James: Thank you all. I'm blessed by your love for the Lord, your love for Pastor Robert Morris who pastors really a church that is in the entire Dallas/Fort Worth area, in wonderful satellite outreaches. The main campus is in Southlake and we are just privileged to be part of the church.

I'm reading, Robert, here on the new book, *Beyond Blessed.* I'm not meaning to ignore you over here. "Robert Morris has helped countless people, myself included, come to a better awareness of God's principles of generosity. His book continues that teaching. What a welcome word." Max Lucado. You've blessed Max.

Then here's this other fellow that says, "In *Beyond Blessed* Robert reveals how being a manager of your money leads to financial freedom. Through biblical principles, personal stories and incredible testimonies you'll learn what the Bible says about why it is important to be a good steward." John Maxwell.

On and on. And here is Craig Groeschel. Craig, what a blessing you are, you and your wife, your family, just thank you for the inspiration you are.

David Green, the founder of Hobby Lobby. David, my goodness, what an inspiration you are to all of us.

Okay. So this is a new book. You've written many that are great. You've talked about *The Blessed Life* being born right here on *LIFE Today* so that means all the viewers of *LIFE Today*
praying and supporting the outreach actually helped you when you began birthing, not only the series but your pastoral leadership. So this is what prayer does. This is what support does.

Now you're talking here about stewardship and oversight and responsibility. That's not supposed to be a weighty term, is it? Isn't that supposed to be maybe a bright reality?

**Robert:** It's actually brings more peace and more joy to us than probably just about anything we can talk about. I mean that with all my heart because people are so weighed down with financial stress. I really believe God gave me the title that this can eliminate all financial stress. Just simply think about if all Christians had no financial stress?

**James:** It is a leading contributor Robert to suicide. It is a real big contributor to divorce; to say nothing of how it contributes to outright misery, like you're saying.

**Robert:** And then it also affects our children because we even say things like, "If we had more money we could do something like that family." And we teach our children that money is the answer instead of Christ is the answer.

So it affects everything we do. Jesus himself said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be." So it affects our heart, it affects our physical condition, it affects our emotional outlook.

I'm so excited about this book. I think this is probably the most important book I've written so far. This is number 16 and the first book was *The Blessed Life*, which God has used all over the world to my surprise and my amazement; started right here on *LIFE Today*. So this is the companion book. You can't read just *The Blessed Life* without reading *Beyond Blessed* because it takes both to have a truly blessed life.

**James:** Do you know that the greater the blessing and the greater the prosperity, the greater the testing is for the people who are being blessed and prosperous. Prosperity has done more damage to people than persecution because we don't handle it well. And the more prosperous and blessed we are, the more fruitful our fields are oftentimes, the more money we have access to, the more
poorly we manage it and the more those blessings become idols or terrible distractions that can actually lead to destruction of many precious things in our lives.

So if we don't get this, Robert, giving and just like if our national income goes up, that's when the tests get greater because that gives you access to more idols, more things to pursue to let your heart go after to get you away from the things that matter.

So I'm not sure that this may be even far more important than starting the blessing cycle if people get how to manage it. If they manage little they are better off than people who have a lot and can't manage it because those people who have a lot are miserable. I can show you as much misery in large houses and beautiful subdivisions, more misery per square foot than you'll see in the huts in Africa because they don't have any life. They have a lot of stuff and the stuff has got them. This is in my opinion, pastor, it may be as important as anything you'll ever share.

**Robert:** I agree with that. And if they manage little well, this is according to Jesus, then he will give them more. He will! That's just normal.

**James:** He wasn't happy with somebody that mismanaged little. He actually called him "wicked." Those are pretty tough terms. He called him "a wicked servant." Now that's Jesus talking.

**Robert:** He actually took from him and gave to the guy that managed more well. And it wasn't that he had more, it was that he managed better. So it is so important to manage what God gives us. It brings a contentment, it brings a peace, and it brings a joy. You sleep better at night.

