

Right Resources for Money Save and don't Waste Part 1

“6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6: 6-8 KJV)

Another right source of income is our savings. At certain times God gives us more because He wants us to save and not waste. Let this be our principle: *“The extra that we receive today is God’s provision for us for the future, so we need to save the extra.”*

God uses the ant to teach us to save and to store the excess that He gives us. The art of saving that we learn from the example of the ant involves two main things:

A. Gathering: To particularly gather things rejected by others and assemble them together and also collect things left around that one day will become useful.

B. Storing: To properly store them and place them in a proper place from where we can take later when we need them.

The people who were left by the Chaldeans under Gedaliah were instructed to gather the summer fruits, and we can assume, it was to process it into grape juice, oil or dry fruit and to preserve it for the winter season. ***“9 And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan sware unto them and to their men, saying, Fear not to serve the Chaldeans: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. 10 As for me, behold, I will dwell at Mizpah, to serve the Chaldeans, which will come unto us: but ye, gather ye wine, and summer fruits, and oil, and put them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that ye have taken.” (Jeremiah 40:9-10 KJV)*** Most likely, these kinds of trees were naturally grown, and it was a blessing of God to gather their fruits and preserve them to be used for the winter season. The process of gathering and storing these fruits in a way was to preserve them over a period of time. This is true wisdom and will prove to be beneficial to those who practice that. ***We need to do such things in our families; our children must be trained to do these things so that when they grow up, they will impart this method to their children. How wonderful a method it is to cut costs if we can process our juices, vinegar, jams, and sauces, instead of buying them at exorbitant prices.***

Many people do not keep tools and small things in the house (papers, pens, calculators, watches, nails, screws, glue, ointments, shoes, slippers, clothes, toys, furniture, and so on) that will come in handy someday. They just discard them but later on when they are in need of these things, they have to pay a fortune. Such an attitude will result in a colossal loss of resources. ***We need to be creative in preserving whatever we have. We need to keep such things in certain places and label them and keep a list of them so when we need them, we can easily find them without wastage of time and money.***

Even food can be preserved for a long time using different methods. ***Throughout history, God had taught people in different parts of the world to preserve different kinds of food, meat, fish,***

vegetable, fruit, and seeds by using salt, drying, freezing, preparing pickles, jams, molasses, and so on.

God commanded Noah to prepare, and preserve food for himself, his wife, and his three sons, for their wives and for the animals with him on the ark. ***“19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. 20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. 21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. 22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” (Genesis 6:19-22 KJV)*** ***It is part of our service to God that we need to know how to do such things for our near and dear ones.***

In every country and nation in the world, there are one or more fruits or vegetables (a national plant or a national tree) that are available as food which is naturally grown and available to the people to pick and eat. This will be another way of saving the natural resources. We can read in the Bible how Jesus went to the fig tree to eat. ***“18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. 19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.” (Matthew 21:18-19 KJV)*** Jesus was hungry when He moved towards the fig tree and He wanted to make a meal of it. It seems that this was something people used to do if they were hungry. The Bible also tells us how the disciples picked up corn and ate. ***“1 At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn and to eat.” (Matthew 12:1 KJV)*** In the nation that I am living, dates of palm trees are abundant and we are free to pick from the trees. We gather a lot of fruit and store it after drying it in large amounts. We use it as candy or bake cake or cookies out of it.

Once, near my house, I was led by the Lord to a fig tree. In the place that I live in, it is not usual to find a fig tree but the Lord allowed it to happen. That tree was between two buildings and no one was caring for the tree and no one bothered to eat the fruit that had fallen down on the ground. On my daily walking exercise, I began to gather almost a pound of fruit. It was not very sweet in taste and that was probably one of the reasons why no one was interested in eating this fruit. The other reason could be that the fig is not well known in the area that I live. But I was glad that God had given me this healthy fruit, rich in minerals and vitamins. What did we use it for? We became creative and used our culinary skills to prepare delicious sweetmeats using dates and figs. The rest we dried and preserved as fruit for summer.

