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Week five: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Jay Richards

James: Hey! Thank all of you. You're great! We welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

I'm James Robison. Betty, my beautiful wife of soon to be 57 years... thanks for hanging in there! I know a lot of you are saying, that's one strong woman there! She definitely is. She's not only beautiful, she is very strong.

I'm holding in my hand a book that when I say in many ways it changed my life, it created relationships and it changed the lives of many church leaders, and I think a lot of business leaders, and a lot of real thinkers and a lot of people that hadn't been thinking and knowing what they needed to think about. It is titled, *Money, Greed, and God*. It's by Jay Richards.

Jay Richards and I wrote a New York Times bestseller called *Indivisible*. I believe it ought to be a textbook in every school in America from starting with junior high and high school level all the way through the highest academic levels. It's that important.

I would say that this book is probably really the source of inspiration for that book. And it brought together more pastor leaders to understand that if you really love your neighbor and you really want what the perfect Father wants for them, who actually knows what everybody needs, and who knows how it's delivered. It's always delivered in love if it's going to be truly effective. They saw that you've got to have a compassion connection and you've got to require oversight, accountability, responsibility on the part of every person you see who has tremendous needs that you never meet the need properly by setting up some social system of doling out people's money,

which is so often taken and controlled by people who don't have the real best interests of people, and we allow that to happen and it hurts everybody and it destroys the economy.

That is right now being promoted in the United States of America by more presidential candidates and political candidates than any time I believe in the history of this nation. It's almost impossible to even imagine it is happening but they're proclaiming socialism, which is a slight step down from outright communism.

It is the foolishness of men's thinking that gets them into this nonsense that leads to all manner of bondage. And socialism, Jay deals with. And at the request of the publishers of the book, which is ten years ago, they're bringing it back with a great expanded emphasis right upfront on the danger of socialism because it's the way you make everybody poor.

Are you listening to me? I don't care what candidate says, I don't care how charismatic they are, I don't care how attractive they are, how smart you think they are, it is pure suicidal insanity to turn the wealth of people over to any form of monopoly, power, political power, a Pharaoh, Caesar, emperor, any power and think people are going to be better for it. And Jay handles it well.

Now Jay, I can't tell you how much I respect you. I cannot even explain how much great thinkers and great people appreciate what you've done because you have taken an absolute truth and you have fleshed it out, not only historically and with irrefutable evidence, historically confirmed, you have biblically confirmed what God says about it and how people have misused what God says to deceive people into believing socialism is actually a Christian practice. You have disproved it and you've told us the truth. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you.

I welcome you back to *LIFE Today*. Just download on us and help us because you've helped me.

Jay: Well, you've already made my argument for me, James. What am I going to do?

James: I'm telling you, Jay, what you argued changed my life in many ways because it gave me

understanding.

Jay: Well, this connected us. You called me after you read it, after our friend Jim Garlow mentioned it to you. The book was, for me, it was actually a work of passion because I had been as a college student, honestly confused on all these economic questions. I thought of myself as a Christian socialist and socialists were talking about the poor; right? So it sounded nice. But I thought, well, if we're actually going to help poor people, I might want to know something about economics.

So I studied economics more carefully. And before I got out of college I'm happy to say I realized that socialism is the one proven way not to help poor people. I mean the 20th century was one big experiment with the socialist idea. So I was noticing that these ideas then, after I was out of college and graduate school, I'm back on Christian college campuses, were alive and well. In 2000! So the Soviet Union has collapsed, you think it is all over and Christian colleges were talking about this again.

So when I wrote the book when it first came out in 2009, my publisher said, "Jay, you're kind of beating a dead horse with socialism. Nobody is talking about that." And they weren't at the time.

I said, "Look, its coming." But I pared it back.

But this time they said, "Maybe we'll beef up that socialism discussion a little bit." Because here we are ten years later and national candidates actually invoke it. That's unparalleled in American history.

