is Not Dead*. Did you like it?

Betty: Mmh-hmm.

James: Powerful wasn't it?

Betty: Yes, it was.

James: A student just stood up and that professor got moved. Then the professor, Sorbo who played the professor, you know Hercules, he was here in the studio. He was really on fire about it. He was wanting everybody to see it. He did a great job.

Well, the man who wrote the book, *God is Not Dead* is Rice Broocks and the movie then came from the book and now then there's been another movie so it just keeps inspiring people. But Rice Broocks, I met him first when he was doing campus ministries. I was a good friend of Bill Bright. So I knew campus ministries but then I was also a friend of Maranatha Ministries and they were doing college ministries. And Rice Broocks and I crossed paths there years ago. We were somewhat younger back then.

He's just continued amazingly to touch people all over the world. He's got a ministry that's called Every Nation Family of Churches which is where he establishes churches all

over the world. But he's established the campus ministries, which in a way is like a church outreach. But he's become a very effective writer. This is a new book that he handed to me at our church, Gateway where he was sharing recently. And I just loved seeing him because the main reason that I wanted you to meet him is because I have seen the fruit of the ministry of the love of God through him on pastors and church leaders that I consider great leaders, Christlike leaders, anointed, and empowered leaders. So I said well, I want to bring it on. I don't know if this is going to be another like *God is Not Dead* but this is big. He's talking about *The Human Right*. What is that? We talk about human rights all the time. Well, how about welcoming Rice Broocks to *LIFE Today*?

Rice, good to see you.

Rice: Thank you.

James: The movie really went over well. They did some Christian movies that are doing well and that's one of them that has done exceptional.

Rice: I was actually writing the book to basically give the evidence for God because of this phenomenon that seven out of ten young people will leave high school and go to college or university and lose their faith. So even though I worked on campus, when you start looking at the big picture, you say, "What is this happening, this trend where we go from being a Christian young person and everything is fine. Then you go to college and you call home and you tell your parents you don't believe in God anymore."

So as I was writing this evidence for God and explaining the problem of this, I told a friend of mine who is a businessman, I said, "This is what's going on and this is why I'm writing the book." He said, "That needs to be a movie." So he called the movie company that came to Nashville and I began to explain this very phenomenon, this trend of what's happening. So my friend wrote a predominant check to pay for the movie and we just thought it would be a little ol' thing. And so next thing you know it is very small budget, not all the critics were that happy with it but the message struck a nerve.

James: And Kevin really enjoyed doing it and it affected him, I think. Don't you feel like it did?

Rice: Yeah, he was pretty upset that he had to die at the end. I didn't like that either. I kept telling the screen writers, I said, "Don't kill the atheist." I said this is the perfect setup of what they expect Christians to do.

My main role was to kind of give that these are scenarios that happen; those classroom scenes from that first movie were basic exchanges that happen all the time. Which I think we need to be able to give a simple defense. You don't have to be some genius person to give a defense for the faith. But as we talked about before there is so much evidence for God around us that with a little bit of effort, with a little bit of understanding I think we can all learn to make the case for God in a very effective way.

James: I don't know how any fisherman could believe in the big bang theory of something positive, organized coming out of it. Because if you ever drop a tackle box or just lay down three rods with lures on them and try to get them all unscrambled and get the lures back together you realize it is going to take some intelligence, some oversight to ever get this mess unraveled.

Rice: Actually, the big bang -- what's interesting is "the big bang" was a derogatory term coined by an atheist because he said from Aristotle to Einstein, everybody thought that the universe was eternal. So all the sudden here comes this theory that the universe had a beginning. And he says, "If you say the universe began, this big bang," he said it on a talk show, he said, "you're letting the divine foot in the door."

So I think rather than fighting those terms and scientists saying, "Well, let's look at what the evidence says and see whether it points to a creator or away from a creator," I think it is overwhelmingly pointing to a creator and I think that's why all we need is a little bit of coaching. When skeptics say, "Well, where is your evidence?" They always say,

"Where's the evidence? Where's the evidence?"

