

Week 34

8/16/11

James: Welcome all of you! We're so grateful! Thank you! We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have Rabbi Daniel Lapin with us. I just have such great love for this man and for the Jewish people and for Israel and we had better always, as Americans, and as people in the free world be the friend of Israel. Dear God, how we need to pray for them in that very strategic place where it is so tenuous.

Betty, from the time we were young we would hear about the incredible wisdom the Jewish people seemed to have to make decisions, to prosper. They've been terribly persecuted through the years. It's just heartbreaking even to see the pressure there now and yet we realize that God gave us the Old Testament truth, he gave us the law through Moses.

This nation was really established on the foundation where many believe, as they study our history, that Moses was really in so many ways America's prophet and the influence of the great Judeo-Christian heritage and I believe the imprint and the weight of the Kingdom of God, the shelter and shadow of the almighty impacted our founders so that they established, apart from the commandment Moses brought down from the mountain written with the finger of God in a table of stone to have the most wonderful truth for government and political foundation ever established.

I believe it was the weight of God's truth on those founders; I don't think there is any arguing that. Well, Rabbi Lapin has written several books dealing with prosperity. He understands -- I think it is real important when you see this. Money itself is not a problem. The love of money is a root of all evil. When you put that above God or others and family, and you only focus on yourself, you can be thou fool, the foolish farmer; the fertile field and the abundance the farmer had was not his problem, becoming so totally absorbed that he could never look beyond his world and literally make a difference.

Well, Rabbi Lapin understands what prosperity has and he actually says, "I want to really tear down a misnomer and a misunderstanding that money is really is not the issue and making money." We're going to ask you to help us drill water wells. We're going to ask you to help us help the suffering. You can't do that with no wherewithal -- you can't do that. And take it from you and disperse it is not key.

How do we have a benevolent spirit? How do we even have anything to be benevolent with? Well, let's let the Rabbi give us some of the answers from his perspective. Would you welcome Rabbi Lapin to *LIFE Today*? Daniel, Rabbi, good to see you.

[Applause]

I want you to just take off with some of these Ten Commandments. You literally say these are the Ten Commandments for making money, for having prosperity, which is more than just stuff. It is real life.

Rabbi Lapin: Yeah, and you put your finger on it when you said, look, we could read books by Bill Gates and we could read books by Donald Trump and we could read books by --

James: Buffett?

Rabbi Lapin: Buffett, exactly! It doesn't help me because I'm not as smart as Bill Gates and I don't have the capital of Buffett and my dad didn't leave me 3,000 apartments in New York like Donald Trump -- it doesn't help me.

But what does help me is to study what millions of ordinary people have done, millions of ordinary Jewish individuals have done through hundreds and hundreds of years, even in countries with oppression. You'd have to be a blind immigrant from outer Mongolia not to know that Jews are disproportionately good with money. Don't you say that?

James: That's why you're right here trying to help us all out.

Rabbi Lapin: I'm allowed to say that because I'm an Orthodox Jewish Rabbi.

[Laughter]

But the point is what is the reason? Obviously, there are poor Jews. But demographically there ought to be eight or nine Jews on the Forbes 400 list. In fact, we have about 100 every year. There is a reason for that and that's not because you have to have chicken soup or you've got to be circumcised or anything like that. It's because there are thousands of principles and tips and tools and techniques and timeless truths embedded throughout scripture and all of ancient Jewish wisdom, which I felt somebody needed to condense, somebody needed to reduce into a manageable -- now

it is not an easy book. There is a lot of material. You're not going to read it on Monday and make more money on Tuesday. But if you read it and study it over the next month, this year will be a better year for you than last year, no question about it. That's what we're talking about.

Now specifically where do we start? You made the point in our conversations of is this only for people of a certain age or people of certain talents? No, that's the whole point. This is not for the computer wizards or anybody else. This is you and me, this is ordinary people learning to operate the way God wants us to operate. This is not sitting around doing nothing and saying, "God, please give me money." Because I don't think God responds to that.

God says, "I've told you what I want you to do. I want you to care for other people. I want you to be obsessively preoccupied with other people's needs and above all I don't want you to think that your virtue is compromised because you're going to make a profit of taking care of other people." So learn that the word is not what you want, the word is service.

One of the worst pieces of advice they ever give to young people leaving school is, "I don't know what I'm going to do."

"No problem! Find out what you're passionate about and go and do that."

Look, as an employer, somebody comes to me and says, "Let me tell you, I want a job with you. Why don't I start off telling you what I'm passionate about?"

No, I don't want to hear what you're passionate about. I don't actually care what you're passionate about. I've a business to run. I only have one question and that is, can you help me? Why don't people get that?

