

A LIVE TEACHING:



Maximizing Your Talents

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This booklet is designed to accompany the Arthur Bailey Ministries DVD teaching of the same title.

Introduction:

It is tradition for a Messianic Jew or a Jewish person not to carry money on the Sabbath. Do you know that? Think about this for a moment. Do you remember the story where Yeshua was talking and the question was asked:

"Who is my mother or who is my neighbor?"

He gave a story about a Good Samaritan. Do you remember what he said? He said that there was a priest and there was a Levite. It could have been the Sabbath; especially when we look at the fact that they did not help the fellow who was left beaten and left for dead.

And yet this Samaritan who found this man—he took him and he put him in the inn. He put him up and paid for him and told the innkeeper that whatever was needed, he would take care of upon his return. It is very possible that maybe they were going up to worship on the Sabbath.

Now imagine if you were to do what a lot of these individuals say to do, and you refuse to carry funds on the Sabbath for fear that you are going to spend some money or buy and sell something. Imagine how many people that you may have to pass up because you can't help them.

There is nothing in the Torah that forbids people from carrying money on the Sabbath. There is nothing. As a matter of fact, according to the Torah, the tithe, the offerings; the sacrifices doubled on the Sabbath. There was an increase in what was offered on the Sabbath day because there were special Sabbath offerings.

I know I start talking about tithes and offerings and folks get a little nervous. But don't get nervous folks, because we need to hear this. We need to break away from the traditions that have been placed in our spirit — from the things that men have taught us, especially if it doesn't line up with what the word of YeHoVaH says.

Teaching:

In today's teaching, we are going to be looking at **Maximizing Your Talents.** We are going to be looking at a passage of scripture in the book of *Matthew*. We are going to be looking at *Matthew* 25. And what we are going to see here is that in *Matthew* chapter 24, right around verse 12, Yeshua is communicating with his disciples.

As I was sharing, shortly after Yeshua was informing his disciples about the importance of the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached to the whole world — as he proceeded to share with them; he began to talk to them about some endtime events that were going to happen. He talked to them about how people would be coming, and they would be saying:

"Hey, the Messiah is here, the Messiah is there."

He talked about ten virgins who would come. He talked about the parable of the fig tree. And then he got to a place where he began to talk about some talents (the parable of the talents). Yeshua gives a parable about three servants who were given talents. What distinguished the wise servants from the wicked servant in this parable was determined by what they did with the talents they had been given.

I know many of us including myself have heard teachings on this particular parable. And often times we're informed that Father has given us talents. What we do with those talents is really left up to us.

I did a word study on talents in the Webster's Dictionary. And I think that when people read the King James Bible or the New International Version of the Bible, or the scriptures or whatever Bible they read from that is in the English language — very few people study. Very few people research. Very few people research words in the original language in which they were given and from which they were translated.

Often times we associate an English definition to the words that we read. When we hear "talents" in the English, it's automatic that our mind would go to abilities — human abilities, gifting. But how many of you know that has absolutely nothing to do with this parable? Nothing. We're going to see that Yeshua is not really talking about your talents as it relates to your abilities.

In verse 25:14, this is what it says:

"For the kingdom of heaven..."

He is talking in these parables about the Kingdom.

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods." I want you to read this with me when you see it, because it's so important, otherwise you'll miss what is being communicated.

"And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability..."

The individuals already had abilities. He is not giving them abilities, he is giving them talents. They already have the abilities. Do you follow what I'm saying here?

The abilities that they already have are going to determine what they do with what has been given to them in the form of talents. Do you follow me? Now, we're going to see that the talent that he's talking about here is **money**. That's what he is talking about, and we're going to see it. He says:

"To every man according to his several abilities."

The person he gave one talent to had abilities. The person he gave two talents to already had abilities. The person he gave five talents to already had abilities. Based upon their ability is what determined what they did with the talent. The talents weren't abilities. The talents were money.

Look at it.

Mt 25:16 "Then he that had received the five talents went and

traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise, he that had received two also gained other two."

Now look at what the scriptures say so that you don't find yourself *eisegesing* when you should be *exegeting*. Eisegesis is reading into the passage, something that isn't there. Exegeting is to pull out what's actually there; what's being said. Do you see what he says here?

Mt 25:16 "He went and traded."

You don't go and trade your talents. You don't go and trade your gifts. They went and traded with the same and made them other five talents. Imagine you go and trade your talents. You go and trade your abilities. You go and trade your gifts and then gain five other gifts, five other talents, five other abilities. It doesn't work that way.

But every time I've heard this message on the talents or a message on a talent, it always ends up being on some form of abilities or some form of gifting that the individual has.

Then there is the guilt complex of what you do with your abilities and what you do with your giftings. While I'm at it, if a person really reads what the *Proverbs* is saying, it is that:

"A man's gifts make room for him."

It is not talking about spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are nowhere in the *Proverbs*. It is talking about the physical gift that you would bring a person of nobility. You never appeared before a King without gifts. And the gift, depending upon what you are presenting to the King, is going to determine your place in line.

Imagine. You're going to bring the King gold from Ethiopia. Do you think you're going to be behind the guy who has brought some dates from Israel? It is your physical gift, not your spiritual gift we are talking about, because spiritual gift is not even discussed in the *Proverbs*.

But what happened in churches and in Messianic communities is that the moment you begin to spiritualize the word, you take it out of the context in which it is communicated and you totally desecrate the meaning. We try not to do that here.

Mt 25:16-18 "Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his Lord's money."

There it is right there:

"He hid his Lord's money."

He did not hide his Lord's gifts. The Lord gives him gifts. He gave him money. They already had abilities. Are you with me? What we're going to find in verse 19 is:

"After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them."

Now he is saying:

"Listen. I gave you some money. I gave you my possessions. I gave you my goods. I'm going away."

When you look at the context of the parable, in the context of the parable that is given, it is right after the Messiah says:

"The gospel of the kingdom must be preached to the entire world and then the end would come."

This is indicating that the son of man is going to return at a certain time. Then he gives the illustration:

"Listen. There is a man who had servants."