James: It is sitting here.

Rice: I say, "Well, if you're looking for Steve Jobs you wouldn't have found him by breaking down an iPhone. God is not a particle, he is not a wave, and so what you're looking for is the intelligent mind behind the universe. So whether it is the universe beginning or the information in the human D.N.A. There's a code inside of you and all of us that is sentence. If you got a text from somebody and you look up and it is like nonsense, you realize they maybe sat on their phone and sent you a text. But what if you got a text from somebody three billion letters long, ordered in sequence, that's the information in the human D.N.A.

So then there's the moral law. There is something in all of us that we know that there is a right and wrong. So skeptics say, "Well, can an atheist be good?"

I say, "Sure!"

"Can a religious person be bad?"

We know that's true. So why can't an atheist do good things and a religious person be bad? Because God made them both. Just because I know there is a police and I know the speed limit doesn't mean I'll slow down. So just because we know God is real and know his law doesn't mean we're going to do it.

So all of that though points to the ultimate evidence which is the gospel which is this: Is that God cares about injustice so much that he came down personally to deal with it in Christ. So the discussion is not just kind of quibbling over the beginning of the universe or pointing to D.N.A. If somebody is really wanting evidence, then we'll talk about that.

But ultimately, what is the ultimate evidence? It is Christ in human flesh living the life

we should have lived, dying the death we should have died and then in history, he is raised from the dead. That means that because the gospel is rooted in history as the Anglican missiologist, Leslie Newbigin said, "It is public truth." It is not some privatized truth, it is just our own subjective experience; which is important that we have one but the gospel is public truth. Therefore it is a basic human right, if not the most important human right that you know what it is. So that's the long and short of it.

James: You wrote the book, *The Human Right* to point out the fact that there is no greater human right than to hear the gospel of Jesus; right?

Rice: Yes, sir.

James: And if they want to hear it how are they going to hear it unless they preach? Bottom line is how do they even go preach unless somebody sends them? I try to tell all our viewers, you may feel like, "I'm not a famous speaker, not a gifted speaker, not a great communicator. I'm not a real courageous witness..."

Rice: They just need to Google you. Oh you're talking about yourself. I was going to Google you.

James: If they say all of that, "But what do I do that is effective?" Well, the bottom line is just like even right now, the very fact I'm sitting here, somebody sitting out there loves God enough, loves people enough that they provide the air time because they had to pay for it. We're drilling water wells all over the world. We've been drilling them now for more than 20 years, 25 years and these are the people that drill them. We talk about here's a need and they say, "I'll meet that need. I'll give a cup of water. I'll give a well of water." That's love! So it's that love, the sender of the gospel is the bottom line.

But everybody needs to be participating in getting people this human right, take the gospel to them. The whole world needs to hear it. Yes, I'm being told there are about two billion people that have never really heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Do you think that's

pretty accurate?

Rice: Yes. Well, if you believe -- the reason why we call it *The Human Right* is because it is the only thing on the planet that can deal with injustice at its source. So if the source of the injustice is human evil, then how do you change human evil? If you took the defense budget of the world, it is about a trillion dollars, you can actually give everyone and I'm trying to remember the World Health Organization, but I think for \$50 billion a year you can basically give people food. You can feed the world for \$50 billion. You can give them clean water and sanitation for \$100 billion. So for 15% of the world's \$1 trillion collective defense budget, for just 15% of it, you could give everybody clean water and sanitation and feed them. And then for every dollar you spend for clean water and sanitation you get seven back in terms of the health savings.

So guess what? When people say, "Well, what about all of this evil in the world? And why does God allow all of this evil?" We spend a trillion dollars protecting each other from ourselves and that doesn't count police, security, judicial proceedings and all the ancillary costs and yet are we really going to blame God for the evil in the world when we could do so much to rid human suffering if there wasn't something wrong with us? So the question is not only what's wrong with us but who can we trust to fix us? Everybody -- education, everybody is promising to fix you, and fix us so the question is who can we trust to fix us? And this is the good news -- this is why it is good news. So God becomes man to deal with injustice at its source.

