

7/27/23

Week 31: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Paula White Cain #2

In the studio

JAMES: One of our favorite people is here again today, Paula White. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *Life Today*. She's written a book called *Money Matters* and we're going to talk about it. But I think some of you know that Paula White has been advising church leaders, business leaders, and yes, national leaders, and political leaders, and you were speaking the truth.

Let me just ask you this for our viewers. You watched me speak to all the different denominational leaders, faith leaders, business leaders, and national political leaders. Did I always speak only principles? Did I always speak unwaveringly with deep conviction? Was it always Bible-centered biblical truth?

PAULA: One hundred percent! And anointed! And wisdom. And when you speak, it is like the Spirit of God breathed on you. I've watched you with what people would consider the most powerful person and the most powerful people in the world. It was you, but it was God through you. God spoke and the wisdom and the conciseness, and you never waver. You don't compromise.

Betty, I know you know that. It is truth and you have no problem speaking truth to power, and bringing correction in such a loving way that you don't feel like you're getting a spanking. You feel it from the heart of God. I think how not just influential but how impactful that has been. People go, oh well, he did that. No, no, no! That impacted so much.

There are three Supreme Court justices now because of—miracles—because you didn't sit back and say, well, I don't have to get on this plane and go take another trip. Well, let someone else do it. God assigned you. And when you think about that, now *Roe v. Wade* has been overturned and gone back to the States.

I read recently that six percent less abortions since the overturning of that. Six percent! So you think about that. That equates between 30,000 to 60,000 children in just a few months. That's a stadium—that's an entire stadium.

So when we begin to think in very practical places like Farmers to Family, which continued through the administration, the faith and opportunity initiative, so many things, Israel, the capital being named Jerusalem, moving the embassy, all these things. What if you hadn't spoken truth to power in so many things?

So we think about, sometimes we think, well, I can't do that or I shouldn't do that. But God's word is truth, he's anointed you like he's anointed all of us, but you always say yes. And I've watched you in so many settings and I've just been mesmerized. I mean, I've watched all of the—I hate to say the who's who in ministry, but when you've gone up and spoke, and we've been in breakrooms and as you're speaking Baptists and Pentecostals and denominationalists and this are on their knees weeping before the Lord.

JAMES: Well, we've watched God work miracles. Paula, you've opened so many doors. Please know this, we're representing the Lord, but that's what you expect us to do. That's what you pray for us to do. Do they always take all the advice? Do they always take the wisdom that God so freely offers them? No, they don't. Oftentimes, they confuse us, break our hearts, and they may miss it. But we don't stop preaching the truth. Jesus was never swayed by the response of the people. He was moved by God and he always spoke the truth, and he is the truth.

Paula, what you have written here in this book about *Money Matters* is because it does matter, right now our economic stability is being challenged. Security is being challenged. We don't know what's going to happen. You get the wisdom—and that's what it is—it is wisdom from

God. She is a very brilliant person. She is a very gifted person. She is a great communicator and she communicates truth to power too, unwaveringly. And she is so easy for other people to speak to and learn from. She is willing to learn outside her circle. She wants the circle to be God's family, healthy the way he prayed we would be. That we would be supernaturally united as Jesus prayed in John 17; living in supernatural unity. So we're working toward that. And she's been given wisdom there.

But I have never seen anything concerning all the issues of money put down in greater simplicity and greater clarity. Here's something she says about how you don't have goals. That's why you don't succeed, even financially. You need to identify your goal, identify sub-goals, put your sub-goals in sequence, make a plan for each one of your sub-goals, and put a plan on the calendar so that check-in times. See she expands these and explains them, okay? Identify suitable rewards for yourself as you reach each sub-goal. How do these apply to your finances. Go get out of credit card debt. Pay Visa, MasterCard, Discover card, and local department store accounts off—pay them off. Get out of debt.

But you show us how to do these things. Paula, I'm telling you, God inspired you to help us when right now money is a serious problem.

PAULA: Absolutely! I'm so grateful and honored that God really, this has been incubating in me for over a decade. But God put a mandate on me and said now—now is the time. So we start with the whole premise that money without a mission is materialism. But we hit all the spiritual side, I hit the emotional side, what are your earliest thoughts about money? What are your earliest feelings? Do you think all rich people are snobs? Do you think all poor people are lazy? We get down into it because a lot is driving how we feel about things, how we think about things, and what our perception is. If we don't think we're worthy, then when someone goes to give you a raise or an opportunity, oh no, no, no. You'll push something away that God wants to bring to you.

Then, as a pastor I thought, so many people, when I'd have an altar call, I'll ask them specifically, what can I pray with you? Matthew 18:19, if two of us agree as touching anything. They'll say,

"Just pray that God will bless me."

I'm like, "Well, what does that mean?" Or "Pray that I get out of debt."