You can see what he's talking about. He is talking about his giving of a parable, and that those of us who have been called to serve YeHoVaH are going to have to give an account for the resources that He has placed in our possession.

Now what happens here is that one fellow went and digged in the earth. He put the money in the ground.

Mt 25:19 "After a long time, the lord of those servants cometh and reckoned with them."

He comes back and calls them and says:

"It's time for you to give an account for the resources that I placed in your hand before I left."

Mt 25:20 "And so he that had received <u>five talents</u> came and brought other five talents, saying, 'Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more."

Mt 25:21 "His lord said unto him, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Then we find that he said to the other servant:

Mt 25:22 "The one that received two talents came and said, 'Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents:

behold, I have gained two other talents besides them."

He heard the same words.

Mt 25:23 "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Mt 25:24 "Then he which had received the <u>one talent</u> came and said, 'Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man...'"

Notice what he says, because obviously he knows something about this lord. See, he knows something about him, but his own words condemn him. Notice what he says:

"I knew you are a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou had not strawed:"

And so what I did (knowing that you are a hard man):

Mt 25:25-27 "I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth. Lo, there thou hast that is thine.' His lord answered and said unto him, 'Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money..."

I'm not putting these words in here. How many of you are reading this with me in your Bible? Does it say money in your Bible, and not gifts, not abilities? It says money or talent; silver. Do you see that? He says:

Mt 25:27 "Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers..."

Now it is the exchangers. I took a picture. I wish I had put it up there. When I went to Dallas, I got off the plane and right there — No, it wasn't Dallas. It was right here in Charlotte, before I even got on the plane. I got through security and there was a money exchange right there and I took a picture. Now I see these every time I go overseas or wherever. I always exchange American dollars for the local currency, because a lot of times foreign people don't have change.

You know, you give them American money and they don't have change, so you may lose your money. And since you don't know the currency rates, they could give you anything in local currency. That is why I always exchange enough currency to do business with people. How many of

you know that Americans on foreign soil have a big neon light on their forehead that says:

"I am from America."

And they might say:

"Yeah, we see you're from America. Come. Come do business here."

You think you've got a good deal, but you may come to find out that you have just been ripped off.

Anyway, I took a picture of this currency exchanger, and right there on the rate, it had from American to whatever currency people who are coming into Charlotte use. It's an international city, so when a person gets off a plane here in Charlotte, they're able to exchange their foreign money into American currency.

Some of these places, I don't blame them because their money is more valuable than ours. I remember when I used to go to Canada. I used to be happy to exchange it to some Canadian money. That is because my dollar back in those days was worth more than the Canadian dollar. Not anymore. Now Canadians are coming across the border to America to exchange because their money is more valuable than US currency.

Every time I use Western Union — every time we send money to Pakistan, they want me to know the rate of exchange. This is what it's going to be valued at, so that I know exactly what it is worth. Well, the currency exchangers here are the ones

who actually exchange currency from one currency to another.

Now imagine. Jerusalem was an international city. People would come from all over the known world to go up to the feasts. When they came from their places of living, they would go to the temple and they would exchange their currency for local currency. This is why you had money changers in the temple courts, because they would exchange their currency to the local currency.

If you remember when we look at Torah, Torah says that if you're going to go up to Jerusalem and your journey is far, then you take your sacrifice or whatever you're taking and exchange it for money. Then when you get up to Jerusalem, you can take the money and buy whatever you want. You all do know that, right? So he says:

Mt 25:27 "You should have taken my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."

The wicked and slothful servant (he said), didn't even bother to try to put the money to work for him even to get a percentage of interest. It's small. But what you're going to see ladies and gentlemen is that what separated the two servants from the third servant is that they took what the Father had given them, or they took what the

master had given them and put their money to work. They put their money to work.

Now some people in our society today who want to run to the mountains and hide, they want to build bunkers. This would be a situation that would totally be opposed to that mentality. The Father is not calling us to run to the mountains and hide and wait for Armageddon. He fully intends for us to interact with the heathen society in which we live, to bring the good news of the Kingdom so that fewer heathens end up in the Lake of Fire. You are not going to be evangelizing in a bunker in the mountains.

And for those who want to sell fear — who want to communicate fear to people:

"You need to get your canned goods and you need to build your bunker, and you need to go into the mountains and you need to grow your own food, and you need to..."

Listen, there's nothing wrong with that folks. But we were not left here to hide in the mountains. We are supposed to occupy until he comes. We are supposed to take dominion over his earth. This earth does not belong to the devil. It does not belong to the heathens. It does not belong to the atheists. It does not belong to the agnostics. The earth is YeHoVaH's — the fullness thereof. They

and all that dwell therein belong to Him. And our role is to tell them who they belong to.

Your life is not your own. Yeshua paid the price. He died so that you can have access. Repent and give your heart back to the Father. That's the role. That's the Gospel of the Kingdom. Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. You need to turn.

Man broke fellowship through Adam. Man needs to be reconciled to the creator so that man who was designed to spend eternity with the Father, will not be condemned to the Lake of Fire. Our mouths are not to be shut.

So what he says is that these two servants understood full well what their master required of them. The third servant understood full well, but he called him a wicked and lazy or slothful servant. Get this:

Mt 25:28 "Take therefore the talent"

Now, can you take somebody else's gifts? Can you take somebody else's abilities and give them to somebody else? You can't. I'm emphasizing on this because most of us in this room have the idea that Yeshua is talking about talents, gifts, and abilities. How many of you were under that impression? Nobody? Everybody knew this is about money? No you didn't, because I've heard your conversations over the course of the week.

Even when I said that I was teaching on this, I heard some of you. Yes I did. Don't get spiritual on me now or let me say, to all of a sudden have an epiphany. You've got a revelation? Good, that's what we're trying to do. Anyway, let's take this to another level, are you ready? Here is what happened:

Mt 25:29 "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

Mt 25:30 "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Imagine what the master is saying. I mean think about this folks, because this is the thing that really got me. Yeshua is telling a parable about money and indicating that the servant who did not use the master's money in the most profitable way was considered wicked. He was considered slothful and would end up in outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Did you know that how you utilize the ninety percent — how you utilize the funds, the money that Father gives you, you are responsible for? Again, some folks speak.