**Betty:** It affects our spiritual walk. You mentioned in an earlier show about being a channel. I just kept thinking about that. If God entrusts us with what we have, if we can then trust God to do with it what he wants to do with it we can let that channel flow. And when that channel is flowing, I know just from personal experience, when I've done something to bless someone else, it brings such an enlightenment in my own heart. It takes a weight off of me. You can't separate the spiritual affect from the physical effect of what this can do.
Robert: God wired us for hope. He wired us for hope. We quote the scripture: Hope deferred makes the heart sick. But we forget the rest of it: But when it is full grown -- hope -- when hope is fulfilled, it brings a well of life. Think about it -- wells of life. You're drilling but it brings a well of life. So it just continues and continues, it doesn't say brings a well of finances, even though God does bless us financially, it's a well of life in our marriage, in our family, with our children, with our grandchildren, with our job, with our neighborhood; with everything it brings a well of life when hope is fulfilled.

Now here's the problem though in our society is that with credit cards and debt we actually just circumvent the whole process of hope. We have no delayed gratification. In essence, if we want something, we just go down to the store, put our credit card down and get it. Now not only do we have that, but we have payments now. And we have a greater debt, we have greater stress so we don't even enjoy what we bought.

James: If you and I can live to inspire some people to do well, let me just ask you this, Betty. You've watched our life together. You've watched Robert. You look at our three children, one of them is watching from heaven. We've got 11 grandchildren, now, we have four great grandchildren. How many grandchildren do you have?

Robert: Nine.

James: Nine grandchildren! Whoo! Boy, be fruitful and multiply! Here's the deal. Let me just say this to you. We've got three kids and their spouses. We've got now eight grandchildren who have spouses, and the others, I'm sure will have spouses but they're patiently waiting; we have these grandbabies.

And here's the glory of it. Robert's family loves God. They don't have an issue with money. They never thought money did something for them. I know his kids. I know the family. They don't think money is the big deal in life. Our children don't think that. They didn't grow up thinking money is a big deal. They grew up... our son said this to your pastors, all the young pastors.
Betty and I spent hours with them just loving them. Let me say this, they were beautiful. They were beautiful couples, they were a beautiful expression of the life of God. But we just poured out life on them.

And then they wanted to know something about legacy. What's a legacy? Well, Randy is sitting there by Betty. I said, "Okay Randy, what do you want to do? Do you want a legacy? You want us to give money to you and the kids?"

And all of the sudden Randy just looked out at all of these pastors and he said, "The legacy that we have is Christ -- Christ is our legacy."

Christ is the legacy of the grandchildren. Christ is the legacy of the grandchildren. That is the legacy that responsible living does where God is in control of you and you're giving godly oversight as a steward to everything he entrusted to our watch care, that is everything on his planet. This planet is the Garden of Eden to God. This planet is the garden we oversee. Does that make sense? Will that preach?

Robert: Yes, sir! Yes, sir! And God gave us stewardship over the earth. When we steward it well he gives us more to steward. When you talk about it affecting our children, we talked in another show about Elaine, my daughter that gave us challenges; that’s a great word for it.

[Laughter]

But now she is on the right path. She just spoke at a women's conference; she's fantastic, doing great. But let me tell you a story about this. I shared with the church one time about a man in our church that gives $100 bills away. Now I'm that man but I didn't want to say it was me and I am a man and I am in our church. So I was telling the truth.

But there was a lady, a single mom in our church that decided to tithe. She made $1,000 so she was going to write a check for $100 and the Lord spoke to her and said, "Add $20." And she thought, Lord, I'm going to do $100. He said, "Yeah, but I want you to give an offering and trust
me."

So she wrote it for $120. She is walking out to her car and this man in our church that gives $100 bills, the Lord said, "Go give her a $100 bill." So the man walked up to her but when he looked at his wallet there was a $20 right beside it. And the Lord said, "Give her the $20 also."

And the man said (being me) "Lord, I don't give 20s, I give hundreds."

And the Lord said, "No, you obey. That's what you do because this is my money." That's what stewardship is about. So the man gave her the $120. But think of what a coincidence.

But that's not the end of the story. So we get home and Elaine was there and she said, "Daddy, can I talk to you?" And we went in my office and she said, "You're the man, aren't you? You're the man."

I said, "Why do you say that?"

She said, "Because when you told that story, I was flooded with memories of you going to a waitress and shaking her hand and witnessing to her but I could see the $100 bill in your hand. And you talking to the guy on the side of the road with a sign and you giving," she said, "I saw all these $100 bills. I'd never seen it growing up but God reminded me."

I said, "Yeah, I'm the man."

And my daughter who was away from the Lord for two years, with tears in her eyes said, "Daddy, I want to be like you. I want to be like you."

