

Week 34

8/15/11

James: Thank you all! Thank all of you. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. We have a Jewish Rabbi as our guest. I'm so excited about it. I'm excited about it because I've just got so much love for Israel, for the Jewish people, really for all people, but such a special heritage that we, as Christians have been blessed to have as a part of our treasure.

This Rabbi, Daniel Lapin is one of the most popular speakers and gifted speakers and communicators and authors in the country and has a radio program. His wife, Susan, she's just beautiful. They have seven children and they like both of us. That's what is really exciting to see that you just really love one another. I'm holding here a book that says, *Thou Shalt Prosper: The Ten Commandments*. Look at the subheading. He goes ahead and cuts to the chase to what he wants to address, *The Ten Commandments for Making Money*.

Now keep your seatbelt buckled because I know some people say, we always goes to extremes or something. Wait a minute, there is already an animosity and this is ever increasing in our country toward money. Yet the animosity, oftentimes, is toward people that have it from those who don't but wish they did. But with that attitude, likely never will. Many people do not know that money is never the problem, it is the attitude of the individual who may have it sometimes and the misuse or abuse of it perhaps but the money is not the problem. And even having prosperity and understanding that it is greater than just having money, it's really life. I want you to welcome our friend, Rabbi Daniel Lapin to *LIFE Today*. Glad to see you. It's good to have you.

[Applause]

I was thinking that -- I am talking to Christians all over the world and Jewish people who probably are wondering what the Christians are talking about, and I'm talking to a rabbi so you may wonder, well James, why would you talk to a rabbi when you're a Christian, we believe in Jesus. Well, the Jesus that I believe in has given me love for everyone and great gratitude. Jesus was a rabbi. He was Jewish and you should never have a problem with that. We should in fact be the best friends of the Jewish people and of Israel; I believe that with all my heart. But I love the Rabbi.

I was thinking, Rabbi, if I believe Jesus is of great value and he is a personal reality to me and that he expresses love and is an expression of love that it would not be attractive to you at all if I did not represent someone who was the essence of love; I wouldn't have any kind of rapport. So it is certainly quite appropriate for me to be practicing love.

Rabbi Lapin: Very much so.

James: I want you to simply tell our viewers all over the world, as a Jewish Rabbi, what your impression is of Christians and even when you look at the Muslim world and what's going on in the Middle East, what do you think about the influence of Christians on the world if they will be dedicated to what they believe?

Rabbi Lapin: I think for one thing, we'll condense this down to a quick two hours.

[Laughter]

No, just imagine what sort of world there would be if there was no Christianity. Just cutting right to the essence of this, my wife and I have raised our children here in the United States of America, we hope our children will raise their children here in the United States of America; this is our home. It is important to remember that the United States of America has provided the longest, most durable, the most tranquil and most prosperous haven for the Jewish people in the last 2,000 years. This is not in spite of America being a Christian nation, this is precisely because America is a Christian nation.

James: You said something about the impact that Christians could have on the Muslim world.

Rabbi Lapin: There is so much on this. People often speak to me about Israel and they want me to lecture on the Middle East. Look, I don't have a pipeline into the Israeli prime minister's office. I don't know any more than most people who read 11 newspapers a day.

[Laughter]

But what is the solution? Where is all this going? And look, I presented this. I have a teaching called "Clash of Destiny: Decoding the Secrets of Israel and Islam." Where is all this going? I'll tell you where all of this is going. This is all going in the direction of a very simple question with an even simpler answer. Do you think the world would be

a better place or a worse place if a billion Muslims converted to Christianity? What is the answer to that question?

[Laughter]

Let me think for a little while? Could you repeat the question? No, this is not hard. This is really -- there is something else as well that I think is worth bearing in mind too, which is look, do you like Novocain? Novocain is good. Right? Having tooth work done without Novocain is a real drag.

[Laughter]

Novocain along with over 97% of every advance, every technical discovery, every scientific achievement between the years 900 and 1900 came out of Christendom. That is an old-fashioned word -- is it okay to use it?

James: That's fine.

Rabbi Lapin: Out of Christian culture, out of Christian societies, and in many, many cases from Christian scientists like Sir Isaac Newton and many, many, many others. There is a reason for that and it is so clear that Christianity was part of God's plan. Certainly, here where I live in the United States of America, I believe that the restoration and the recovery of America economically, culturally, in every possible way depends on a strong revival of fervent Christianity. And I think fervent Christianity needs fervent Judaism as part of the mix. But Judaism doesn't have the numbers to bring about the change, you do.