"Well you know, I'm going to get the ten percent out of my possession and I'm going to give it to the Father. I am not going to hold His money in my possession."

But the Father is not just concerned with the tenth. He's concerned with every dime He entrusts to you. The problem sometimes I think is that because we work for the money; because we go out and earn the money, we think that it's ours and that we can do whatever we want to do with it.

How many of you know that how you utilize the funds, the money, and the talents that the Father places into your hands is important because it is His? It is a dangerous thing to think that anything you've got; anything that you have possession of, belongs to you. If you think that's the case, then just die and see what happens to it.

Now, we have a responsibility to be responsible for it, but it belongs to Him. When I think about this, the problem that got Judas into trouble was money. Do you hear what I'm saying? Of all of his disciples, the wicked one had an issue with money. What Yeshua is saying here in the parable is that what's in your heart is going to determine what you do with the resources — what's in your heart (your abilities, the abilities that you have).

You see, the master already knew that he had a wicked and slothful servant. That's why he only gave him one talent. Think about it. He gave

according to their abilities. How did he know their abilities? He knew their abilities. He knew what he could trust them with. You see, what's in your heart is going to determine what the Father trusts you with. This is why He is looking for us. He wants to give us a new heart; one that He can manage, control and operate. The prophet says that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.

This morning my family was having some conversation. I'm preparing to come to service and they're talking about things. I called down and said to them:

"This is the Sabbath. Let's remember that this is the Sabbath. Let's keep our conversation in accordance."

About twenty minutes later, my wife and I were talking. My conversation goes into the same direction and my wife gives me a reminder of what I had spoken earlier.

At that moment I was reminded of a situation with a disciple by the name of Peter. In one instance Peter was having a revelation about who Yeshua is — that he is the son of the living Elohim. Yeshua says:

"Flesh and blood didn't reveal that to you. My Father in heaven showed you that." A few verses down, Yeshua is telling his disciples that he's going to go up. He's going to be delivered to the Chief Priests; the Elders, and they're going to do some really terrible things. They're going to kill him. The same Peter who had a revelation, all of a sudden opens his mouth and says:

"No, no, be it far from you."

Yeshua turns to him and says:

"Get behind me Satan."

One minute he has a revelation. The next minute the very thing that is opposed to the revelation that he just had is coming forth out of his mouth.

You see, I don't care how saved you are, or how saved you think you are, or how spiritual you think you are. You are just as prone to one minute be walking in the power and in the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and in the next minute something that is totally opposed to the Spirit is coming out of your mouth. Why? It is because the heart is deceitful. Yes, the Father is giving us a new heart, but let me tell you something. We are still in the flesh, folks. Only our spirit is regenerated.

The Holy Spirit communicates to our spirit that we are children of the Most High. But how many of you know that this flesh is still getting old? This flesh is still disintegrating. This flesh is still headed toward the grave.

When we take on the new body; the glorified body, then we don't have to worry about this physical body anymore. But as long as we're in the earth; as long as we're in this body, we are prone to be used by the devil. This is why we have to die every single day — every day.

And you have to be careful of counsel, because Godly people can give ungodly counsel. One minute they give you some Godly counsel, and then the next minute they give you ungodly counsel. Why? This happens because often times we speak according to where a person may be feeding upon a person's emotions. Husbands and wives, you know about this. The Father is dealing with these disciples. He's sharing with them a parable through Yeshua, saying:

"Listen. You've got to guard your heart. Don't be like these servants who misused the resources that I've put in their hands. This is what's going to happen to them. They're going to be cast into outer darkness. (Mt 25:30) And out there is not a good place. There is going to be weeping. There's going to be gnashing of teeth."

As we can see, this parable is about how we handle the money resources we've been entrusted with. The moment you take this parable into the

spiritual realm, you lose the message because now people are more focused on their gifts, talents, and abilities than they are on the resources the Father puts into their hands. What are you doing with the money He puts in your hand? How are you managing that? A little sleep, a little folding of the arm, and poverty will come upon you like an armed bandit. Father is trying to communicate to us.

"Listen. You need to be in tune with Me because the resources that I'm giving you are for the purposes of the Kingdom."

The Father says that it is He who gives us the ability to get wealth so that He may establish covenant in the earth. He is about establishing His covenant. And He's looking for some people who understand that the resources, the talents, the monies that He places in their hands, are His.

Now notice at the end of the parable. He doesn't take the money away from them. He says to them:

"You know, you made me really, really happy. I am overjoyed by the fact that you took the resources that I've placed in your hands, and you've doubled them. I'm so joyful. I want you to enter into my joy."

He probably threw a party. Of course we know that this is a parable.

You cannot double your spiritual gifts. You cannot double your talents and your human abilities. It doesn't work that way, folks. Neither your spiritual gifts nor your talents will be taken and given to someone else! You won't find that in the Bible. I know one thing. If you mismanage your money, it'll be gone so fast, and you can't get it back.

You see, the Father has taken that and given it to somebody who knows how to get it from you. This parable is NOT about spiritual gifts or human talents and/or abilities. That's not what it is about.

What it is about as you will see here in a minute, is that preachers, teachers and church denominations have perverted this parable as they have many of the teachings of Yeshua to make his teachings say something other than what Yeshua was intending.

And that's a terrible thing. For many people, we don't manage our resources well. How many of you consider yourself a great manager of money? How many of you know that you have a problem with managing money? See?

This parable is for you, because let me tell you something. This is the majority of believers. They want to learn Torah. They want to be filled with the Spirit, and they want to be used mightily by

YeHoVaH. They want the power of the Almighty. And the Almighty is saying:

"Why would I trust you with such spiritual power when you can't even manage the natural power?"

You see, money is power. I know knowledge is power. But if knowledge can't get you money, it is not power. It's money that answers all things under the earth.

"Brother, why are you spending so much time on money?"

