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Week 3: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Paula White Cain #1

In the studio

JAMES: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Betty and I are thrilled to welcome one of our best friends, Paula White Cain. We've been together on television from the first time she came, which is right at 20 years ago. And it is amazing the journey that she's had that was pretty easy to track because there were a lot of heavy moments. And some of them had to do with the title of this book, *Money Matters* because it does matter. And there are matters that we need to know about money for it not to be a very serious matter when it can be a blessing not only to us but to many others if we oversee it right.

And I'm going to tell you this book, Betty is probably one of the clearest expressions of how to see money and how to handle money, how to use money, not be used by money, how to use it for good and not be damaged by it because the love of money is root of all sorts of evil. But we've got to have it. Paul White Cain, I love your husband who is a great musician, Jonathan Cain with Journey. And they are just blessing people again like crazy. And he's blessed, and he has blessed you.

PAULA: Yes, he has. I'm so honored to be with you and Betty. I love you guys so much. Your wisdom, your integrity, and your leadership has not only shaped and formed a lot of who I am and the very fact that I'm sitting here because there are so many times like all of us, Satan wants to eliminate us. John 10:10, he comes to steal, kill, and destroy, to utterly abolish the purpose of God. But God has his people, his generals that he works through. And one thing that you and Betty have been to myself, and I know so many others, is the literal heart and the love of God. You're such a father, you're such a matriarch, and I thank God for you.

So I did, I had that big, long pause after I'd gone through a very difficult divorce, and a very public one. And I say this, I've been married before but I have a husband and I didn't know what a husband was. And John is the love of God personified. And I tell people, God is a restorer, he is a redeemer. It's not easy living on the public stage, but also, I believe that I needed to show the evidence of God and what God does. He doesn't give up on you. God is not finished with you and that's important for people to know.

JAMES: Well, he did a beautiful work in your life and continues to. Hasn't it been a joy to watch what God has done in Paula's life?

BETTY: It really has! Just to see you out there among the people and the different ministries. And how God has led you and given you wisdom, along with such grace. I think it is just beautiful to watch.

PAULA: Thank you.

JAMES: Well, you're pastoring a church now in the Orlando area. What's it titled?

PAULA: City of Destiny, and we're literally building out a city. In the last two years alone, we've fed over 28 million pounds of food. We do a global outreach. But our community, you know, James, you and Betty have done this to the world—to the world! And so we love being the hands and the heart of Jesus Christ and preaching the uncompromised Word of God.

JAMES: Well, and you do that so well and you demonstrate it. You not only preach it but you do it. And loving people, just like right now, we're drilling water wells to just give millions of people a chance at life.

Let's talk about this book, *Money Matters*. I don't think I've ever seen it handled better. Now, let's get honest. Did you in the journey since we were with you 20 years ago to start

and we've been periodically together, have you learned a whole lot and did you need to learn a whole lot about money?

PAULA: Absolutely! And that's the thing. Sometimes, people hold us at a point, and we're always, Paul says we're going from glory to glory to glory; that God delivered us, he is delivering us, and he will deliver us. And so there is this constant change.

I think so many think on a principle level, on a very fundamental level, my core has been pretty solid there. But there are things that have to be changed. There are things that have to be that you grow in God. So there are things that I wouldn't—I'm not going to say I wouldn't teach but I would do it differently because they label you in a way that is not who you are.

JAMES: And they can label you a prosperity preacher saying that all you think about money is teaching prosperity. And basically, exaggerate, almost sound like if you'll just give God to this ministry or to that then he'll take care of your debts and pay your bills. Which is not anywhere close to prosperity, it's not even close to the truth. You can be thrown into that pot.

PAULA: So I address this in the book. What is the difference between provision and prosperity? Because I do believe that it's gotten a lot of mislabeling. And the very first thing I hit is money without a mission is materialism. So if you don't have purpose, whether it is to \$10 or \$100 or \$1,000 or a billion dollars, then it becomes about self.

We're stewards. God talks a lot about money. And I've written a lot of books about the spiritual side of money. I hit, as you said, on this one the emotional side of money, the spiritual side, the stewardship, of course, and very practical, like how do I go from A to B to C?

So the philosophical, the spiritual part of we don't give to get, we get to give. God's not a Santa Claus. He is not a tooth fairy. I don't give him something and he multiplies it times

a thousand, etc., etc. I recognize that everything that comes through my hand, everything that comes through the ministry that God has allowed me to steward has a purpose, an intention, and a supreme reason for being. What is that?