James: Well, I just want to tell you that I'm convinced that Israel doesn't have a better friend, a more important friend than the true Christian community, and the United States. And I pray that never changes. I do not think it would be best for any part of the world if that attitude ever changes. And they are such a tiny island that really needs for us to just put our arms of love around them and continue to embrace them.

Rabbi Lapin: You've got to remember that America's Bible belt is Israel's safety belt.

James: Boy, that's great! Do you appreciate what he's already expressed? It's about his own attitude as a Jewish Rabbi. I want to -- and Betty, you expressed your excitement as you were reading the book. You were excited about what Dave Ramsey said about him. Dave Ramsey was here as our guest years ago before he became the famous Dave

Ramsey because we liked what he had to say. But it's just amazing what the Rabbi points out. He breaks out The Ten Commandments of Prosperity and I want him to touch on some of those. But you already saw things as you were going through the book that really excited you about what the Rabbi said.

Betty: Well, just from what I've read, I got the impression that being successful, yeah, it's about money, making money but that's not all of it. It is about our inside, our condition, our relationships and our connecting with other people. I liked what you mentioned in there about "I can't promise you, I can't tell you that you're going to be another Bill Bates --

James: Bill Gates.

Betty: I'm sorry, Bill Gates.

James: She is such a football fan. Bill Bates is football. She loves sports.

[Laughter]

Betty: Y'all know who Bill Bates is!

[Laughter]

You know who Bill Bates is!

James: Bill Bates would like to have a little of Bill Gates.

Betty: Bill Gates or Michelangelo but you can be all that God has created you to be and all of the gifts that -- he's given us all gifts.

Rabbi Lapin: And I'm convinced that for so many of us, the good LORD is looking down and saying, "I don't understand. Why aren't you moving along? I've given you so much ability. I've given you so much connection and you think your current condition is where I want you to be. It isn't!"

James: I've made a statement over the last couple of years; I've tried to emphasize it until it gets through. The world's belief system says in order to be successful you need connections. I've been trying to emphasize you need connectedness. Now I want you to listen to one of the commandments in the Rabbi's book here on -- this is the second commandment. "Extend the network of your connectedness to many people." You

actually believe this even goes back to the first command God gave Adam and Eve. Take off on that a little bit and help people understand the importance of what you're emphasizing here.

Rabbi Lapin: Well, obviously, the very first commandment that God gives humanity is a dietary rule. Talking of which, thank you for accommodating my kosher needs when we had dinner together this evening, I appreciate that. The second commandment is marriage. That is it. It is introduced with a long sequence of things that reveal how cheerful God is. Everything he created he likes! Everything! Like France -- everything!

[Laughter]

Everything is good. We hear that. Seven times God said, "It is good." And the eighth time even the gold is good; gold is a metaphor for money. So right off the bat, Genesis, right in the very beginning we have a clue that gold is not evil.

And then the very first time God gets grumpy is when he says it is not good. For what? -- For man to be alone. The reason is because God wants us to be bonded in exactly the same way that you and Betty, and Susan and I, don't we love seeing our children connected to one another? Don't we love seeing them do things for one another and helping one another? Well, why would our father in heaven feel any differently about how we treat his children?

So that's one of the reasons I think it is so significant, particularly here in the United States, you go in to get a pair of shoes and a sales person goes down on his knees in front of you. That's called customer service, it is not menial, but it is another way of serving God is to serve his children. That's what we do. And so through that connecting with one another and building those connections we are able to get past a very basic question and it is one that I've had a chance to see in your book, True Prosperity. You finish your first chapter with that basic question, does God want us to be rich? You quote King David Psalm 37, and I wish I had thought of doing that.

[Laughter]

But what I think is that question is lot like saying, you'll pardon me, does God want us to have great sex? Well, he hasn't actually shared that information with me unfortunately but here's what I do know for sure and that is that God wants us to follow his blueprint of a man and a woman dedicated to one another and dedicated to

their family. Why would it surprise me that a good and loving God should reward those who follow their plan with the greatest gift of human sensual pleasure?

Does God want us to be rich? Well, again, he hasn't explicitly shared that with me with respect to any individuals particularly but I do know that he wants us to be obsessively preoccupied with trying to fill one another's needs and desires. Why would it surprise me that a good and loving God would respond to those of us who take care of other people's needs even though they're doing it to make a profit? But the bottom line is Bill Bates is -- now you've got me doing this!

[Laughter]

James: Well, it just rhymes! It goes good!