Socialism has never polled well in national elections, to have major popular candidates talking about socialism and young voters, the majority of them saying they like it. We're in a new and kind of scary moment.

James: It is hard to believe what we're watching, Jay. It's almost because I did have at least enough interest in history and I did thoroughly, let's say read, meditate on, actually, and go to the

scriptures to see just exactly how accurate what you are saying really, really is. And to think that I'm hearing church leaders in some circles saying that the New Testament church was socialists. And we put articles on "The Stream" which is a website that we've launched together that's trying to get people to see wisdom flowing from many tributaries and its helping. And we've dealt with socialism quite effectively. But when you hear them take that passage over there about them selling and giving to the poor, which was an act of compassion and love, and what we're doing today with socialism has no compassion connection and oversight.

Jay: Not at all. And everyone, it's Acts two; the early church in Jerusalem right after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit told them to sell their possessions and share in common. So people say, "Well, isn't that socialism?"

I say, "Do you have a socialist family? You share things in common in your family. Nobody would say your family is socialist." What we had was thousands of Jews come from around the Roman world, thousands become Christians; right? So many thousands are away from home, away from their jobs and in that crucial moment, an emergency situation, the Holy Spirit told the local Christians who had jobs and money, sell some of your stuff and share with your fellow believers. For all we know that went on for six weeks or maybe six months. Paul never in any of his letters advised that this was the way the churches should be set up. This was a sort of temporary solution of sharing.

But notice the Romans Centurions weren't showing up and breaking down doors and confiscating private property. It has nothing to do with the socialism in the 20th century. But I'm amazed how many Christians sort of superficially read that passage of sharing, voluntary sharing, and confuse that with socialism, which the state absorbs all the private property. These are just completely different things.

James: Well, when you see what's going on right now and you watch what's happening in the colleges, and I know you probably never thought it would get the momentum that it's got. What do you think people need to hear from you? And if they read the book you're not only going to show them the foolishness of that but in my opinion you show them that the greatest cure for

poverty is the free market enterprise opportunities if we have the ability to take our God given gifts and really apply them in what God has given to us as resources and develop it. And you point out the importance of personal property and ownership, oversight, and God said, "Don't even covet your neighbor's property."

So this is confirming the importance of that ownership and that oversight because if you have ownership you give oversight; that's responsibility, accountability. So what you're actually showing people if you really want to help the poor let wealth increase. But show the wealth creator that they need to do something other than just turn all their wealth over to the federal government, another form of Pharaoh, which will bring people in bondage. They need to give oversight to it.

I pointed this out. Tell me if I'm right. Buffett and Gates had enough wisdom, which they had a lot of wisdom to make the wealth they did, but they certainly didn't leave all their wealth, which people said, "They're leaving all their wealth to help others." They didn't leave it to Uncle Sam. They didn't leave it to the federal government.

Jay: That's exactly right. The sort of key thing that I wish all Christians would understand is that human beings are made in the image of the creative God. So what we want in an economic system is a system that allows us to create value, to create wealth that wasn't there before. So it's not all just about dividing up a limited pie. It's about having a system in which people can use their God-given ingenuity to create wealth and value that was not there before for themselves and for others.

We actually know the kind of systems that do that in which you have limited government and private property and rule of law and economic freedom. Whenever you have that you get massive amounts of wealth created. If you're worried about economic poverty the only solution to economic poverty for our culture is for wealth to be created.

And then of course you have emergency situations that's what charity is for; is for emergency situations in which somebody is just about to starve to death or die of thirst, that's what charity is

for.

James: Or you have a natural disaster. And who is it that steps up to really meet the need? Thank God we do have some assistance that the voters have said we need to make sure that we have some emergency funds. We do want that, it's right. But who is it that steps in? Who is it that puts their hand to the situation? It's the neighbor that loves their neighbor that gets involved. That's always been the strength of our country.