So first thing I'll say is, "Well, how much debt is there?"

"Oh, I don't know." So if you don't know how much debt there is how do you get out?

I say this not as a person that just prayed and all of the sudden—you don't hit the lotto. That is not in God's Word. There is very, very—we don't give to get. There are very strong principles and core truths that we walk by, we live by. And like any decision, decisions from the root of cut off, what we're willing to cut out, cut out all the other things, and stay very in God's word.

So what I start doing is laying all of these out in practical ways. How did I go from this broken childhood that had my mind messed up, my behavior, my perception, and all that, to have my mind renewed by the Word of God? Then to getting out of this trailer; I'm in a trailer, I'm on government cheese, I'm on, you know, I know food stamps, I understand the struggle. I get pregnant when I'm 18 years old, and have a child when I'm 19 years old. I'm living on Bill Moxley Road in a trailer. People called me trailer trash. But I found out God is in the recycling business. He takes what people call trash and turns it into treasure.

Did I just pray God, I want to get out of debt? Of course, I prayed! But there was a lot more to that. But by the time you get to the end of this book, it's going to help you. I've never lived off of a budget with like I've got \$100 for groceries. I'm going to do \$300 for groceries. Never! I live off percentages. And the reason I live off percentages is because I read J.C. Penney's story when I was 19 years old. J.C. Penney was a hotdog vendor and he asked God if he could give 90 percent and live off the ten percent, and we know the rest of the story. Became a very successful wealthy man that left much for the kingdom of God.

Well, I read in the Bible that God is no respecter of persons. And he is the same today, yesterday, and forevermore, Hebrews 13. So I said, God, if you did it for J.C. Penney, could you please use

me to impact this world for you? Now a lot went with that because someone gave me a turkey in that trailer. And I took half of that turkey and I got on the Bart and I went down to 2nd and D in Washington D.C. in 1985, murder capital of the world at the time. There was an advocate by the name of Mitch Snider and I decided to feed people in a worse condition than me. I prayed this little prayer and said, God, can I spend the rest of my life doing this?

Now there is the purpose attachment. Little did I know, think about this, I'll get back to the practical, how we got there. That God would one day allow me to be positioned as the advisor to a President, of the Faith Initiative and Opportunity, during a global pandemic where he is on the phone talking to agriculture saying, "What are we going to do? We're having to throw this milk out? What are we going to do?" Because the supply chain shut down.

I waved my hand and I go, "Sir, I know, I know!"

He's looking like, what do you know about ag?

I said, "I know."

He goes, "Paula, what is it?"

I said, "You've got 384,000 houses of worship. The church can get this out. We know."

So Ivanka comes in and some other people and I'm put on a mission that we would put immediately through Farmers to Family \$10 billion worth of food to the most impoverished people who would not be able to get it, who were hurting the most, largely through churches houses of worship.

So it starts with small beginnings. Don't despise those small beginnings. But how do I get there? How do I learn how to get out of debt? How did I learn how to have big God ideas? How did I see this stuff implemented? So I live off percentages because of J.C. Penney's story so I said, okay, my food budget is going to be say eight percent. Say my clothes budget was going to be

three percent. When I made \$7,000 that's not very much money, right? So you're going to Goodwill and you're praying for a \$5 miracle. And I stayed on that because that was my three percent or what have you. So at \$70,000, it's still only three percent. So I lived on percentages to decrease my percentages of spending and increase my percentage of giving and leaving a legacy.

So if you stay in that and that's how I say, we start out upside down a lot in life. You go off to school and the first thing they start doing is handing you credit cards and everything else. That \$50 dress you buy is going to cost you \$500 or \$5,000 by the time you add that compound interest. And I show you how that compound interest is going to cost you \$5,000 for a dress that you show up on Easter and someone else is wearing the same one! Now you're upset about it.

[Laughing]

It goes back to Miss Betty and us talking, saying because we try to find our identity in things, what we wear, what we drive. And our identity is in Christ and our fulfillment is in purpose. And so money is tied to purpose. I help you break those demonic thoughts, those generational curses, and break the cycles of poverty, in practical ways.

I didn't get out of debt overnight. But I stuck to saying if God did that for J.C. Penney I believe God will do it for me. I'm not where I completely believe God to have me but I know this, I'm blessed, James. I'm blessed.

JAMES: And you're really blessed by blessing others, which is what you're doing what you desire with this book.

BETTY: How important is this for the family to learn to teach the foundation—this important foundation in the home?

PAULA: Vitally important. We learn, think about this, to get a financial license it takes most people 30 days. To get a massage license, it takes about nine months to a year. So most of the people that we even look to, and I do advise people who are experts, that you've got to study them, look at them, know what that is. We need to be literate, educated. I go through that. What

is the market? How do I know to invest? What is a reap? What is this? Why real estate home ownership is the number one way for generational wealth to be passed down.