I have watched job interviews where the applicant walks in and starts off three minutes into the conversation, "Excuse me, can I find out what are the benefits? What are the vacation days?" Well, that's a fine message you're sending me. The message is, you're not working for me ever!

[Laughter]

That's for sure! There is a right way to ask for a raise. There is a right way to do it. You start off with gratitude. We learn this from scripture. How do we ask God for anything when we pray? We start off with a appreciation and praise. If you're already working

somewhere, you've benefited from that company. You need to go in and you need to talk about how much you appreciate the company. Then you need to go in and talk about ways in which you can be of added service to the company. That's the word, "service."

What you can -- there are right and wrong ways to ask for a raise. Most people do it wrong. Starting a business, there is no reason why anybody can't start a business on the side. You don't have to quit your job. All you've got to do is sit down, either with yourself or with your C.E.O. who is your spouse or your board of directors who might be your family, and sit down and have a serious brainstorming session of what is needed. What do people miss? What could people's lives be improved by by the things you do?

So step number one is recognizing that the goal is not money, the goal is serving other people. Money is the automatic consequence. The love of money gets you on the wrong track. It is not going to work. I don't want to do business with you if all your interested in is my money.

James: See, I have had from the time I actually was called to preach, it's obvious that it seemed like I had a gift to communicate. If you think the business world didn't recognize that and come to get that gift to utilize it, there is no question about it. But here's what I did because I was called to do something God called me to do.

But I opted out of Social Security when I was 18 so I didn't make any plans for retirement. But let me just say this, up in my 50s advisors said, "You need to do some things." And I began to -- I've heard and learned some things and somebody told me, "Well, a good investment is something that will never be anything ever made like that again." So I kind of thought there might be without high speculation land and some other things. I began to make some good decisions.

But let me tell you what really worked and it is really a reemphasis of what you said. I began to try to find people that I could simply offer something to with no thought, at the moment, of what it might do for me but what I could do for them. It is amazing how attracted they were to the counsel or the advice. I even found some that I would give them advice with a legitimate interest in the service they wanted to offer or the job they wanted to accomplish.

Now Rabbi, this was an amazing thing to see. There was some, and I can think of one in particular who said, "You helped me so much -- I mean you so revolutionized my ability to help others, to do something meaningful, to make a literal difference on

planet earth in people's lives for the good that I want to actually compensate you." So frankly, they've compensated Betty and me for simply the counsel and the advice that impacted, and frankly, it's impacted hundreds of thousands of people. Is that not what you're talking about?

What I'm saying is I wasn't looking for a job per se, I mean I had a job but I realized I didn't trust Social Security and that means we're going to have to start looking in the future, not those of you that have been expecting and we've been -- I'm going to fight to find a way to be sure you get what you expect.

But also to encourage, we began to reorganize programs that were not working -- you cannot keep doing business the way we're doing it right now as a nation. You'll agree with that. We've got to make correction. We're going to have to sit down and reason together and all of us pull together.

My point is I began to offer the very service you're talking about and found an immediate connectedness, which that's one of your commandments, not connections, but connectedness for the benefit of one another. Take off on something else in the book. I'm excited about what you're saying!

Rabbi Lapin: I'm excited at your excitement!

[Laughter]

-- Because it is so terrific to be with people who get it. It's so obvious. It shouldn't be necessary to have to prove.

But one of the ways of proving that these Judeo-Christian principles that emerge from scripture are absolutely the way to build wealth is a very simple fact and I've discussed this with world renowned economists at various conferences I've spoken at and nobody has been able to -- or would dispute this. No capital market has never grown indigenously in a non-Christian society. So there is a stock exchange in Singapore now, there is a stock exchange in Nigeria, sure, that's true! But these were all emulations of a capital system that grew up in the west and the west was a child of the Bible. That's a very important point.

James: Which means each one of us, as children of God, as people God created, whether you trusted him or trusted in him or not, for heaven's sake, trust the laws that are as certain and absolute as gravity. The weight of God's truth will keep everything in proper place and proper alignment. The standard of God is the proper measure of

everything. We need to be plowing toward that standard. It is the Judeo-Christian principles and ethics.

We need to get back to building on that regardless of what you believe. It is a solid foundation, if you're going to rise above the law of gravity you put another law of aerodynamics in effect. If you don't do it and you don't put it that in effect, you're coming down. And we are violating the principles in the Word of God, we are violating the very principles upon which this nation was built to be the most prosperous ever. I'm telling you, we've got to get back to it. I want to be a part of leading people back into the light of truth.

Rabbi Lapin: And you're doing that through your wonderful books, the books the two of you have written together and you're doing it through this show. I think by making Thou Shalt Prosper available to people who help the incredible water project and water means life and water in ancient Jewish wisdom means wisdom, I think that you're helping people get past this. One of the most critical first steps, and obviously, people will be able to get a hold of the book or people can go to my web site.