It is not only money that we need to save but even food, water, electricity, time, furniture, office supply, and other important miscellaneous items. After feeding the crowd of 5000 men, Jesus instructs his disciples how to save the remains so as to avoid wastage. ***“12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. 13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.” (John 6:12-13 KJV)*** ***Jesus satisfies our every need. But after we are full, we should not waste what is left.*** Some people pile up food on their plates and waste it; they throw away meat and vegetables in the garbage at the cost of money. ***Wastage of any kind is sin and people who do it will be judged by the Lord.*** Some people throw away the extra food and drink without keeping

it for the next meal after they ate it once. What they throw away may constitute 20 percent or more of their next meal and this is all waste of money and labor. Jesus does not want us to waste anything.

Even the instructions given during the feast of the Passover teaches us to save and not waste.

“4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.” (Exodus 12:4 KJV) So God did not want them to slaughter a lamb for one small family to consume and have excess. So He told them to share the lamb between two families. God instructed them to eat everything of the lamb and not to waste anything of it and in case they were not able to finish, they needed to burn it. ***“9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.” (Exodus 12:9-10 KJV)*** Nowadays when it comes to church celebrations, the church spends so much on food and in addition to that, much food is wasted and they consider it as a fellowship in God’s name. **Spending lavishly as if we are honoring God, is not Scriptural. In fact, God had laid strict rules to minimize the wastage of food.**

He mentioned in verse 9 that they need to eat it with the purtenance ***“9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.” (Exodus 12:9 KJV)*** Purtenance means the inward parts of the lamb: lungs, kidneys, liver, spleen, and so on. It is clear that God does not want any part of it to be wasted.

In the Scripture, we can also read about the bread that was prepared every Sabbath to be used as food for a whole week for the descendants of Aaron while they were doing their ministerial duties inside the tabernacle of God. ***“5 And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. 6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. 7 And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. 9 And it shall be Aaron’s and his sons’; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute.” (Leviticus 24:5-9 KJV)*** The bread that was prepared was eaten over the week. They didn’t complain about it being old and threw it away. **Some people today don’t prefer to eat old bread that was baked a few days ago, but they will throw it away and waste it while the Word of God teaches us not to do that.**

Other ways of saving is when we recycle and reuse things. There are things that can be reused. Clothes, shoes, and sandals, for example, can be reused. The well-maintained clothes of older children can be reused for their younger siblings. Children can use the clothes of their parents. God spoke to Moses that the clothes of Aaron should be used by his son Eleazar. “25 Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up unto mount Hor: 26 And strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son: and Aaron shall be gathered unto his people, and shall die there. 27 And Moses did as the LORD commanded: and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. 28 And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount:

and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.” (Numbers 20:25-28 KJV) It was the command of God that Eleazar was to use the clothes of Aaron his father. ***“29 And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons’ after him, to be anointed therein, and to be consecrated in them.” (Exodus 29:29 KJV)*** God was very particular to recommend that and wanted it to be followed. There was much effort put in preparing all the parts of the clothes that Aaron was wearing, right from choice of material, to the skill involved and the time taken for the task. Nothing was to be wasted especially because the clothes were to be used for the next generation. **The priestly garments of the anointed ministers can be used after their completion of service on earth. Nowadays no one wishes to use their parent’s clothes.**

The soldiers who crucified Jesus took his clothes, ***“35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.” (Matthew 27:35 KJV)*** Most likely they reused them. **Clothes that are in good shape and form are things that we need to reconsider before we throw away. Those who are quick to discard are poor in saving money.**

Clothes in the Scripture were valued by the people. Clothes were precious plundering of war and the Scripture mentions that. Men would come late from a war at a certain time to divide the plunder and among it were the clothes.

The women calmed down Sisera’ mother when he was late in coming back after the war, telling her that he was busy in dividing the spoil: ***“28 The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots? 29 Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answer to herself, 30 Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey; to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of divers colours, a prey of divers colours of needlework, of divers colours of needlework on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil?” (Judges 5:28-30 KJV)***

Achan coveted and took home with him a piece of the Babylonian garment from the plunder of Jericho. ***“21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.” (Joshua 7:21 KJV)***

Clothes in the olden times were precious things. It is mentioned that Saul guarded the clothes of those who were stoning Stephan. ***“58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man’s feet, whose name was Saul.” (Acts 7:58 KJV)*** Saul guarded their clothes so no one would steal them.