Rabbi Lapin: It does! Well, let's just leave it at that. The fact is he has helped millions and millions and millions of people do better in their work and achieve more. There is value in that and a good and loving God rewards people who obsessively take care of other people's needs and desires; he rewards them with this great blessing of not having to be worn down by the relentless burden of stressful poverty.

James: You're going to touch -- and we're going to actually talk to the Rabbi not only in this program but another program about some of these Ten Commandments. But you know, you really talk about the importance of working toward a goal and not working with some kind of bad attitude.

And when Dave Ramsey does the introduction in the book, which he writes the introduction, talks about how incredibly effective you are not only helping him but helping everyone who will listen, but he tells a story that I think is very typical of where people are and they need to hear it. He said when he was 12 years old he went to his dad and he said, "I need some money."

And Dave Ramsey's dad looked at him and said, "Son, you don't need money, you need a job. That's what you need." Then he told him some kind of story about people in the old days they would go out and hunt and kill something and drag it back to the cave. And his dad said, "Then it is yours when you get it back." In other words, go out and do something; be productive. You really pick up on that.

I grew up believing -- and I went to work at 12. If I was going to get something, I went to work. But also -- I really think this is important. I grew up without resenting people who had achieved. I actually looked out and saw opportunity. Do you believe that our

nation right now, that there is a negative trend to put people into an entitlement mentality and resentment toward people who have in fact been successful?

Rabbi Lapin: I don't get worked up into a frenzy very often but one of the 11 or 12 things that work me up into a frenzy is --

[Laughter]

Again, some you alluded to in True Prosperity when the government says, "We're only going to tax the rich." Of course, sadly enough you soon find out you're one of them.

[Laughter]

But again it is exactly what you're saying. It is generating envy, it is generating hatred of a class and this is really important because you think about something that happened in May 1953, Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay came down from climbing Mount Everest. Nobody had ever done it before. Now this coming summer about 1,000 people are going up Everest. There have been so many people going up Everest since 1953 that they have a littering problem. Somebody has to go up and try and get the Snicker bar wrappers down from there. Seriously!

So my question is -- and I'm not saying I could climb Mount Everest, you probably could but a whole lot of people can do it. It is not that big of a deal. The proof is that literally, hundreds of guys who drive desks all year are going to pay a guide to take them up Mount Everest. So if it is not that impossible to do how come nobody had ever done it before May 1953? The answer is nobody ever believed that it could be done.

The same thing a year later, Roger Bannister ran a four minute mile; first time a human being had ever run a mile in less than four minutes! This year how many college athletes are going to run four minute miles? Thousands! I'm not saying I could, I bet you could.

James: No, I don't think so.

[Laughter]

Rabbi Lapin: But it is not that impossible to do. So how come nobody did it before 1954? Nobody believed -- in fact, doctors said it could kill you if you tried. They said it was impossible. If you don't believe that it is not only possible but preferable and more

effective to make money by doing the right thing, by integrating the whole culture of prosperity into your life, not praying to God for a Ferrari, but making God happy, doing what God laid out in his blueprint to bring the blessing of prosperity, if you don't have that conviction in your heart you are going to be poor for the rest of your life.

James: And wherever you are right now can you begin the turn around?

Rabbi Lapin: It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter what you do. It doesn't matter what your skills are. It doesn't matter how old you are. Just think of the Colonel and Kentucky Fried Chicken, how old he was when he suddenly decided enough was enough and he was going to start making some money. It is the right thing to do -- it is the right thing to do at any time.

James: I do want you to get the book. As a matter of fact, we're actually going to send it to you if you would like to have it because God does want to bless you! Do you appreciate the Rabbi sharing with us? We want to actually give him an opportunity to go in-depth.

It is just wonderful to me for people to see that one of the great ways we're going to see healing and health come back to our nation is for people who have strong, let's say different perspectives to be able to sit down in an atmosphere and attitude of love. You're watching me bring leaders together in the community of faith and you know it is a remarkable thing -- to see people come together. It really would help Congress, and I think Congress would be helped in people of faith and church leaders, Christian, Jewish, all of us could learn to sit down together. This is what we're going to be working toward.

I want you to really be praying with us. Rabbi, one of the things we do that our viewers -- there is something inside that has been released, it is like a river of love; they love to help people. One of the greatest joys that we experience is giving people water and it is effective; it is a gift that lasts literally a lifetime but also transforms lives, and it is because of the love of God. Now I want you to join with me and Betty in looking in on a scene. Now I want you to know this. Here's a situation that's very serious but there really is an answer. It is not something you wish you could solve. I want you to watch closely.