Jay: That makes perfect sense though because if you know someone well you know exactly what they need. And there is also going to be an accountability between you. If you're getting a check from the federal government in Washington, D.C. you're just being treated as a human -- a generic human. There is no accountability. So that's why I'm convinced the best charity is private charity that's pushed down to individuals dealing with other individuals.

Betty: One of the things that really bothers me too with this socialism "theme" so to speak is that it is building such hate for the successful person.

Jay: Absolutely. It is really based on covetousness. It is that final commandment that we're not to covet the property of another person. So notice when you hear people defend socialism, they rarely are actually talking about poverty. They don't say, okay, well, there is poor people. We need to figure out how to help them. That's usually not the argument. The argument is that well, there is some people that are too rich. They are appealing basically to our envy because there is always somebody that's richer than you are; right? So they appeal to that. But that's actually not the problem. The fact that there is a rich person somewhere, that's not the problem anymore than the problem is that there is somebody healthy somewhere; right?

Betty: Well, eventually, you're going to spend all that money and there is not going to be anymore wealthy people, and then where are you going to get it?

Jay: That's exactly right. What you want is people that are capable of creating wealth to be free to actually do that.

James: Well, we ought to be thanking God for them because they are providing 85%-90% of basically the total income of the federal budget. And we're hating the people that are making it possible for them to do the things we say that are good. By the way, it ought to be the government of the people by the people and for the people, which means government is overseen by the people but we don't do that. We opt out.

And one of the worst things you'll ever here said to Christians is "Christians need to stay out of politics." In other words, give the people who control the future of the country and the future of freedom, give it to the people that don't believe in God, don't love God, and who believe the father of lies. And watch what happens to it. You're seeing what happens. It's total chaos. It's insanity.

Excuse me, Jay, I didn't mean to cut in and preach on that. But listen. What you wrote here when I tell you that it set me on fire to see people know the truth so we could actually know how to help the poor. If we've got a neighborhood, and one of the things you point out is that close oversight of what's going on. You know what's going on with your neighbor. You go to ruin your children if you just give your children money and you don't watch to see if they're responsible and accountable. You can feed them into a drug habit or all kind of addictive practices. And you have ruined that child if you don't teach them.

The federal government takes the wealth of the wealthy, takes the money that they turned over and there are foolish entrepreneurs who are giving all this wealth to academic institutions to teach against the very thing that enabled them to make wealth and endow the institution. They're endowing institutions that are destroying the freedom that gave them the opportunity to be successful and have money.

Now then we're turning that same wealth over to an overseer that is keeping people dependent upon it and requiring no accountability, no responsibility and no oversight and no compassion connection. On the mission field we're directly connected and we don't keep them dependent. We get them on their feet, we get them solid, and then we even try to get our viewers to move to

feeding to the schools. By the way, our viewers are not as excited about feeding kids in school as they are when they're starving to death. And I'm saying, in impoverished nations, if we're able to do it, when we get a child healthy let's encourage them to be at school by putting the food there. So see, we're trying to do this.

By the way, the World Food Program took our example and put it in all over the world. Thank God for that. By the way, it was a Christian democrat that did that. So miraculously, there are some democrats that still know what God's love and what responsibility and accountability looks like. They are getting fewer in number though.

Jay: I really do think that everybody that -- actually, they want to help people. People, I think are just completely confused on economics and politics. They want to help people. The question is, if we really to want help people we need to not just have a heart for the poor, we need to have a mind for the poor, and that requires understanding these basic economic principles that God's built into the created order. And when we know that, and when we adjust our society to take account of those realities, flourishing happens.

James: Jay, just sitting here talking to you, I want to simply tell you this. That you're actually looking at a miracle here. Here he was, grew up a Presbyterian kid, grew up in a religious setting, but he really felt like he was having Marxist ideals. You actually put that on yourself. You said, "I was actually getting that close. I was that off target." And he said he began to research. And you studied history, you studied the Bible, you studied some of the great economic minds of history. And they were so brilliant you found they were right with every single thing they said. And you saw how Karl Marx, and other socialist thinkers, began to manipulate people because of needs they had that were never seen with a compassion connection or with even a love or desire to help. And they bought total suicidal practices.