I'll tell you why I spend so much time on money. It's just as much time as the Bible spends. Yeshua spent more time talking about money than he did about spiritual gifts. Did you know that? You know, he spent more time talking about money than any other thing.

And he watched. I mean, he's sitting at the temple treasury watching who puts money in the box when it's time to pay the taxes. He got a tax collector; one who should know money. He's got Judas who's managing the money — a treasurer.

Instead of going to Judas when they need to pay the taxes, he sends one of his disciples down to the sea to catch a fish that had money in its mouth so that he can pay. Are you all with me today? When he's talking about these talents ladies and gentlemen, he's talking about how we manage money because he's trying to empower us. He says:

"Listen. In this parable, how they dealt with the resources that the Master put into their hand is what determined the Master's joy."

Our goal is to take the resources that the Father places in our hands and to use them for Kingdom purposes. If nothing else comes from this message, I pray that you become aware of how much of YeHoVaH's resources are slipping right through your fingers — how much you are squandering and wasting the resources that He's placing in your hands. And I hope you understand that He's going to hold all of us accountable.

When they take these messages and they say things that are not intended; that Yeshua's not saying, they literally change the message itself. When they do that, people don't get the full meaning. As long as many of us have been in the Kingdom; as long as many of us have been in this path and in church, we should all be very good managers of the resources that the Father has entrusted to us.

One of the first things I learned is that I'm a steward. I own nothing. Now try to tell that to an American. I don't own anything. Everything that I have, the Father has entrusted into my care. I don't own me. My life is not my own.

Isn't that what the Bible says? Your life is not your own. You've been bought with a price. Your children are not yours. You have the responsibility of raising them up in the fear and the admonition of YeHoVaH. They're not yours. Do you think they are yours? Try to keep them home. They are going to get to a point where they are out of there, Jack. They're gone. They want your money but they don't want you anymore.

"Just write the checks. Just give me the money. If I get in trouble, Hey Mom, hey Pop, I'm in trouble. I need some money."

Do you hear what I'm saying? Do you think they're your children? They're yours as long as they're not thinking. The moment they start thinking on their own, hopefully you've put good values and morals into them because they're going to go out on their own.

And chances are, if you're anything like me, you're going to get as far away from your Momma and your Daddy as you possibly can — I said if you're anything like me. Now, some folks don't want to leave. You've got to (he makes a kicking motion). Do you know what I'm saying? (He makes a pushing motion with hands.) Some of them just want to hang around.

"It's hard out there!"

When you add to or take away from the teachings of Yeshua, remember what the Bible says? It says that YeHoVaH said that He's going to raise up a prophet just like unto them (the brothers), and that whatever he says, we are going to have to do.

YeHoVaH through Yeshua is the living Torah.

When Yeshua speaks, we have to do what he says. When people add to what he's teaching, they're adding to the word. They're adding to the Torah.

When people diminish from what he's teaching and try to change what he's teaching into something that he is not teaching, they destroy the Torah. He is clearly using a parable; a passage that is causing his disciples — they're hearing this. They are not thinking about gifts when he's talking about this parable. They're not thinking about talents and abilities.

In one place, he sends them out and says:

"Listen guys, now I'm going to send you out. Don't take any gold. I'm going to show you how to trust in your heavenly Father. Don't take script. Don't take a second change of clothes. Don't take a purse. Just go and you will be cared for."

When they go against the instructions, they violate the Torah. They violate the word. It is clear throughout this teaching that Yeshua was speaking about money and how we deal with the financial resources YeHoVaH entrusts to us. How you deal with those resources is really going to determine how He deals with you.

These servants (unlike many today), realized that what they were entrusted with did not belong to them. They knew it belonged to the master. As soon as he put it into their hands, they got busy, except for one. He didn't go and spend it because he knew it didn't belong to him.

He didn't go and buy cheeseburgers and hot dogs because he knew it didn't belong to him. He knew that. He knew that when the master was leaving — he was fully aware that one day the master was coming back.

When we lose sight of the fact that our master is coming back, we will begin to live our lives as if it belongs to us. Who are we accountable to?

The Spirit is what makes us self-controlled. Whenever we're not operating in self-control, we're not operating in the Spirit. That is because the fruit of the Spirit is self-control in every area of our life.

One of the areas that I just let slip, I did this because in my mind I'm thinking to myself:

"You know what? I've given up hanging out in the bar. I've given up

whiskey and beer and Johnny Walker. I've given up cognac."

I mean, I've given up so much: weed, wine, women — except for that one (points to his wife). Do you hear what I'm saying? I thought I could at least enjoy a good meal as often as I wanted, so I got gluttonous. It didn't dawn on me until I picked up a whole bunch of weight that I wasn't operating in self-control in that particular habit. It wasn't until I looked at a cover of a DVD of when I was in Dallas.

No, I was actually — I was somewhere several years ago and I had gained so much weight, my heart would pound. My breathing was affected, even in my sleep; going up and down stairs, walking and simple stuff because I picked up too much weight. What I realized is that I wasn't managing this resource (taps chest), and that self-control had gone out the window.

There are times when I would certainly eat and overeat and knew I was overeating. In my mind it was like, I don't do drugs, I don't smoke, I don't drink, I don't chew. I've given up every vice out there but food. That's one of those areas that I could indulge in until I got the revelation that this body is a temple. I knew that, but I didn't *know* that.

I knew that because I've read it in the Bible. So how am I treating the temple? I'm stuffing all kinds of things into it. Okay, so I stopped eating pork. I stopped eating shellfish. I stopped eating all that other stuff, but it didn't stop me from eating the stuff that I could eat. Do you follow what I'm saying?

These servants realized that the master was going to come back. They knew that he was going to return. They knew that what they had is what he had entrusted them with; and that they would have to give an account of how they managed their resources.

The moment you lose sight of the fact that the Messiah is coming back — and what is he looking for? He's looking for people; a congregation without spot, without blemish, without wrinkle. He's looking for a people who have set themselves apart; not a people who are making excuses, not a people who are indulging in areas who are talking about:

"Well you know, God knows my heart."

That's why he's trying to give you a new one.