So it begins to develop a different mindset. You don't think just about, how am I going to eat today? It is: how do I leave ten generations of a spiritual legacy on the earth? How do I leave things that outlive me outlast me? How do I raise up and give a spiritual legacy? How do I raise emotionally strong—?

I didn't come out, as you know, out of the greatest childhood. I didn't grow up in church. Though I came from a pretty well-to-do family; I talk about that. I came from a line of entrepreneurs. My father committed suicide when I was five years old; sexually and physically abused from 6 to 13. So no way did I have any of this right at 18. And I hit this, not just the prosperity, and all of that, but how do you feel about money? In the beginning, I say something like, what determines the commas and the zeros in your bank? It's not the number in your bank account but it's the thoughts in your head. So I start dealing with it. How you think about it.

I came from a wealthy family. I never knew we had a need. Well, when he takes his life, we were completely cut off from that side of the family and went into extreme poverty. My brother and I are fighting over a bowl of spaghetti. And I have basically, two outfits and two pairs of shoes to my name, maybe a few more but it was very minimal.

So my thought that was so deep in that iceberg is: money has wings, it comes and it goes. So what did I always think? Well, you might have something but it's going to be gone tomorrow. So a lot of fear and insecurity and no stability drove my life for a long time. I got the spiritual principles right, I understood that, but then I also had to get some other things that even though I could say God's not given me a spirit of fear, I was still afraid. I was afraid that every good thing that came in my life was going to leave me, including if someone gave me a check, it would be gone tomorrow.

So then what do you do? What do you do with people when you believe that? You say come in, come in and you're pushing them out. What do you do with money often? You don't know how to properly handle it right. Come, come! But what do you do? You overspend or you do things.

So it is a learning process and you've got to dig deep. And this book, I think is a reflection obviously of God's Word. So a lot of the psychological, I talk about being a Christian and being a business person since the time I was 18 years old, and all the lessons I've learned about the exposure I've had around people. I just want to help people, James and Betty, to go, I know the prophecies, I know the Word of God, I know God is for me, now how do I get this right? How do I handle this?

I mean a lot of us, our marriages are falling apart because of financial stress, people have a lot of anxiety, and their health is breaking down because of this stress. So money does matter for a lot of other reasons. In conclusion, their prosperity is a lot more than money. It is your emotions, it is your health, it is your marriage. It is the goodness of God and the success of God in a completely holistic way.

BETTY: A lot of people, too, think if I just had money that would be my identity. I would be “a success.” But we've known a lot of people that have that money and they're empty inside. Identity comes from the Lord Jesus and knowing him. And so if we can look at money in our lives that God might provide us with as a tool to do what he wants to with it, it will make a big difference.

PAULA: Money magnifies whatever is there. People think money is going to solve your problems. It is only going to magnify it, just going to make it bigger. I deal with the identity part because if you do get your identity from money, the car you drive, the house you live in, the neighborhood that you are in, the school that you attended, those of us who are a little more seasoned in life know that life has its ups and downs. It rains on the just and the unjust. Good things or bad things can happen to good people. You go so, if my identity is just in what money can buy, what happens when that's gone? Our identity

has to be rooted in Christ and that's where that firm foundation is.

JAMES: What prompted you because I know that you've not been a stranger to money or the difficulties with or without it.

PAULA: Right.

JAMES: What prompted you at this point in your journey? Because I have enough wisdom to understand you're plenty smart, you're a very gifted by God teacher, and you're an effective communicator, but why did you just now write this book and you put so much into it? It's incredible. I've actually listed chapter after chapter of just bang, bang, bang the simplistic ideas and thoughts and truths that you present so simply but effectively. Why did you write it now? This looks like someone sent on a journey that matters.

PAULA: First off, I know this is going to sound so over-spiritual but I felt God say do it. This has been in me since I'd say 2000. I started incubating it in 2005, '06, '07. Then we went through the recession, '08, '09. I keep working on it, and it was clear—I probably had this not done-done but maybe by '12, '13, '15, of 2000 and it was absolutely no.

And every year, and about a few months ago, I felt the Lord say, "It is now. It is now." And it was such a clear mandate. And I think there are a lot of reasons. Number one, look at our economy—look where we are. The inflation. Look at how people are—\$8, I went to the grocery store to get eggs the other day, \$8.16! It was insane! And I'm thinking about how many people are struggling.