James: Tell us what your web site is. Dr. Rabbi Lapin writes a commentary each week.

Rabbi Lapin: We like to bless people. It is a free weekly e-mail. It is filled with spiritual strategies for success.

James: Where do they find it?

Rabbi Lapin: They find it at my web site. Now you can go to my web site at www.RabbiDanielLapin.com.

James: There it is on the screen.

Rabbi Lapin: But there is another way of getting to the web site which I kind of prefer in a obnoxious kind of way, if you'll forgive me, and that is www.YouNeedARabbi.com.

[Laughter]

Yeah, [YouNeedARabbi.com](http://www.YouNeedARabbi.com). I'm just trying to make sure I stay employed, that's all.

[Laughter]

Betty: I like that a lot.

James: Betty, you jump in the mix. You want to ask the Rabbi something? I know you always say I'm a great listener. I like to hear what's being said. What are you prompted to ask him today?

Betty: You're talking about prospering. To me that takes in so much more than the money side of it but it is prospering in our relationship with God and if anyone has -- if you're a parent or a grandparent, I know, at least James and I, we have three children and 11 grandchildren and it is our desire that they all prosper. We look at their whole character, their gifts that God has given them. We want them to prosper in life. That includes financially. Why? Because it is not -- sometimes I get concerned, Rabbi, that we're being taught to just take instead of give.

Rabbi Lapin: Well, this is exactly the point. With audiences I sometimes like saying, "Hands up everybody who wants to make more money." Everybody starts sliding under their seats. Everyone is embarrassed to put their hands up. Why?

Think about this for a moment. I say to everybody, "All right, take out a dollar and hold it up." Then I have to reassure them, "There is not going to be a collection. This is not an offering. I just want to do a demonstration."

Okay fine, now they take the dollars out. And I fool them at the end. I ask them to pass them all up to the front.

[Laughter]

But what I'm saying is, if you stole that money, if you robbed somebody to get that money, put it away. If you defrauded somebody put it away. If you mugged a little old lady and took her pocketbook and that's how you got that dollar bill, put it away. I don't want to see it. All the dollars are still up in the air. "I've got news for you. There is only one way you got that dollar, you pleased another human being enough to give it to you. I don't know if it was your boss, I don't know if it was a customer, I don't know if it was a client, I don't know if it was a relative, but somebody voluntarily put it in your hand because of something you did for them. How can God not smile at that?"

And money is a very important thing. It is important to recognize that money is spiritual, not physical. People get shocked by that sometimes. But as long as you think

money is physical, then you want to sort of clutch onto it, which is exactly the wrong strategy, because you can't invest if you're holding onto it. You can't take business risks if you're holding onto it.

You've got to recognize that it is like a tune. You can't hold onto a tune. You share a tune, you make a more musical world. Money is not like the saxophone, it is not like a violin, it is like a song, it is like a tune. You've got to recognize that it is not little disks of metal in your pocket or strips of colored paper in your wallet or a brown magnetic strip on the back of your credit card. That's not what money is, those are just symbols of money.

But money is a spiritual measure of what you have done for other human beings. And when you recognize that, you feel much more comfortable about telling your worth. I notice how embarrassed people sometimes are when they do something for you and you say, "How much do I owe you? Just tell me! I'm happy!"

James: We've actually -- we've made money an object of scorn. We understand filthy lucre. We understand that people can literally be consumed by it to the point that they can't even see. They're blinded by what they have. But the money is not the problem. There is something going on in the heart.

But the real inappropriate attitude toward money, which the Rabbi is pointing out, this attitude is though money in itself is terrible or prosperity. We are -- we are going to ask our viewers -- as a matter of fact, I'm going to simply tell every one of you, I would love to send you the book. We're going to ask you -- we're going to ask you to help us help the truly helpless by giving people fresh clean water. We want to send you the book so you're not just going to go flipping through it and find answers like some quick cure or fix all. You're going to learn how to refocus life.

And Rabbi, I really believe you help do that. I'm telling you, if Jesus said to us -- and by the way, he had strong words for the person who buried their money and hid it and didn't use the talent to invest and reproduce and multiply. He talked about that. But he said the greatest on earth, this is our savior, Jesus, he said, "The greatest on earth is servant." You're saying as a rabbi, from your perspective, looking at it biblically, looking at the Old Testament, looking at the blessings of God on the Jewish people when they walked in accordance with those commands, the problems when we don't, but you said "servanthood, service, providing a service."

Rabbi Lapin: Focus on taking care of other people and remember, money didn't come into being while God's attention was distracted and all of the sudden he looked back

and said, "Oh, what have they done? Money! Oh!" No! No! Money is God's plan for human economic interaction.