He's looking for a people who are literally sold out. I'm not talking fanatic, but I'm talking committed to His way; to His will to live their lives as if the day is going to come that they have to give an account. It is that mentality that won't let me give up on my children.

It is that mentality that won't let me keep quiet when I see wrong. It is that mentality that keeps me in a situation where I teach the way I do and I try to correct. I knew this when I was developing this message. I knew this when I was putting together *True Biblical Prosperity* and *The 28 Blessings*.¹

One of the things that people in Messianic communities don't want you to talk about is money. I don't know why they don't want you to do that. I think it is because they feel that money is a subject that should not be talked about on the Sabbath day.

Well, let me tell you something folks. They had free range of how to spend, how to invest, how to save, and how to utilize the resources; being well aware that some day they would have to give an account for what they did with the money. The master didn't tell them what to do with it. He said:

"Here."

That's what he said. He didn't say:

"I want you to do this, I want you to do this, I want you to do this."

He said:

"Here. I'm coming back one of these days. You don't know when, but I am coming back."

¹ The DVD teachings: *True Biblical Prosperity* and 28 *Blessings of Deuteronomy* 28 may be obtained from our web store at www.ArthurBaileyMinistries.com/dvds.

Obviously he communicated that to him because the servant went and hid the money waiting for his master's return. He anticipated that one day not knowing when, not knowing what day, not knowing what hour he was coming, that he was going to come and he was going to joyfully give him back what he gave him.

They knew they would have to give an account. Again, they weren't instructed as to what they had to do with it or what they could do with it. But they knew the day was going to come when the master was going to come looking for that which belonged to him.

And so when he did that, what are the talents Yeshua is referring to? What Yeshua is referring to is not talents or abilities. He's referring to the money.

The word "talent" or "talents" is used 64 times in the King James Version, 48 times in the Old Testament or the Tanakh, and 16 times in the New Testament or the Brit Hadeshah.

In those 64 times that it is used; in every instance where the word is used, it refers to a weight of measurement mostly associated with silver or gold. Talent in scripture is never related to spiritual gifts or human abilities.

Now I'm going to ask this question again. How many of you have heard the sermons, the messages and the teachings where they've taken this talent and associated it with gifts and abilities? And when that has happened, in the back of our mind, that is what we think of, as long as we are thinking about the message.

Most of the people that I know, when you talk about talent, their mind goes to spiritual gifts. It goes to their ability to sing. It goes to a talent show or a talent search. That's what they think of. When you mention talent to the average Joe and ask him to tell you what talent is, see what they say.

The word "talent" is first introduced in the Bible in *Exodus* 25 concerning the weight of gold to be used to make the lamp stand and its utensils. This is what YeHoVaH tells Moses. They made a candlestick, a candelabra, very similar to this.

This is actually a replica; an exact replica of what would've been in the tabernacle and in the temple — the size, everything about it down to the minutest detail (points to 7-branched candlestick). This is what it would've looked like. It was layered in gold — all the utensils.

What you have to see is that there was oil that they would have to light. The utensils that were associated with lighting the oil were of pure gold.

Ex 25:39 "Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it with all these vessels."

What he's saying is that you're going to make this candlestick with gold. A talent was about 3,000 shekels. A shekel is 34.272 kilograms (so about 75.6 pounds). When a person thinks about shekels, typically they would think about money. If you would think about a widow's mite, you think about money. A dollar, a dinar; all of those terms are associated, if we think of money.

But for the most part, talent is not associated in that manner unless you're one of those people who've researched it; and you look at it and you see it. You have to understand. Why would preachers take this parable and make it about spiritual gifts and abilities when it's nowhere near this parable? It has absolutely nothing to do with it. Why would the bulk of our sermons that we hear on this passage deal with spiritual gifts and abilities?

Throughout the Bible, business transactions and the exchange of goods and services were done with gold and silver. When we look at this, we see that YeHoVaH introduces gold in the very beginning of creation in *Genesis* chapter 2. He says:

Ge 2:11 "The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold."

And so, Father has already in the earth — when He established this wonderful planet, He put the resources that we needed in the earth. He established the forms of currency in how we were to exchange goods and services. He already put

everything we need right here in the earth. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Ge 2:12 "And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone."

He has put into the earth, precious metals, precious gems and precious stones. The kinds of things right now that most of the world covets after are gold, silver, diamonds, rubies, onyx, precious stones and precious metals, because that's real money.

But the world has moved us into a currency of notes. So we have bank accounts full of paper. Actually bank accounts are not full of paper, they are full of numbers on a computer. Truly most people would rather have dollars than silver.

"What am I going to do with this? I don't know what to do with this. Give me some dollars baby, so I can spend those."

Do you follow me? We have been bamboozled into thinking that a Federal Reserve note, which on it, it says this is simply a note. It's legal tender. It's fiat money. It's not even real money. It looks like money, but it's not real money. People spend their life working for money.

I love this story about Abraham.

Ge 13:2 "And Abraham was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold"

What I really like about this is that Abraham understood the values. You see, livestock, cattle, gold, goats, sheep, silver — that's real money. But the world has convinced us — Oh, and land.

Now a house on the land is not worth as much as the land. It's amazing over in some of these developments. They've got a plot of land with an \$800,000 dollar house on it. The land has enough room to run around the house. Seriously. You know, you go out into the yard and you open the windows on the side of the house. Typically they keep the blinds closed because if they open the blinds and they open the windows, they're going to be looking into their neighbor's house.

They pay \$800,000 dollars for a house on a piece of ground about that big (shows with hands) — three and four stories, and the land is worth about that much (pinches fingers). So man has convinced man that the house has equity, until the equity bubble bursts and then the house is worthless.

The person ends up owing more on the house than the house is actually worth. You can't get the loan modified because those people want their money. They want you to pay money for the wood and the shingles. Do you follow what I'm saying? It is because we don't know real money. These servants knew. The story is about — listen guys. If you understand the resources that the Father is putting in your hands, then you will learn how to manage it because if you don't manage it you're going to end up losing it. Somebody is going to take it from you. If you don't understand it, it's going to be taken from you and given to somebody else.