So 2010 was the worst oil disaster in our American history. Right off as we say in Tennessee the gulf -- not the gulf. We kind of take that L out. But 200,000 gallons of oil dumping into the Gulf of Mexico for 89 days. Well, you can try to clean the mess up and manage the river of sludge and save the birds but ultimately, you had to stop that leak at its source.

This is why Jesus said it is out of a heart of a person comes all of this evil. So we come, Christ offers you a new heart, he offers you a new beginning. And that's the hope of the

world. That's why we believe minimally, every human being on the face of the earth deserves to hear it. Like if you were arrested in our country, the police are required to read you your rights. You can decide to ignore that and do whatever you want to do but minimally, you have a right to hear.

And if you believe the gospel is really true then minimally, shouldn't people have a right to hear it, know what it is, and then either accept it or reject it? I'm constantly telling Christians as much as it is important to know your right to believe, it's even more important to know what you believe is right. In other words, the gospel is really true. Jesus really did live. He did exist. And he not only did exist but he died in history. His resurrection happened in a place where it can be investigated historically.

That's why we believe in public truth. I was thinking of this missiologist I mentioned. He was a missionary in India for 34 years, Leslie Newbigin. When he got back to England in the 70s he saw Christianity was in retreat and his diagnosis was it is because the people perceive Christianity as private truth not public truth. It is like here in Texas, you see ol' country boys saying, "Yeah, my religion is personal." You're thinking well, it's so personal you haven't discussed it with yourself yet.

So everybody has this subjective, I can't really explain it but really, people need to have the explanation of not just the existence of God which they basically know, they're just suppressing it but really why this is true and why that Christianity stands or falls on one historical event. If Jesus was not raised from the dead then it is not true. So that's why I think they minimally have a right to know the truth of this message.

James: So you've written the book with the hope that people will receive what is their right. But for them to receive it, if I understand the gospel in biblical truth and commission, we've been commissioned to deliver the gospel that everyone has a right to hear. But how are they going to hear if we don't preach? How are they going to preach if we don't send them? So there is no substitute for the witness. So is this book a source to inspire people to deliver what people have a right to hear?

Rice: I would hope so. And I think beyond inspiration it is to give you the practical training. Something simple -- can you memorize and summarize the gospel clearly? If you ask many people about the gospel, Christians, you'll say, "Do you know the gospel?" "Oh I love the gospel!" It's like saying, "How do you get to Austin?" "Oh, I love Austin!" No, how do you get there?

So if you can, just like as a Presbyterian growing up I memorized the Doxology, I memorized the Apostle's Creed, so the simple definition that I would give is that the gospel is the good news that God became man in Jesus Christ. He lived the life we should have lived and he died the death we should have died in our place. Three days later he rose from the dead proving he was the son of God. And he offers salvation and forgiveness of sins to everyone who will repent, that means to turn and trust in him.

So I've been in conversations like that where I've been in arguments or discussions and I would say, "Look, before we're talking about a lot of things because when you talk about religion it can get very expansive. I said, "Look, before we go, can I just explain the gospel to you?" And give them a simple summary of that.

James: Is that what you just gave?

Rice: I gave a simple sermon. I did that in an uber and the driver, I could tell was a little annoyed. I said, "Well, let me at least explain it so that you will at least know what you're rejecting." So I explained it like that and so I could tell he was still not interested. I said, "I'll make a deal with you." I said, "Let's pray a practice prayer."

He kind of is driving and he said, "What do you mean?"

I said, "Well, we're just going to practice." I said, "Now, in case one day you want to get saved, you'll at least remember what it sounds like to do it."

He kind of looked at me and said, "Can you do that?" He was kind of a skeptic but he thought I was breaking some kind of rule. So I just led him in a prayer that basically rehearsed the gospel, that simple summary.