Jay: That's right. A 100 million people killed in the 20th century because of communism.

James: Say that again.

Jay: A 100 million people killed by their own governments. I'm not talking about deaths in war. I'm talking about millions of people killed by their government.

James: The anger and the fire and the fury that is propelling people right now with this mind-set, they're the ones that are going to attack police, law enforcement, and every real legitimate form of authority. They're going to rebel against everything. They won't tolerate free speech. If it is not their speech on college campuses, you know that's true; isn't it? It's dangerous for somebody who believes what you believe now to even walk on some of these campuses.

Now listen to me folks. You say, well how do we put that fire out? With transforming truth that's here. It's in the Word of God. And what Jay has done is he's taken the Word of God, he's applied it, applying historical proof, irrefutable evidence, just like he said, a 100 million people killed because of this nonsense. There's been 100s of millions throughout history that have lost their life because of poverty and starvation and total, let's say really the effects of not doing things God's way and doing it right.

Jay, I believe what he's presenting is revolutionary. And I believe it's revolutionary in the most positive way. This is a book about issues we face today that clarifies.

Would you join me and Betty in saying thanks to Jay Richards for going on this journey of research and study and the effort it takes to write and share? Thank you for being my brother and my co-laborer because we're trying to get God's loving arms around all the people that he wants to help, he knows how to help them, and you're trying to help people see how we can actually be a blessing.

Jay, you know, I think our viewers believe that if we can give a cup of water in Jesus' name that it's one of the greatest things they'll ever do. I think when you see what's going on in the life of precious mothers and precious family members, and you know that you are the perfect miracle answer to the needs that you're going to see, and it should make your heart leap with joy to know, I can be their prayer answer. I am the answer to their heart cry. Watch.

Open Captions:

>> His name was Chimomo. We were so happy to have him. He always made us laugh. He was three years old. The diarrhea started, but we had no way to transport him to the hospital. We finally found a bicycle and traveled as fast as we could. But we never made it. He died along the way.

Announcer: Put yourself in Cecilia's place. Your tiny son struck down by the very water that should sustain him. Waves of grief that leave you breathless. The unrelenting fear that screams at you from every bucket of water you draw from the village's only source. Water containing the same contaminants that killed your son. Water you have no choice but to give to your other children.

Open Captions:

>> I will never forget what happened to my son. Each time I go to the water, I remember. I am trapped by fear when I see my other children drinking the dirty water.

Announcer: Like countless mothers in Africa, Cecilia is so strong despite the dire situation that threatens those she loves. With courage and humility, she spoke to us from her heart in a language not her own, desperate to be understood as she pleaded on behalf of her village.

Open Captions:

>> We are asking for the borehole (well). We are suffering here at Seshia village. We drink dirty water in the streams. We are asking for help.

End of video

In the studio:

James: I want all of you to know that this beautiful -- beautiful, beautiful bronze and it's "A Mother's Strength." Betty, are you amazed at this thing? She is carrying her baby and she's

carrying water. I'm telling you, ladies, be praying women and be an answer to prayer. We're sending this to all of you who make a \$1200 gift or more toward one of those beautiful wells. And all the other gifts.

I want to say thanks to Jay and I'm going to just say this, if you want Jay's book today and you help us give water, you say, "Would you send me Jay Richards's book?" Yes, we will. I promise you it will bless you.

Jay, I love you. I thank God for you. I pray God uses you to wake people up on academic institutions and every area of American life. Would you thank God for Jay Richards and thank him for coming to share with us? Thank you for being a really great friend. Thank you for all you've done.

God bless all of you. Thank you for your help and your prayers in giving Water for LIFE!