The banks will take it from you. The lending institutions will take it from you. The people who put liens on it will take it from you, and the government will take it from you. You don't understand it. You don't understand the value of it. Gold, silver — money was a means of buying and selling goods and services. And yes, they used money.

Now, I wanted you to see this particular verse, because in *Genesis 17* it says that Abraham was given some instructions as he was about to enter into a covenant with the Almighty.

Ge 17:9-10 "And God said unto Abraham, 'Thou shalt keep my covenant, therefore, thou and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and your seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised..."

Every one of them.

Ge 17:11-12 "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant between me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed."

We see that YeHoVaH introduces gold in *Genesis* chapter 2. And here in *Genesis* chapter 17, money is now being mentioned and it's a form of exchange. Abraham understood this. He did. As a matter of fact, Abraham's biggest concern with the Father blessing him — He says:

"Listen Abraham. Listen, listen, listen,"

Father is telling Abraham all of these wonderful things, and he says:

"What good is it? I mean, I've got all of this stuff, but when I leave here I've got to leave it to my servants."

Abraham was concerned about what he was going to leave and who he was going to leave it to because he knew he was going to leave.

As a child growing up, I heard all the time:

"You know, live for today because tomorrow is not promising."

I heard foolish grownups talking about how:

"I'm not leaving my children anything. They've got to make their own way."

How many of you know the Bible says:

"A prudent man, a wise man leaves an inheritance for his children and his children's children."

What is that? That's generational thinking. You see, if you're only thinking about yourself, you won't think generationally. And if you think generationally, you're going to be more in tune with the resources that you have.

It's going to govern how you manage the money you've got in your pocket or in your bank account. It's going to determine where you invest; where you buy a property, where your land is, and what kind of business you have.

This is why one of the issues that you'll find in many homes is that parents start businesses and they want their children to be involved in business. They want to be like Abraham who says:

> "I don't want to leave my business to one of my servants. I want to leave it to my son. I want to leave it in my family. I want my family for gener

ations and generations to come to prosper from the idea that the Father has placed in me."

So a wise man thinks about his children. He is making a life for his children. He is making a life for his children's children. He's thinking about some way to manage; some way to handle it.

We can talk about the Rockefellers and the Rothchilds. We could talk about them all day long, but let me tell you something. The Rothchilds and the Rockefellers today are still wealthy people because of ideas their daddy, granddaddy and great-granddaddy had. They made an inheritance and now generations later, that inheritance is still going strong.

We don't need to be talking about people who've already shown us the way. They had some ways about them. There's some stuff we could talk about — conspiracy. We could talk about the Illuminati. We could talk about One World Government. We could talk about that. Listen. Folks have been talking about that for thousands of years, ever since Nimrod.

There is only one government that's going to be established in the earth when the time comes. And that government is going to be upon our Messiah's shoulders. So we don't have to be afraid of some conspiracy theory. We don't have to be afraid. The Mayan calendar — I was rejoicing. Then I saw the Mayans preparing for their New Year. It's like:

"What's wrong with these people?"

Everybody's thinking the world is going to come to an end. They thought it was going to come to an end in "Y2K." They thought it was going to come to an end in "Y6K" or whatever that was, and then May 21st, and then October, and then December. Let me tell you something. There are going to be some new conspiracies.

People are going to go on and they're going to clean out stores and buy ammunition and get assault weapons and buy heirloom seeds and head to the mountains, because they're afraid.

YeHoVaH has not given His people a spirit of fear; but of power, love and a sound mind. We should be taking the spoils of this wicked generation. The Bible tells us that the wickeds' responsibility is to gather and to store so that they may turn it over to the man that pleases YeHoVaH. The wealth of the wicked is laid up for the *just*. Do you hear what I'm saying?

And so our mentality — in our mind, we have to get the mind of Messiah. Messiah's trying to prepare his people. He says:

"Listen guys, let me tell you something. Listen to me. I'm going to leave. I'm going to come back, and I'm going to hold you guys accountable for the resources that

I've placed in your hands. Now, what are you going to do with them?"

And so Abraham enters into the covenant.

Ge 17:13 "He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant."

He says to them:

"Listen. Everybody in your house, whether they were born or whether you bought them with money, needs to be circumcised."

Yeshua in the parable of the talent is talking about money.

Mt 25:14 "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods."

The word "goods" here is the Greek word *hoop-ar'-khon-tah* meaning: things extant or in hand, <u>property or possessions</u>: — goods that which one has, things which (one) possess, <u>substance</u>.

The man is giving goods.

Mt 25:15 "Unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."

This is according to his current abilities that he already had. Now in *Matthew* 25 in the New Living Translation, they made it easy.

"He gave five bags of gold to one, two bags of gold to another, and one bag of gold to the last — dividing it in proportion to their abilities — and then left on his trip."

The Amplified Bible says this:

Mt 25:15 "To one he gave five talents (probably about \$5,000), to another two, to another one — to each in proportion to his own personal ability. Then he departed and left the country."

The word there "talent" is *tal'-an-ton* (to bear; equivalent to [5342]); a balance (as supporting weights). If you look it up in the Webster's, one of the definitions in Webster's is weights and measures.

So you can have a talent of silver. You can have a talent of gold. You can have a talent of

stone. All of them are used in the Bible. As a matter of fact, in the book of *Revelation*, I believe that hail is going to come out of the sky falling on the earth; each ball weighing about one talent.

In one place, a talent is about 75 pounds! Can you imagine 75-pound hail balls coming out of the sky? Bam! It's not going to be like these little baseball things they're talking about that hit cars and put dents on them. Man, if one of those things hits you, it just buries you on the spot. Do you hear what I'm saying?

So it's used as a weight, and then here by implication, a certain weight and thence a coin or rather a sum of money. The reason why it's a sum of money is because if it's a talent of silver, it's of a lesser sum of money than if it's a talent of gold. It is dependent upon how much money it is.