That is Beyond Blessed. That's The Blessed Life, not just that I can be generous but that I would see that all of my resources belonged to God and I give them when God tells me to.

James: I want to pray right now. Listen to me. I know there are a lot of parents and
grandparents just this minute that say, "Boy, I wish that would happen to my child, my son, my daughter, maybe young, maybe grown, or my grandchild." But we just want to be in agreement with you for it. But here's what I do want you to hear. They need, the grandchild, the child, glimpses of that glory and somebody. Now if they haven't been able to see it in you, the best ways to show it to them is to go and let them know that you know they didn't see it but you want them to. And you're asking God for His glory and His grace to come on you. That's a good way to start.

The other way is if they've seen it but you just want it fulfilled, I'm going to join with you. Robert and Debbie, and this studio are praying right now that God will bring your child or grandchild, your loved one to that place God brought Elaine.

Father, I pray that right now for everyone that's watching, and somebody in their family, very precious to them, they want to be able to give a testimony like Robert did. Don't want to be like that. Lord, we want them to be able to say, "I want to be like Jesus. Lord, I want to be."

And Lord, I want people to see you. You're so wonderful. Let us altogether desire that and let us see it happen. Now you just change these children that we're praying for; in Jesus' name.

Robert, I want to pray that God takes this book and not only leads all those who read it but leads you in an even greater journey than you've ever been on. I think you wanted to close with a story that is part of what you share in the book; the impact of it.

Robert: In *The Blessed Life* I shared all these testimonies, true testimonies that when we give, God, who is a wonderful, benevolent Father rewards us, when we give with the right heart. Here's what we've seen though. We have a stewardship department at Gateway Church that helps people financially, and helps them get their finances in order according to scriptural principles. We've seen God bless them supernaturally just like the person who made the commitment to the building fund or to *LIFE Outreach* and made the large gift or something, in the same way. So I want them to know that it's not just when they get on a budget that the numbers add up but God supernaturally blesses.
So there is a widow in our church, came to my son, because he does financial counseling for people, and she couldn't hardly make ends meet. He began to teach her these financial principles in this book. He helped me write this book, James, and he taught her. She started doing it. One of the things she cut out of her budget for that year was buying gifts for the grandchildren. Now that sounds bad at first but James suggested, why don't you make them? She made each one a gift and had a prophetic prayer and to this day they say that is the best gift they ever got from grandmother. They don't even remember the other gifts. That's the gift.

But when she's set her heart to get on a budget, she had a reverse mortgage on her home that was her income. They called her one day and said, "We've reassessed the value of your house and we want to send you $30,000 more." So she told James and James thought, maybe this is a scam for the elderly.

So he called the guy and the guy said, "Well, because you're a pastor I'm going to tell you something. I'm a Christian. The owner of our company is a Christian. He had a dream a few nights ago and God spoke to him to do this. I've been working for this company for 30 years. He's never done this." And she got a check for $30,000.

I want people to know that God will supernaturally bless you when you say, "I want to manage your resources well."

**James:** Amen! Don't you appreciate what Robert is sharing? Would you just say a great thank you? He's been with us all week. It's just wonderful. We'll gladly send you the book. You can go online, you can go to the bookstores; you might want to run and buy one for a neighbor or a friend or order a couple. But let me tell you what we'll do. We'll send you one as a gift if you'll do this. If you'll give a cup of water to someone who needs clean water.

We drill water wells twice a year where we go into an emphasis on drilling wells. We've started early this year because we want to start the new year with people giving because of the joy of giving. God, our father is a giver who gave his best for us, continually gives us life and blessings.
and oversight.

So we're asking you to give to help us drill hundreds of water wells this year. They're $4800 each. Many people say, "I always want to drill at least one a year. I make that a goal." Well, many can't but I'm going to tell you, most of the wells are drilled by people giving $48, and enough of them give we get a well; $48 will actually give ten people water the rest of their life. That's how simple it is and how real it is.

I want you to watch and listen to one of our best friends who has a mission heart, very talented, beautiful, beautiful witness for Christ and singer. Listen to Tammy Trent and I want you to look at the little boy she is standing by. I want you to look at what he's drinking. Here's the deal. You -- listen to me -- you could give his village a water well. You could be their miracle. Or at least you could be a part of it, you could help drill a well. We're going to drill many with your help. Watch closely.