James: What did you say?

Rice: I just said what I had written, the gospel is the good news. Lord, I believe you became man in Christ, that you lived the life I should have lived, died the death I should have died in my place. Three days later you rose from the dead proving you're the son of God. And today I turn and trust you." So about halfway through making him do "the practice prayer" the spirit hit him and I just leaned up and said, "I guess it is not practice anymore."

He said, "No, it is not practice."

So the gospel has power. So if minimally we can summarize it, explain it, and minimally know why it is true, the gospel is good news because it is true news.

James: The thing about it is this Jesus that died for us said, "I've sent another like me to live in you." So the Jesus that died and was raised is now alive to live in us in the power of the Holy Spirit and give us that love. And frankly, I believe that many of you who watch this program, you have that love flowing. I believe when you see an opportunity to demonstrate that love you'll want to do it. I thank God for that.

Rice, if we've experienced his love and his life, I think there is a desire to share it. I don't think we need to compare ourselves with how other people do it. You have a really smooth way you present that; it was very beautiful. They don't necessarily have to do it like that, they can just talk about Jesus changing their life. I told Betty that I was a fatherless kid. We're dating and I said, "I gave my life to Jesus and Jesus is more real than the skin on my arm right here."

She looked at me and said, "He is not real like that to me. He is just someone I always heard about." But in a few weeks he became real.

Betty: He sure did!

James: And we've been married 55 years and she is one of the greatest demonstrations of Jesus I've ever seen. But she was a little church girl that had never met Jesus. I feel like what you're doing here is not only pointing out the human right that is the greatest of all, to hear the gospel, is the responsibility of all of us as Christians to deliver that gospel truth.

Do you appreciate this man? Isn't he a great? That student that you wrote about in *God is Not Dead* and that student we saw in that movie witnessing to ol' Kevin Sorbo, ol' Hercules, the ol' atheist, that student was the witness for the gospel and he was taking it to the whole school! He didn't just hit that professor, he hit that whole school and university and that can happen. I'm so grateful!

The book is in the bookstores. I'll tell you this. We're in the last week right now of Water for LIFE and I'm telling you, this changes everything. You're going to see something in a moment I believe will touch your heart strings. Here's what I want you to know. Would you like to have the book? We're giving away the book, *The Miracles of Christ* where I share. This is a beautiful little, brief, short book of miracles that not only that I've shared but our guests have shared over the years. It will really be a blessing to you. We'll send it.

You help us give water to these precious children and their families and you want Rice Broock's book, *The Human Right*, you ask for it and we'll send it to you to say thank you.

I want you to see someone that is going to express what we want and that is gratitude for love because the need is so great. You're going to take joy in meeting legitimate needs effectively.

On the mission field

Announcer: Here at *LIFE Outreach*, we constantly encounter heartbreaking need around the world. But there are times when we meet someone experiencing a depth of pain which stops us in our tracks. That's exactly what happened when we entered the home of Ingtorn, a mother who couldn't hold back her grief as she showed us the photo of her daughter who was recently taken by contaminated water.

Open Captions:

>> My baby, my baby, I miss you so much. I want you back. I hurt so much. I wish you could come back to me.

Announcer: The heart-wrenching cries of this mother overwhelmed us. Eventually, she explained their tragic situation.

Open Captions:

>> I had to give my baby water from the river. It's all we have. When it made her sick, she got a high fever and cried so much. I'd do anything to have her back. I get so scared every time my son now gets sick. I'm afraid our water will kill him too, and then I will have no children. Clean water would change everything and bring so much joy.

Announcer: Clean water, that's all it would take for this community to not only survive but begin to thrive. Thanks to you, we were able to provide exactly that.

[Cheers and laughing]

Open Captions:

>> Thank you so much. I can hardly express what this means to us. I'm so overwhelmed.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I wish I was looking right into that sweet lady's eyes right now and tell her how happy we are. Six thousand times those wells have come up, drilled by love because the love of God in our heart. She wants that baby back.