Let me give you a little bit more. When it comes down to your talent, the question is, how do you maximize the talents that you have? How do you maximize the resources that the Father puts in your hand? Now, the least thing that the person can do — this is the very least. Say this with me:

"The very least I can do, is this: save."

You can save. Now, I encourage people if you are going to save, you need to save in a way where you can actually increase. And one of the ways you save is to do a conversion. What do you mean do a conversion? I'll tell you.

I'd rather convert dollars into silver and save the silver than the dollars because the dollar decreases. The silver increases. I'd rather convert it into gold and save the gold than save the dollar. Why? Because the gold increases. The dollar decreases.

Last time I checked about in 2007-2008, silver was right around \$6.00 an ounce. As of yesterday, silver was right at 29 to 30 and fluctuating between \$29-30 an ounce. Now imagine if a person who put their money in the bank in 2008 had converted that money into silver in 2008. Their money has more than quadrupled. It has quintupled. Do you hear what I'm saying? The money is worth five times as much in three or four years. There's no investment out there that can pay you like that, that I know of unless of course you got up with Bernie Madoff.

Do you hear what I'm saying? Everybody can't do that. But if you have a job, if you work, it's a shame if you live from paycheck to paycheck. It's an absolute shame. If that's the case, you are one paycheck away from being homeless. Now you say:

"Well, I don't make enough money. I don't have enough coming in."

Well you know, one of the things that I learned is that — here's how money works. It has worked this way as long as I've known it. If I have a dollar — as a matter of fact, I want to step away.

I don't know if you can follow me with one of those cameras, but I might be off camera for a minute. I didn't bring this for this purpose. I brought this for somebody. But I have in my hand, a budget. This is a budget worksheet. And whenever I counsel — premarital counseling, this sheet comes out. Do you know why? It is because one of the major problems that young couples have is financial.

Financial problems have destroyed more marriages than immorality; than infidelity. Do you hear what I'm saying? Money. The majority of the people that I know who have issues, have issues with money. As that old saying goes:

"I owe, I owe, so off to work I go."

If you've got more money going out then you've got coming in, guess what that means? You're in debt.

If you're not managing the resources that the Father has — and on the very first (points to a column on the budget) is adjustable monthly income, monthly expense, tithe and offerings. I don't do that simply because I want people to give tithes and offerings to us.

Whether you give tithes or offerings or not, you need to give, because Father has established a system whereby He wants to prosper you. And in order for Him to prosper you, you've got to become part of His system. If you're not part of

His system, you're part of another system. And no man can serve two systems. You can't serve God's system and Mammon's system. You can't serve God and money.

So you have to get your finances in order. You HAVE to get your finances in order. You will feel a thousand times better.

One of the most miserable types of people I know are people who are broke. Broke people are miserable, and usually they have all kinds of issues going on with them — depression and anxiety; which leads to alcoholism and drug addiction. That is because now they're trying to calm their nerves, so they drink their problems. You can't drink your problems away. The moment you get sober, your problems are back.

"Well, I need another drink."

That makes you a drunk! You can't smoke your problems away. Smoking is not given to us to calm us. The Holy Spirit is given to us for that purpose. You can't drug your problems away and you can't work your problems away.

By default man will work himself to death. That's part of the curse — that they will work by the sweat of their brow. And the average person who spends, spends, spends is always thinking about how they're going to get some more money. That even takes up their mind during the Sabbath when they should be resting.

"Can't wait for the Sabbath to get over because I've got to get my hustle on."

There's no rest. Guess what? There's no rest for the wicked. There is absolutely no rest.

So number one, if nothing else, you save. But you don't save notes, you convert. You can convert funds into currency if you can afford to do that — investments. I'm not talking about the stocks. You see, every last one of us has gifts and talents. Instead of giving somebody else your money to invest for you, you need to invest in yourself.

And how do you do that? You invest in yourself by getting the word in you. You invest in yourself by furthering your education if that's what you choose to do. You invest in yourself by learning a skill, a talent, an ability.

Don't look for somebody else to pay your way. You pay your own way because you're investing in yourself. And when you invest in yourself and you pay your own way, you feel good about it and the investment has more meaning.

Parents, if you're paying your children's tuition and they're not earning anything, here's a good example of how to know who not to give your money to. Look at how they treat their own. If they waste their own money, what do you think they're going to do with yours? If they squander theirs, they'll squander yours. They'll squander what they

get their hands on. So you need to learn how to invest in yourself.

Father has given you talents. He has given you abilities. He will give you a dream. He will give you a plan. He will give you a business; a mindset. He will give you whatever it is you're seeking. And if you are serious about it — because every last one of us has abilities, but many of us don't trust the abilities we have.

If we honed these abilities and invested in those skills and abilities that we have with the sole purpose of turning those abilities and gifts into doubling the money that you're investing — these fellows took their money and they invested. It doesn't tell us what they invested in. It doesn't tell us what they traded in, does it?

But they went off and they traded it and they doubled their money. Who knows? They could've had a lemonade stand. Now I don't know if they had lemonade stands in that day, but they did something. They probably set up a stand along the road and so fruits and vegetables — I don't know what they did, but I know this. They invested in something that brought twice as much as what they had before they started.

Some of us are afraid to invest. Some of us are afraid to invest in ourselves. One of the things that none of my children will ever be able to say, is that we didn't invest in them — not one of them. Every last one of them we have invested in, and we'll

continue to invest in the ones that are at home. Those who are out; those grown up, you're on your own here in a minute.

So if you're going to save, what are you going to do? You're going to exchange the Federal Reserve notes for something that is more valuable than the note itself. That's what you save. You don't take money and try to save it, because guess what? The dollar today is worth less than it was in 2008.

Ask the folks from Canada. Their currency was worth less. You guys' currency was worth less than it is right now, back in 2008. Now it's worth more than the dollar because the notes go up and down — just like gold and silver except with gold and silver it goes up, it comes down. It goes up, it comes down. It goes up, it comes down. But don't take my advice on that, you have to follow that yourself.

How do you maximize your talents? Any other ideas of how you would maximize your talents? Any other ideas of how you would maximize your talents? Anybody? Land? That's a good one, because land typically appreciates; not like the house on it.