People that don't know my story in fullness, when I got saved my family completely cut me off. I was living in a trailer on Bill Moxley Road in Mount Airy, Maryland. I know what a real struggle is. And I got saved. I'm listening and I hear my pastor talking about tithing and giving and I made that decision, I was afraid. James, it was a difficult, difficult decision to say, yeah. Because none of it made sense. And I did crazy stuff like

initially, like you go to the mailbox when you don't know how you're going to pay your \$371 trailer mortgage. And you go, well, maybe it's there. Or you shake someone's hand and hope for a Pentecostal shake because everybody else had that testimony.

This is so far beyond any of that. This took me 38 years to learn the true core of who God is, how God deals with his kingdom, and his financial principles. Maybe I'd call it wisdom. I don't want to call it that yet because I'm sitting with one of the wisest people I know! But I do believe it is maturity and wisdom, and it is God's timing. And people are hurting, they're looking for answers. I think that all the answers are one, in God's Word. And two, in God's people who have been there and now have proven. This isn't something like you said, maybe the last few years for me. This is a 38-year journey with God and ministry, and things that I didn't get right always.

JAMES: It is amazing. Where there is a lot of economic uncertainty, instability, and lack of security right now. It's very real. It is not exaggerated. Let me give you an example right here in one of the early chapters. You have 21 statements that will help us believe that we can all experience abundance and live in prosperity. Prosperity is not a matter of entitlement. It is made available to all people who choose to pursue it. When you talk about pursuing it, you're talking about the real source of everything that matters. We're talking about pursuing God and God's will; right?

PAULA: Absolutely! And then you've got to tie wisdom into that. You've got to tie understanding into that. So if I were to—

JAMES: And that comes from God.

PAULA: It comes only from God. Only—we know this, that first off like you said, every good gift is from our Heavenly Father. God wants our good, he wants us to prosper above all things and be in good health. We know that God has good things for us. You know what? Success, I say, is highly individual. You can't say because what the purpose of God is for one person is going to take x amount of resources. Maybe that's sending two

children to college. For someone like James and Betty, you're going to need to give them all the money in the world because I know you'll change the world. *Life Today* will change the world. 8,000 wells! Think about what God is doing. And continues to do.

So it is so important because if you don't read the whole chapter of what do you think about money, what is true prosperity from biblical—when you just read the statements you could miscue those. Those are statements made out of what's pre—before that, saying really, this is what God's Word has to say.

So all good comes from God. Jesus says there is only one source of good and that is God. So we have to understand that. All other things are fleeting. In fact, I think money, pretty much, I look at my father and not just any father taking his life, James, the reason I had such a love and I talk about this, I'm going to say a love/hate relationship with money, my father never was held to responsibility. He'd go get drunk and my grandmother would call the D.A. and get him bailed out.

So I somehow, at a young age, equated if my father's family didn't have money, perhaps he would not have taken his life. Whether that is true or not, I don't know. But money was not used in a healthy responsible way. It was in a very irresponsible way. So money can be a bad thing in our life. It can be a curse in people's lives. This is not about money so much. This is about God wanting to bring something bigger through you, to establish lineage and legacy, fulfill your purpose, to make a difference. And not to live in that—he said, look, I've got your everyday needs. Trust me with this. Matthew Six, don't even take thought of it. Don't be overly anxious about those things.

JAMES: You can tell she is on overflow. And I have watched God change her life, deepen her life in so many ways, and make her more effective. She has been gifted by God ever since he saved her, filled her with the spirit, and gave her a gifting. But he's moved her into a place of wisdom where she's learned about these things more clearly.

I don't think I've ever seen issues concerning money communicated more clearly and yet

more simply for everybody to understand.

We are right now in our water drilling. You just referenced that, I referenced it earlier. We have set the goal this year for 350 wells. We need a miracle. I want you to just take a look at the setting where we're addressing the pain and you know you are the miracle answer to prayer and to the legitimate need that you can't deny. It's there. But we have the perfect, perfect God answer to it. Watch closely and prayerfully.

On the mission field

Tammy: So this is their water source I'm assuming?

[Interpreter]

This is my first encounter here and I can already tell that there is so much to be done. This is where they have to come every day all the way down here to get their water. This is his only source of water.

James: Well, you see this is a nice little flow of water right here but upstream is horses and cows and pigs. And right up the hill, eight children died from contaminated water here. There is so much here in Central America and the poverty-stricken nations, it just touches your heart. It is endless.

Randy: Weena here lost her older brother, and a year later her older sister, both of them victims of waterborne illness.