We have a daughter in heaven. We look at her pictures a lot. I walk by her picture every night going to our bedroom. I remember how she came when she was weak from cancer and you'd had -- I'd had knee surgery and got staph infection and I could hardly walk at all. And she came and helped with Christmas decorations. Her dad was too weak to help mom so she came down fighting cancer to help mom during Christmas. Great party giver. We look at her pictures. And she loved that little baby. And you would have given us a cure for Robin. Yes, you would have. If somebody had said, "We've got a perfect cure" you would have rushed over to her. I know you would have.

That's what we can do. That's what we can do when we drill a water well for those precious little families and you see it come in, that's hope. She was happy; that smile was so different from when she was looking at her baby because she is seeing other people are going to have their babies live, their family live and grow up.

So Betty, I'm believing everybody watching today is going to help. This is the last week now in this emphasis so we need a big search, 400 more wells this year and we're just finishing out the next 200 of those 400 right now. So Lord, give us a miracle, and you're a part of that miracle.

Jesus talks about giving us a cup of water as being significant. How significant would it be to give a well of water? Well, some of you can actually give a well. The average cost is \$4800. If you can do that and you know some people tell me, "That's probably as great a joy as I've ever had." We've had a lot of children do that as you know. They would go raise the money for a well -- just kids!

Well, could you give a well? Could you give part of a well and pray others join you? \$1200 or \$2400, I need another or three more join. Most of the money, Betty that comes for the wells comes from \$48 gifts, that's the majority -- and from \$144. \$48 gives ten people water the rest of their life; \$144 gives 30, that's how it breaks down. That's not an exaggeration.

So if you'll go online or dial that number, take your bankcard, use it like a check, write a check, make the check to *LIFE*, call us and tell us you're mailing it, and we have some gifts to send you. Rice Brooks, when I was holding his book up and mentioning it, you said something to me a while ago you wanted our viewers to hear. What is it?

Rice: I mean first of all, this is incredible. So if they will give then I'll donate the book to say thank you to them and to participate in this.

James: So what he's saying is because when we give you a book, we still do pay the publisher. What he's saying is I've got it covered and that's going to be a whole lot more than a well. So what he's saying is, I'm loving you. I'm loving those people. And I want to add to the encouragement this gift. And you'll be sharing the greatest gift, the gospel, but you'll also be sharing it not just in word but in deed because we give Water for LIFE and share the water of life that inspired that gift.

So please right now you make the gift God puts on your heart and know we're going to give you a great big thank you. Thank you for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Today a mother living in extreme poverty will do the unthinkable: give her children dirty, diseased-filled water that she knows could kill them. With no other choice, what's a mother to do?

With your help, clean water is on the way. *Mission: Water for Life* provides a new beginning for thousands of children and their families; a bright future with better health.

With your gift today you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in 15 nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15 people. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift we'll send you *The Miracles of Christ; What Living Beyond Impossible*

Looks Like. Filled with scriptures, prayers, and stories of Jesus' miraculous power, James Robison adds insight about how to walk in faith and live beyond the impossible.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the Morning and Evening coffee mug set. Each mug features beautiful artwork and scripture from Psalm 92:2, a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness each day.

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 you may request the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, Betty and I just say from the bottom of our heart thank you. We will be sending you *The Miracles of Christ* and the coffee cups. If you give a well or \$1200 toward it, we send you the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" picture from Thomas Kinkade -- the canvas, it is framed. I'm looking at it over here. We have it. I think you will love having it.

And Rice Broocks says, "You give a well, give toward that well, you give a gift toward it," and he says, "I'm going to make a gift to say thank you." I appreciate him.

Would you say thanks to Rice Broocks for giving us a lot of great things to inspire us as Christians? Thank you, Rice! Thanks for being with us and God bless you in all you're doing all over the world.

Thank all of you for watching. Thanks for sharing life.