

## ***Right Resources for Money Hard Work and Observing Rules***

***“17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” (John 5:17 KJV)***

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on earth, He moved about working righteousness. He declared, ***“My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.”*** God the Father works, Jesus God the Son works, and we today is filled with the Holy Spirit are required to work too.

Thomas Edison once said, "There is no substitute for hard work." If we do not toil, we do not eat. And this is what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to teach them to work diligently. They were lazy people and they said that they were waiting for the Lord, and so didn't feel the need to work: ***“6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; 8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. 10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 KJV)*** Paul even paid for his food while he was in Thessalonica because he wanted to teach them that they should not depend on easy money. **God wants us to depend on ourselves and not on other people to feed us. We should not wait for easy money to fall into our lap. Money received this way will not produce wealth for us; everything we receive from the devil will destroy us.**

**When we work, we need to be honest and faithful. We should work gladly and do it unto the Lord and not for man. We don't work hard because we fear man. We don't work hard to please men, but we do our best in our work because we fear God who is watching us and who will reward us for our good work,** ***“22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” (Colossians 3:22-25 KJV)*** Even though we need to work as slaves in our job with low income, yet if we follow Christ in our work, then God will reward us. God will see the principles that we are working on and He will reward us. ***“5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.” (Ephesians 6:5-8 KJV)***

**We need to submit to the authority placed over us in our work spots and be effective contributors, trusting God to deal with their wrongdoings towards us.** The Scriptures contains several warnings directed to those who abuse their workers and take advantage of them.

***“9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.” (Ephesians 6:9 KJV)***

The good example of Jacob and how God rewarded him and delivered him from the hand of Laban who abused him is a good lesson to remember always. **We need to trust that God is in full control. He can and will deal with those who abuse us and deprive us of our rights as we can read what Apostle James wrote:**

***“1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.” (James 5:1-6 KJV)***

In *Exodus* chapter 16, God provided food for His people when they cried for want of food. God sent them manna and He instructed them to gather a certain portion every day, that He might test their obedience whether they would abide by His law or not.

***“1 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. 2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: 3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. 4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.” (Exodus 16:1-4 KJV)***

God fulfilled His promise to them and supplied their needs.

***“5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. 6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: 7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? 8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD. 9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings. 10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. 11 And***

*the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God. 13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. 14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. 15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.” (Exodus 16:5-15 KJV)*

When the Israelites saw what God had rained to them, they questioned Moses about it, and they said, *“It is manna: for they wist not what it was.” (Exodus 16:15 KJV)* Moses explained it to them that, *“This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.” (Exodus 16:15 KJV)* That form of bread might not have matched the bread that they were baking and eating but it was what God had chosen to give them to eat for survival. *Their situation can be compared to the situation today. When we are in need of a job and income, we pray to God and in answer to that, the Lord might open a door that might be contradictory to our expectation and beyond our comprehension and understanding and we start to question and grumble. This is what the Israelites did when God sent them bread from Heaven.*

Sometimes, when God provides a job and an income, He will instruct us and set rules for us to work in a particular way for us to depend on Him on a daily basis to survive and for His name to be glorified.

***A. The amount of the work to be performed:** “16 This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents. 17 And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. 18 And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.” (Exodus 16:16-18 KJV)* God had put a limit on the amount to be gathered. *We should work to a certain limit so that our needs will be met in the kind of job that God has provided. Those who gather much out of greed, will not be blessed by God to have more, and those who are satisfied and content with what God has given them will not have less and lack anything. All glory to Him who trains us and disciplines us!*

***B. To work regularly every day:** “19 And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning. 20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.” (Exodus 16:19-20 KJV)* God wanted them to work every day that is why they were not allowed to save for the next day. God was dealing with them so that there was no room for laziness. *“9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.” (Proverbs 18:9 KJV)* Faith in God is not only trusting God for provision, but also for being diligent and active in doing our part daily, and to be persistent in our effort.

***C. Laziness is judged:** “21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.” (Exodus 16:21 KJV)* God was so particular with them that they need to wake up early to gather the manna at a particular time. If they had

delayed, they would have missed their food. So they were trained and disciplined by God to value and appreciate the job that God had given them. *“14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” (Ephesians 5:14 KJV)*

***D. Sabbath rules to be observed and honored:** “22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. 23 And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. 24 And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. 25 And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. 26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.” (Exodus 16:22-26 KJV)* God gave them the kind of job that would sustain them physically and they were expected to honor God by obeying His commands. They were given one day of rest, *“The holy sabbath unto the LORD.” (Exodus 16:23 KJV)* *Even to this day, God requires us to work and labor for six days and to rest one day in a week in obedience to His command and as an expression of faith that He will provide for us and sustain us as we honor Him and keep His Word.*

***E. Our Lord is a God of Justice:** “27 And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. 28 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? 29 See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. 30 So the people rested on the seventh day.” (Exodus 16:27-30 KJV)* Those who went out to gather out of their greed found none. God explained to them that they had already received their portion. *“29 See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days.” (Exodus 16:29 KJV)* *Those who go and work in their rest day they will get tired and they will not gain any profit.*

***My dear and beloved:** \* Let us learn to work hard and abide with the rules that God had placed before us in the places that we are working and the jobs we are doing. \* Let us be honest and obedient to the principle that we need to work to satisfy our needs. “11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.” (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 KJV)* God wants us to work so that we win the respect of others and be a good example for them to follow God and Jesus Christ as we endeavor to work. God does not want us to be an opportunist or merely a consumer, but a producer, who is effective and productive. *“14 And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.” (Titus 3:14 KJV)* *We need to use time, manpower, and the resources that we have to work it out. Let us start with whatever job is available --- planting, tending sheep, selling, carrying things, and so on, as long as we follow the principles of God's Word, He will replenish our source of wealth.*

Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and the teaching that I received in this message. Lord I thank you for the job that you provided for me, the place of work that you placed me in, and thank you for various examples from the Scripture that taught me important principles that I need to follow in my work.*

*Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your laziness, grumbling, and complaining. Repent of taking advantage of others and your non willingness to work to meet your needs. Repent of your greed and not being satisfied with what God gives to you. Repent of your lack of submission to the authorities over you in your working place. Repent of your lack of fear in God. Repent of your breaking the Sabbath rule and your working in your rest day. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve Him. Confess your non willingness to go along the rules that God placed before you in your place of work. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord thank you for the job that you gave to me. Lord I commit myself to go along your Word and the teaching we received in this message. Lord I commit myself to work diligently as if working for you and not for man. Lord I commit myself to be on time and follow the rules that you placed in my working place. Lord I commit myself to keep my Sabbath to rest and to worship you and serve you. Lord give me good health and strength so I can do my job well and set a good example to others to follow.*

*Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and decided to obey your Word and what we learned in this message. Lord grant them favor in their working places from their superiors and promote them in their working places. Lord prosper all the places my brethren are working so they too will prosper. Lord watch over them and protect them from the evil one so they will continue to serve you and do your will.*

*Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to teach your Word and your will to your people. Lord thank you for the all the jobs and the places of working that you open to them. Lord use their works as good testimonies to others to follow. Lord we pray that their good work in those places will attract others to know you that they will be able to see Jesus in their lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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