Translator: Life is hard for us here in the villages of Madagascar. We are very poor and we have to get our water from wherever we can find it. My name is Avizio and everyone here in my village is sick because of this water. I am sick. My children are sick with diarrhea. I hate giving them this dirty water but it is all we have. It is so bad that some of the children in the village have died. I have a feeling that I have a dying child in my lap. But what can I do? Who can help us? Who can help me?

James: I find myself wanting to put my hand up. I can!

You know, Betty, the missionaries and our incredible staff that put together that piece and translated it for us to hear that mother, exactly what she was saying, they knew that they would not just bring it back to Betty and to James but I can tell you what the missionaries say because I hear it over and over, "If we could just tell the people who watch *LIFE Today*, if we could just tell them." And when the missionaries come to us, literally, they're coming to you, I think they're coming to God because we've tried to represent his love and we couldn't do it without his love through you.

I really believe the missionaries have confidence, and that mother has been offered hope now that she will have a well for her children, that her heart cry and her desire will be met. Betty, I'm believing that viewers all over the world will go to the phone or go online and make the best gifts you can to give the great gift of fresh clean water. I believe they're going to respond.

Betty: I do too, James. I think you just heard the heart of a mother that so loves her children that she would do anything and everything for them to help them live healthy. But she says -- she asks the question, "What can I do? This is all the water we have." There are so many others that are asking that question, "What can I do?" They have to have water. Will you help us? Join with us and let's build the water well so they can have a choice. They can take and choose the clean water, the pure water that will help their children be healthy.

James: We can do it. We can help and this is the last week of our emphasis for the over 400 wells that we're asking you to help us drill. Could you drill one of them? Would you be the answer to "Will you help us?" I will. Would you drill part of a well? So often we have people who will give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray one person or three people will join them and then we have got the \$4800 necessary. But we rejoice that we've got individuals and couples and small businesses and churches, I will drill a well. But what will you do?

Betty, we could not drill 400 wells in these various countries of the world unless people said, "I'll give \$48 or \$144" and give ten people water for the rest of their life or 30. It takes all of us coming together. By the way, the \$48 gift or the \$144 gift, it's just as great in the eyes of God and to the people that you give water to as it is who can give the \$4800.

The widow's mite was the largest gift, Jesus said the greatest gift. You simply give your best. Would you do that? Would you dial the number? Would you make the gift God put on your heart? Put it on a bankcard or if you write a check make it it *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail or you can go online LifeToday.org. We've got some special gifts for you to bless you to say thank you for giving life. Please make that gift. I do remind you, this is the last week for this emphasis to drill the 400 wells. Would you help?

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 that 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. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything in life.

With your support we will drill 415 new water wells in remote villages in 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

In appreciation for your gift to help drill these new wells be sure to request the Kingdom Life Journal. This beautiful leather bound prayer devotional includes both Psalms and Proverbs, as well as a place to write your own reflections as God speaks to you through his word.

Also please prayerfully 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 journal as well as our beautiful commemorative bronze sculpture, "Heart of the Father."

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Lisa: I have spent my day traveling up and down this river. We have seen the graves of children that have died because they drank from this river. We want to do something about it. Mission: Water For Life can drill wells but we need you to respond. This is a global problem, this isn't just isolated to this river. This river is just a small picture of rivers worldwide. The need is desperate and urgent. Open your hearts and give freely so these children won't die.

In the studio:

James: I do encourage you to simply make the gift God put on your heart. Do your best! We would love to send you Rabbi Lapin's book, Thou Shalt Prosper. Do you know the greatest prayer request we get... and by the way, today, as people are calling to help provide water, 80% of the calls will still be prayer calls -- in the midst of a crisis! Wherever we're meeting need people say, "Will you pray for me?" Greatest prayer request: Health challenges. Second: We've got money issues; we've got financial challenges. These are principles.

A lot of you say, "How does God bless the Jewish people?" So he can bless the nations of the world. And through that blessing comes our savior Jesus, and all that's happened in our lives.

But wait a minute, does he want to bless us? We're not talking about going after money and the love of money. What we're talking about the blessing that having money can bring, you can alleviate suffering. You couldn't drill a well if you don't have the resources to do it.

We'll gladly send this to you for whatever gift you make to help us share water.

You want to say thanks to Rabbi Lapin again?

Rabbi thank you! We want to talk to you in the next program about some of the specific commandments in the book.

Thank you so much for watching *LIFE Today*. Again, encourage your friends to watch. Some of them have got financial challenges. I believe the Rabbi will say some things that will help you.

Announcer: Tomorrow -- the Ten Commandments for making money.

>> But money is a spiritual measure of what you have done for other human beings.