But the number one way that children learn financial responsibility, Betty is by seeing you. So people think, well, they don't know about the problems. But if you pay your bills online, however, you do it, if you're old-fashioned, with the checkbook, you know, A.C.H., whatever you're going to do, if they see that, you have a budget they can see, five-years-old, sit down, talk about it.

Instead of going to that grocery line and that child wants those impulsive buys, you know that candy bar right before. You say, no, no, no, we can't afford that. You just shut that down. That's that—that's what I call those words of poverty. Now you might not have the money to afford that but you can afford that. What you say is, how do we get that? You introduce them, instead of saying no, introduce a thought process, and bring God into the equation. You may not be able to get that today but let's see how we can get that.

So we begin to change. Again, this is not some get-rich-quick. If that's the book you want, this is not it. Because I don't even believe that everybody is supposed to—I was at a conference, you'll love this, James, down in the Bahamas. And the speaker before me said, "Turn to your neighbor, prophesy through the Spirit of God. Everyone is going to be a multimillionaire." And they were whoa! Yeah! Praise the Lord!

Well, I got up and I said, "Well, turn to your neighbor. Tell them they better set aside hundreds of thousands of dollars for teams of attorneys, and investigations." And I just start going. And all of the sudden, you just felt like someone just took all the air out of the room. I said this is crazy. We act like we're supposed to be irresponsible with money, which is the problem with America—it is the problem with America. We think America is such a prosperous country. America is in so much debt. If we become they say at \$50 trillion, which we're closely getting there, we'll be like Japan and Italy.

I talk about the global economy, and how it impacts us. What is inflation, what does that mean?

How do oil prices—why is gas \$7 right now? Besides shutting down the Alaskan pipeline, which has to do with elections and stuff. But this *Money Matters* isn't head knowledge, it's personal. How you keep your records intact, how you do everything right. Accountability, integrity, and why those things matter. What does matter to that? I'm sorry. Now I'm going too long. But there is so much to be said for people with that.

JAMES: And that's why you need to get the book because you can tell she is coming out of an overflow.

By the way, she said something earlier I wanted, I just want to wrap up because we're going to give you an opportunity to give people a chance at life by giving them Water for LIFE and you love that. And we want to send you this book as a gift if you'll just give a cup of water, so to speak.

But Betty and I never gave, you said earlier, we give to give not give to get. And Betty and I began giving when we first married. Our first combined income, the first year we were married was \$6,000, that's with both of us working—\$6,000. We never went into debt. If we couldn't pay cash for it originally, we wouldn't buy it. That's just it. Of course, you can't do that when you buy a home, sometimes a car. We understood that but we knew exactly what it was to be very, very careful.

But here's what we did. We never gave thinking we're going to get it. I never gave anything, we never did as a couple because we thought we were going to get something. We gave because it blessed us to give. That's the reason Betty and I seek to give a water well every time we drill water wells. And as the cost goes up, we say, God, we want to do it. We asked God to let us do that when it was a stretch. But he did it, and we do it. And we're going to give another one now. Right now! We're going to actually give the second one in this emphasis because God has enabled us to.

We're asking you right now to give to give, give to bless, and you'll be blessed. Please know that. You don't have to wonder is God looking over this? Does God bless sowing seed in good soil?

You better believe it.

All right. I want you to just look right now and I want you to listen to the heart of God in one of our missionary workers where we drill water wells. We've got 150 left to drill. We need your help to do it. Watch closely and prayerfully.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: Clean water changes everything! Few know this better than those living in the thousands of communities where *LIFE Outreach* has drilled fresh, clean water wells. And with no exaggeration, we probably say they have many of you to thank.

But the gratitude of these communities starts with our missionary partners who serve them. This is Aimable, a godly pastor in Burundi who serves as one of *LIFE's* ambassadors to his people.

Open Captions

>> What they're drinking is polluted water. I can even smell it. It's very smelly.

ANNOUNCER: Aimable has shared in their joy, as well as their pain.

Open Captions

>> I had six kids, I now have four. One died last year; the other in March 2021. Their symptoms were the same: Bloated feet, stomach, and cheeks.

>> So drinking this water, I can tell you, equals drinking death.

ANNOUNCER: The power of clean water is undeniable. But triumphs of the past offer little comfort to Marie, who's already lost two children to filthy drinking water. Because for Marie, it's either dirty water or no water at all.

>> It would be a blessing to help these people with clean water. Really, really--they really need

help.

ANNOUNCER: You can help radically transform the lives of Marie and so many like her right now. Help us bring them the gift of safety. The gift of hope. Help us give Water for LIFE!