James: Absolutely! Would you say thanks to the Rabbi? Rabbi Daniel Lapin. There he is, there is his web site. You can get the book there if you like or in the bookstores. We will send it to you if you'll do something that I think you'll want to do and that is give someone clean water where they have absolutely no access to it. I want you to look in. I want you to see reality. I plead with you, don't turn away.

Some say, "I don't want to see that." Well, you need to look at it because I'm telling you, you're the answer, right where you are. We talked about the blessing of serving, making a difference. There is no greater blessing. Learn to live that way and watch what happens. Here's an opportunity. Very simple but it is life giving. Watch.

On the mission field:

Announcer: Water is essential for life. Every system in our body depends on fresh clean water. Water flushes toxins out of vital organs. It carries nutrients to your cells and keeps the body hydrated so it can function normally. These are important facts but they mean very little to mothers like Landy and her daughter Valorie who find themselves among the nearly one billion people in our world who have no choice but to drink diseased water and suffer the tragic consequences.

Announcer: The plight of Landy is simply a snapshot of what thousands of other mothers suffer on a daily basis because of waterborne illness has taken the lives of their children.

Announcer: There is a simple solution for her tragic situation. It is fresh clean water which can prevent these needless deaths, bring children back to health and give Landy and thousands of other mothers hope for the future.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: That little baby died. That picture -- she still has one baby that can crumple up the picture. And mother doesn't want that baby to die and we can stop it.

I'm telling you, we can put at the missionaries' request and their great love, God's love through them, we can put a water well there.

Betty and I get pictures like this all of the time. This is from St. Jude's. And we get the pictures of little children like this because Betty and I started helping St. Jude's and we try to help them a lot. But we get pictures like this from a child that is fighting a disease that they don't have a cure for, and oftentimes they say, "Will you help us find a cure, please?"

And then sometimes we get a picture of a beautiful little child that died and the mother says, "My little girl -- my little boy died. We think we're close to finding the cure for somebody else's." And boy, Betty and I help.

When I look at that little child and think of that little baby that died, I know the cure. Betty, we don't have to do research, we don't have to find some miracle drug, all we have to do is give them a fresh water well and we know the water is there. People like you provided the drilling rigs. Now we're asking you to help pay the cost. And the average cost, we're drilling 400 in 15 countries. And those 400 wells, the average cost - - and there are some places that are more expensive and there are some places where the water is very shallow, maybe 150 feet but the average is \$4800. That could change in the coming months but currently it is there.

Would you drill a well? Would you go to the phone wherever it is right now. A billion people give online and they can go to their computer, go to LifeToday.org and just click, I want to donate, I want to give and make your gift. Put it on a bankcard. Use it like a check. That's how you should always use that card. If you want to write a check and some of you do, you say, "James, can I make a check?"

Yes, certainly! Make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it because this is the last week. We need to hear from you now -- I mean today.

You say, "Will you ever drill wells again?" Many months from now, sure, we're going to do our best. But you determine whether or not we can fulfill this.

And by the way, the missionaries have said, "We're going to drill a well here." We -- it is not me and Betty. You can know we're going to drill a well. Every time the missionaries say, "Can you do it here?" -- we're going to help them in that project. Would you -- listen -- \$48, 10 people water the rest of their life and we put that together. \$144, 30 people water the rest of their life.

Could you give the \$4800 or \$1200 or \$2400 and pray three people join you? Or another person joins you and we've got a well? It's each one of us fulfilling our part in God's heart. That's how it happens. What can you do?

By the way, in God's sight your best is as good as it gets. It is as big as it gets. Father, help everyone to be excited about giving. And Lord, let us drill those wells. Bless the people who can drill a well or several wells or give water to 10 people or as many as possible in Jesus' name. Would you make that call? Please do it or go online. Please do it now.

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

In the studio:

James: I just want to say thank you. I'm anxious to send you the beautiful Kingdom Life Journal. It is -- I pray many of you will get the bronze. I do want you to know --

remember, this is our last week for this emphasis in sharing the water wells. We want to send you Rabbi Daniel Lapin's book, Thou Shalt Prosper. It is really good!

I love this Rabbi, love the Jewish people. Love you! He loves us.

Can we just say thank you for coming and sharing? Rabbi, God bless you! Thanks for sharing.

If you want to know how to find out where the Rabbi is going to be, get his newsletter online, there is information or you can go to LifeToday.org and we'll tell you how to find out all he has to offer to help you.

Beth: We've seen all that is at stake if we're going to live a life motivated by the comforts of this world.

Announcer: Tomorrow, Beth Moore shows us the God of all comforts.