On the mission field
Tammy: I'm here in Burundi, Africa walking along this little stream here. This water is filthy. You can look at it and see it is so dirty. Now imagine that being your only source of water. Imagine this being your baby. Imagine him drinking this water every single day.

I don't even know if I would call this water. It is filthy, it is so dirty. It is filled with contamination. I know that he is in the condition he is in because he has been drinking this water. Do you know that statistics say that they are at most risk between the ages of one to five? So this little guy, right now, I can tell you is not doing well. I fear that if he continues to drink this water, he probably won't make it.

When you witness a child drinking water like this around the world, it's not a question of, I think they'll be okay. I think they're quenching their thirst. It's really a matter of whether or not they're going to live or die.
And that is just too much of a burden that he should never have to carry.

And I know that I want to live a life that produces life. I want to make decisions that are life-giving.

I don't want him to ever have to drink this water again.

**End of clip**

**In the studio**

**James:** Tammy, I know you watch *LIFE Today*. Thank you beautiful lady, precious missionary friend, gifted musician. I love that little boy that was standing by you. I was sad to see the little goats come down and drink that dirty water. I would want to give them some clean water. That little guy, I love him. I was wishing I could walk up right there and pick that little guy up, his little arms hanging down, his shirt and little bloated tummy. That bloated tummy so often means that there's something really bad going on in his little body. I'd like to pick him up. He was looking out. Maybe looking out wondering, who are you talking to? Because he could tell she was talking to somebody. He was talking to you. He was talking to me. He didn't understand what she was saying. He had to wonder what she was saying.

You heard what she was saying. Do you hear what God is saying? If you just notice the least of these and you'd reach out and clothe them, wouldn't you like to give him a nice shirt? "If you could just give him a drink of water, you did it to me."

I want to ask you if you wouldn't like to just get your arms, in some way the arms of God, around that little guy. I got to pick them up all over the world, all the different third world countries and the forgotten countries and just hold the little kids. The favorite picture and I've had my picture taken with a lot of famous people; my favorite picture is hanging out here. It's of little Rwandan orphans that wouldn't go around any adult because they were so frightened. Their
parents were killed and they crawled out from under the dead bodies of their parents, afraid of everybody. I went in and sat down where the death occurred and these little children started coming and getting in my lap, started touching my face, my arms. I believe that's how Jesus wants us to draw people.

So what I'm asking you to do right now, I'm asking you to put the arms of God around that little boy and give him not just a cup of water but a well of water. I'm asking you to help us drill a well right there in that village, give that village hope.

I want you to go online, or dial that number that's a prayer line for any time your heart's broken and I want you to help drill a well. They cost $4800; $48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. There's a level at which you can come in. You can give $2400 and drill half a well, pray somebody joins you and we've got a well. But whatever you can do, I'm asking you to give toward giving that little guy and those people in his village fresh clean water.

We're going to send Robert's book, *Beyond Blessed* just to say thank you. It's going to carry you into a blessed life and stewardship I believe that it's not only going to bless you, it's going to bless a lot of folks.

Would you right now go online or dial this number and make the gift God put on your heart? If you plan to mail it in, make the check to *LIFE*, call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. Thank you so much. Please do it now. Right now.

**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 can 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 and establish the first 200 water wells of the year. Your gift of $48 will help provide water for ten people, $72 will provide for 15, $144 will help provide
life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime. And a gift of $4800 will help sponsor a complete well. With your gift of any amount we'll send you *Beyond Blessed*: God's perfect plan for no financial stress. In his new book, Pastor Robert Morris teaches biblical principles to help you reach your financial goals and start experiencing the abundant life without financial stress.

>> We'd been in debt for 20 years. We started applying these principles that are in *Beyond Blessed*, we got out of debt in 15 months!

>> We had to learn how to make room, how to let go, how to be content with what we already had to be able to give.

>> Our lives have been transformed through the principles of handling our money and storing it the way God has directed us to do.

**Announcer:** Please call, write, or make your gift online to provide life-giving water to people in need.

**End of clip**

**In the studio**

**James:** Well, we just say thanks in behalf of all the people you are blessing. We're going to send you *Beyond Blessed*. I know it will be a blessing to you. Join Betty and me in just saying another great thank you to Robert Morris.

[Applause]

Thank you! Tell your friends to watch. Robert will be with us in the next program. Don't miss it!