In the studio

JAMES: You see the joy of those children watching fresh clean water come up? See, they knew that down in the ground there was some borehole water but it was always filthy and smelly and dirty and contaminated. Even when they got there. But it meant there was water down there. And then when they went to the river or the creek or whatever they had when it had water in it, it was always contaminated. It was killing them. Just like that mother.

And Betty, we can give everyone the perfect cure. You can be the miracle that mothers like the one we just saw are praying for. You can be the answer to their prayers. And Betty, I've found that when we're an answer to somebody's prayers, it seems amazing how much our prayers are answered or how frequently and amazingly they're answered. Would you be the miracle those people are praying for? I believe everybody watching is going to do something.

BETTY: I believe you will, too. And there is no greater joy as a mother, a grandmother, and now, a great-grandmother to see your children, all your babies, happy and healthy. And those mothers get great joy to see their children jumping up and down in that water and taking fresh clean water to their mouth and drinking it. Because they know it will bring life to them.

JAMES: Well, Betty, I'm just praying right now that you'll say, God, I'm going to be somebody's miracle today. And there is a level at which everyone can participate. We can give ten people water for the rest of their life for a gift of \$48. That's how it breaks down. \$144, 30 people. But did you know we can drill a well for \$4800? And there are many of you watching who can do that. You can do it. Some may be able to do more than that.

Father, I'm praying everyone will do what they can do, what you enable them to do, and you will make a joyful love expression; in Jesus' name.

You might be able to give part of a well like say I'll give \$1200 and pray three people join me, or \$2400 and pray one other person joins me. We need the miracle right now of 350 wells. Let's be a part of that miracle. Would you please?

We have some gifts to send you and we'll gladly send you Paula White's book that I believe will bless you so much on the *Money Matters* reality. And I promise you, she is going to inspire you and help you. And she is going to bless you and enable you to be blessed to bless others because you do some things differently.

Please, go get your bank card, use it like a check, that's how you always use them, like checks. You must and should do that. And also, if you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*, that's exactly what you're giving. We have gifts to send you but you are giving the greatest gift, you're giving life itself. And then we tell everyone where abundant and eternal life comes from but we demonstrate his love by giving them something they so desperately need, we give them life. Thank you. Thank you for making that call. Thank you for making the gift.

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: *Every day thousands of lives are lost to waterborne disease, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five. Through Mission: Water for LIFE you can give mothers hope and children a future as we provide clean, life-giving water for thousands of children and their families before it is too late.*

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you the Life Prayer Journal complete with customized art, scripture verses, and inspirational quotes from Life Today hosts and co-hosts. You'll find plenty of room to write down prayer requests, answered prayers, and your own personal reflections as you spend time with God.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the Blessed cutting board, a beautiful addition to your kitchen and preparation area. This pine wood cutting board is custom engraved with the word Blessed as a reminder of the daily provision of God in your life.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our colorful bronze sculpture "Consider the Birds." Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the mission field

BETTY: This little child is probably between two and three years old, maybe four. But you know, he may not make it past five, four or five if he doesn't have the water that he needs. He has water but it is contaminated.

But you know, we have to give them a choice. They don't have a choice right now. Because they don't have that choice, their bodies are being contaminated with this bad water and their families are dying. Our missionaries have been there and seen them in the hospitals. They're there because they haven't had good water, they've had contaminated water, and it is waterborne diseases that will kill them if we don't reach out and help them in time.

Please help us do that. Give these children a chance in life! Thank you so much. And God will bless you richly.

In the studio

JAMES: I'm going to close. I have a friend sitting out here that lost his daughter, she was in her 30s. And we lost our daughter, she was 40. He loves Jesus and we love Jesus. I'm holding these Cardinals up because this is our gift to those of you who will give at least \$1200 toward a well or give a well. This was our daughter's favorite of all the creation. And she liked the St. Louis Cardinals too, by the way. She was a baseball person big time! But I can't look at this and not think about our daughter, and think about how much you've prayed for her, and know that you would have done anything to save our daughter's life, and my friend I referred to. You would. Well, this is the perfect cure. Give water.

We're going to send you the book, *Money Matters* if you ask for it, you want it, just to say thanks for giving a cup of water as you give towards the wells.

Paula, thank you for being a witness. Thank you for on your journey letting God take you through the rough spots, lift you out of pits that you fell in, sometimes threw in, sometimes you dug them.

PAULA: Yep! Yep!

JAMES: And you've lifted a lot of people. You've lifted me and Betty, and so many people. She's loved all of you. And she's loved you in writing this book, I promise you. So, Paula, you come back any time. You be praying for her. Would you do that? And I know you will be praying for us.

PAULA: I love you guys so much.

JAMES: We're going to be a team, always going to be a team.

PAULA: Always!

JAMES: Thank you because you're the team. You're the team that makes what we do possible.

You do! You are amazing. Thank you so much.