I want to look at this water. I would never make a child drink this—but these children have no choice. It is this or nothing. It's not enough to tell them, "Don't drink the water." We have to say, "Here's water you can drink."

TAMMY: This is my favorite, absolute favorite part of these trips. These people are

going from death to life in just a moment's time.

Betty: Please help us! I know this would be a desire of your heart too, just as James and I do. We desire to pass on the blessings. We have been so mightily blessed ourselves and we want to bless these families. So join with us, please. Will you?

End of clip

In the studio

JAMES: God, I want to thank you that we've been able to give those precious children a chance at life. Water for life because of the water of life.

You know when we watch that, Betty, right now we're drilling wells in 20 more nations—350 this year. That's us. Betty, what do you want everybody watching to feel right now when they look and they see that need and they see the contaminated water? And then they see the joy of the water and know that somebody watching out here contributes. Sometimes, a person gives the entire well, sometimes people give several wells because they're able to do it. We are going to give you, if you would like to have it, the Money Matters book that Paula White wrote, that will bless you incredibly, indescribably. But I'm telling you, when you know that this is what my gift did, it gave not only Water for LIFE but we're going to share the water of life. What do you want these viewers to think?

BETTY: When I see it, and I'm sure when you were watching, it was hard for you when our son lifted that bottle of water saying, "I wouldn't offer this to my children," I wouldn't either and I'm sure you wouldn't. But to know that we can drill the wells and water spring forth, it is the water of life. Do you understand that? We can make that difference.

You and I have been there when that water would come up and the children are just dancing around. They know what it means too. Their mothers and dads know what it

means. So please join us. Let's drill some more wells. Let's see the water of life spring up literally to these children.

JAMES: Well, you have been the ones that drill the wells. Betty and I, along with the missionaries, found the area of need. We knew from boreholes and from examination that there was water below the surface. We could reach it, we could encase it, we could make it safe, we could give them a manual pump because they don't have reliable power in so many of the areas where they need water. So we give them everything they need. When I say we, that's what I mean, it's us.

Do you know that every one of you can give Water for LIFE right now? Did you know that—think about this—\$48 will give ten people water the rest of their life. Could you do that? \$48! It makes such a difference. \$144 will give 30 people Water for LIFE. But do 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.

We have some gifts to send you that will bless you, I promise you. And we will gladly send you Paula White's book Money Matters because it will bless you. It will help you oversee what God's entrusted to your watchcare.

Would you go right now and get your bank card and use it like a check? Should you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. Get your bank card, dial that number, or go online and say here's the gift God's leading me to give today. Please do it right now. And thank you so much. You're giving life.

Video

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's 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 provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With a gift of any amount, we'll send you Daughter, written by James and Betty's granddaughter, Laney Rene. This insightful book invites all girls and women to walk in the freedom of their God-given identity and embrace who they really are.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the "Great is the Lord" decorative blanket featuring the words of Psalm 145:3. This beautiful blanket is perfect for comfort and cold weather and a reminder of your help with Water for LIFE. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people. Or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And request our new bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water" inspired by Jesus' words in Mark 9:41. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the Mission Field

James: Let me just say this about the well. Here we are in an area where over 2,000 children have just been fed but the whole thing started not only with a need for food but also providing water, which became the center of life. Now there is a school here. So you've got school feeding, you've got fresh water. They're not only drinking it and the whole village here is using it as a water source but they're washing—they're desperate to clean up their dishes with clean water.

I'm telling you, the wells like this that you can have a part in of either giving the well or

giving a portion of it, it changes everything in the entire area. If you can help give other wells all over the world, please do it because it is going to take all of us working together, and it takes people just like you providing as love provided here. Do what you can to help us drill more wells, please.

End of clip

In the studio

JAMES: Well, Betty and I, on behalf of families and children who have been given now a chance at life say thank you so much! If you'd like to have, along with the other gifts that will bless you, we'll send you this incredible book. I don't think I've ever seen the issues concerning money presented any more clearly. She is an awesome teacher. She's great—you are truly a greatly gifted writer. But there is something amazing about this, the way she seems to touch every nerve effectively. We'll gladly send it to you for any gift you make to give water.

Paula is going to be with us in another program, the next program as a matter of fact. We're going to talk about *Money Matters*. But we're also going to talk about how we make a difference in what happens to the future of our economy by making wise decisions too. Thanks for watching. Thanks for sharing life. Paula, I look forward to talking to you again.

PAULA: Thank you so much, James and Betty. It is an honor.

JAMES: It is a joy to have you. Thanks.