Now, if you buy in the right place of course you know, there are folks who did well. Anybody else? Cars lose their value the moment you've paid for it. You have people out there, and they want to buy big, old, nice, expensive, pretty looking cars. Yeah

it looks pretty, but the thing loses its value the moment you drive it off the lot.

Skills — if you lack skills, then you need to invest in yourself. If you lack skills today and you don't invest in yourself, guess where you are going to be after ten years from now? You're still going to be at the bottom of the pile. There are people who will continually invest in themselves and they're continually improving and reinventing themselves. Anyone else?

Education. Now I personally think that education is one of those ways of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Personally I believe that if you're grounded, that's the key. You have to be grounded before you send your children off to these institutions.

That is because these institutions will rip the heart of their faith right out of them, and send home a hard-headed, disobedient, irresponsible and disrespectful child. Do you hear what I'm saying? It'll snatch the life right out of them.

"It's party time."

So if you send them off, they need to be grounded, rooted. You need to hold them accountable because they get away from you. They get off on the college campus. You know, I was watching one program and this grandmother was talking about how:

"I'm helping my grandson with his tuition, but my grandson turned around, and the only thing that I can go online and see for my grandson in college is the bill. I can't see the grades. Somehow he switched it to where I can't see the progress and the instruction which I (Amen) reallowed."

If you can't see the progress, stop sending the money. Why would you be investing in someone who is not being forthright with you — not being open? You don't know what's going on. You don't know what kind of grades they're getting. You don't know what they're doing.

The grades don't tell you who they are. The grades are simply an indication of how well they may be doing academically. Anybody else? That's a good one.

Invest in the Kingdom. This is what Yeshua taught. He says:

"Listen. Don't put your treasures where moth and rust destroy; but put your treasures in the Kingdom. Where your treasures are, that's where your heart will be."

You see, you'll find people who put their treasures in things. They can't even go on a good

vacation for fear of somebody breaking into their home and taking their stuff.

"Vacation? What are you talking about?"

Yeah, I think believers should have some time off. Do you understand what I'm saying?

Those in the days of YeHoVaH — imagine the people who depended on the land, and the land had to rest for a whole year. I just wonder. First of all he says:

"You can't plant, but whatever the land produces you're going to eat off of that."

Now imagine if that's your way of living, you've got a whole year off.

I'm trying to give you a business. Some of you, I know I can sense it. Father has placed a business in you, but you're afraid. You're afraid to make the investment. Part of it is that you won't sit still long enough to put your business plan together.

One of the things that I've helped to do — as a matter of fact, one of the programs that we were developing before we came here to Charlotte, was actually helping people get to the next level. Part of getting to the next level is identifying a business that they would want to get into, and putting together the business plan that they can literally take to a lending institution to get them to invest.

But the thing that I was looking at is — I'm not trying to inject politics into the teaching. But I know that when Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney was running for President, he made a statement that a lot of people lambasted him for. He said:

"Children, if you've got a business idea or you want to go to college, ask your parents to loan, to make you a loan."

And you know, people wanted to jump on him.

"Ask your parents? Ask your parents?"

You know, there's something wrong when you can't ask your parents to make you a loan. Is it because your parents don't have it? As a parent, we should be in a position — this is not a message to condemn. But think about it.

If you're thinking like the scripture tells us to think that we should be leaving an inheritance for our children and our children's children, what is wrong with making a portion of that inheritance available to them while they are alive; while you are alive? Do you hear what I'm saying?

All I'm trying to do is to help us adjust our thinking. Now if I've missed you, then hopefully I can get the next generation. But I cannot — and there have been too many times in the past that ministers have been so afraid of preaching a truth

because of the people within the audience who would be offended or affected by it.

Can you imagine preaching something like this, and you know, a great many of the people in the audience have already squandered their resources and don't have an inheritance for their children?

That would go over like a lead balloon. But if the children hear this message, then what I'm doing is I'm catching a generation before they get to the point where many of us have gone beyond. And if they can hear this and take it and apply it, then hopefully this will be the last generation in your household; in your family that would be in that category or in that situation.

And if you've got breath, you can repent. It's not too late. Abraham was an old man. Moses was an old man. There are several old individuals. And when I say old, I'm talking aged individuals in the Bible who had a revelation at a later age. They turned things around and didn't make excuses.

"Well, I'm too old."

They didn't make excuses. They turned things around, and began to invest in themselves. I know old people, eighty years old, who go back to school. Folks will say:

"Why are you going back to school? You're eighty years old!"

"Yeah, but I'm still alive, I might live to get to a hundred. I've got twenty years ahead of me."

That's twenty years to make a difference. And you CAN make a difference. I don't care how old you are, where you've been, what you've done. You can still make a difference. Can I get at least one "Amen"?

I think it's an important topic. It's an important message and we need to think about it. Your resources that the Father has placed in your hands, if you've squandered them in the past; if you've mismanaged in the past, this is not a time to make excuses. This is not a time to climb in the corner and lick your wounds and talk about how:

"Woe is me, I messed up, I messed up."

No, it's time to repent. See, no matter where you are, repentance is always a good thing if you're going in the wrong direction. That is because if the Messiah tarries, you may have another 50, 20, 30, 60, or 10 years. Even if you only have five years left or two years left, you can turn a lot of things around in two years. All it takes is a change of mind.

Shalom!

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Taking the True Gospel of the Kingdom of YeHoVaH to the Whole World.

Taking The True Gospel Of The Kingdom To The Whole World





After sharing with His disciples about the Gospel of The Kingdom being preached to the whole world before the end comes, Yeshua gives a parable about three servants whom were given talents. What distinguished the wise servants from the wicked servant in this parable was determined by what they did with the talents they had been given.

This message is not about spiritual gifts or human talents and/or abilities. Preachers, teachers and church denominations have perverted this parable as they have many of the teachings of Yeshua to say something other than what Yeshua was intending.

In this message "Maximizing your Talents" clear biblical lessons will be taught and learned that will help you maximize the talents you have been given and position you to hear those words we all long to hear "Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Master."

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