Clothes are precious things and we should not easily discard them. Paul requested Timothy to bring him his cloak that he had left with Carpus along with his books and the parchments. ***“The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.” (2 Timothy 4:13 KJV)***

Even today, clothes are precious. Clothes, shoes, and other accessories are expensive these days and we need to be wise while shopping for them and maintain them in the best possible

way. Clothes should be cleaned and pressed well to make us look presentable. It doesn't matter how old they are as long as they are maintained well and can be reused.

God's Word testifies about that: *"5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot."* (Deuteronomy 29:5 KJV) If our clothes or shoes are not worn out, we can still continue to use them. We can apply the same principle to our mobiles, watches, wallets, purses, bags, and so on.

"47 The garment also that the plague of leprosy is in, whether it be a woollen garment, or a linen garment; 48 Whether it be in the warp, or woof; of linen, or of woollen; whether in a skin, or in any thing made of skin; 49 And if the plague be greenish or reddish in the garment, or in the skin, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin; it is a plague of leprosy, and shall be shewed unto the priest: 50 And the priest shall look upon the plague, and shut up it that hath the plague seven days: 51 And he shall look on the plague on the seventh day: if the plague be spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in a skin, or in any work that is made of skin; the plague is a fretting leprosy; it is unclean. 52 He shall therefore burn that garment, whether warp or woof, in woollen or in linen, or any thing of skin, wherein the plague is: for it is a fretting leprosy; it shall be burnt in the fire. 53 And if the priest shall look, and, behold, the plague be not spread in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin; 54 Then the priest shall command that they wash the thing wherein the plague is, and he shall shut it up seven days more: 55 And the priest shall look on the plague, after that it is washed: and, behold, if the plague have not changed his colour, and the plague be not spread; it is unclean; thou shalt burn it in the fire; it is fret inward, whether it be bare within or without. 56 And if the priest look, and, behold, the plague be somewhat dark after the washing of it; then he shall rend it out of the garment, or out of the skin, or out of the warp, or out of the woof: 57 And if it appear still in the garment, either in the warp, or in the woof, or in any thing of skin; it is a spreading plague: thou shalt burn that wherein the plague is with fire. 58 And the garment, either warp, or woof, or whatsoever thing of skin it be, which thou shalt wash, if the plague be departed from them, then it shall be washed the second time, and shall be clean. 59 This is the law of the plague of leprosy in a garment of woollen or linen, either in the warp, or woof, or any thing of skins, to pronounce it clean, or to pronounce it unclean." (Leviticus 13:47-59 KJV) In the laws concerning leprosy, the priest should examine the clothes that have been smeared with leprosy and he may need to re-examine them again to decide if they are clean or not before he decides that the clothes need to be burned. Clothes, garments, or skins are precious and expensive things and so God had placed rules to decide under what circumstances they needed to be burnt. Even now, God expects us to apply the rules from His Word concerning clothes, to decide under what circumstances we need to throw them away or destroy.

My dear and beloved: "13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." (James 3:13 KJV) If we humble ourselves before God and before His Word and are willing to do His will by avoiding wastage and saving God's provision, He will open our eyes and will show other things that can be reused. Therefore let us apply all what we had learned today in His Word in our lives so we can have extra income through saving, reusing and not wasting resources.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me to save, to reuse and not to waste resources. Lord I thank you for all the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message. Lord thank you for the free resources that you had given to me that I can use in my daily life.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your bad stewardship and wasting your resources. Repent of throwing things that are useful for you, and replace them with things that are more expensive. Repent of pride, boasting and showing off. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of keep throwing clothes and shoes and going and buying new ones. Confess your non willingness to go along His will and the plan that He has for you. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve Him. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to live according to the principles that we received from your Word to be good steward, willing to gather things and store them so I can use them for the future. Lord I am willing to go through the narrow gate and the good plan that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to suffer for your cause.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and are willing to follow your Word and live the style of life that you want them to live, to save, to reuse and not to waste. Lord continue to teach them your ways and make out of their lives good example to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to teach about stewardship and give skills to your people from the Bible of how to save and not to waste so their income will increase and their needs will be met. Lord lead us to teach new people those principles that they need in their lives. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we needs in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more 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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