

INVESTING INTO YOUR FUTURE

By

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Luke 12:32 ***“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.***

33. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”.

One thing about investors is that they bear pain at the beginning, but they always rejoice in the future. They sow seeds into the future and when the time comes they rejoice. Today was a future ten years ago, so now we are looking into investing into your future.

He said ***“sell that you have, and give arms...”*** Often we sell what we have to get more, but here He’s saying sell to give... The word “sell” means to exchange or to market.

So what is your own that you are asked to sell? 1 Cor.10:26 says “.. ***the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof***”; then what do you have if all things belong to God?

I listened to a brother’s testimony who told us that while He was in school he had two trousers and wore bathroom slippers, today he uses good shoes. Back then he had nowhere to sleep, now he has houses.

The brother said to me that way back in school, at times in fellowship he will give all he had in his pocket and stay hungry for two days or more. At times he will be so broke and nobody will give him money.

The brother was good in mathematics. So he began to organize classes for his own classmates. He will teach them, and they will pay him money. So while in school being tutored himself, he was organizing classes for his classmates. With that money he was making he will pay other people’s school fees and buy their text books. From then on his life took a turn: He sold what he had.

Most of us go to work and are paid at the end of the month. What do

you do at work? You exchange or sell your skill and time, at the end of the month you're given a worth of the skill sold. You're paid for the service rendered.

You have skills, talents, graces; divine inputs in you, so He says exchange them for money. Not to become a big boy – which is not bad in itself, but He says give alms.

What does alms giving mean? It is not giving to the poor, which is not bad; but that is not the thought in this context. It means benevolence: something that is done in love. In fact, in the practical Greek it says give with love. One can give with grudge or annoyance but it says give with love. So now the Bible says exchange your skills, talents, graces, divine endowment and give with love.

God is our first love. So it means to exchange or sell what you have and give with love to your first love - to God - to His cause.

“Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not...”. It says provide for yourself bags that do not grow old by selling what you have. It says by so doing your purse will not run dry. So the way to guarantee your purse not going dry even when things are hard is to exchange what you have and give with love.

What will make a man exchange his talent, his intelligence and give to God, to His cause or to the needy? Normally, according to the world's setting, if I exchange my talent like that I'll be paid for it.

There are some people called motivational speakers that are paid a huge amount of money for speaking for two hours. If the man has his lecture (motivational talk) three times in a week, he runs into millions. But for us (believers) it is not so. *“Exchange what you have and give alms.*

The Bible says ***“ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”*** (Matt 6:21). Your heart directs your body. Whatever your body does is done as directed by the mind. You go where your mind wants you to go, you do what your mind wants you to do. So it says whatever

or wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

A treasure is something or somebody you greatly value. It is of much value because you know the power it possesses. Money can be your treasure because it can turn your life around 360 degrees. Your children can be your treasure. God too can be your treasure.

A treasure is either built up, or chosen it. For instance, money can be built up by adding more to it. Then you'll be building your treasury. To some, wisdom is their treasure: they choose wisdom. To some other, a man can be their treasure: they choose the man and the man chooses them.

Now it says where your treasure is there your heart will be also. And if your heart is there it will make your body go in accordance with the treasure. So what makes a man exchange his talent for money and then give alms? Because he sees that thing as his treasure.

Psalm 20:7 *"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God"*.

In other words, to some persons horses and chariots are what they look upon for defense in their time of trouble. That is their treasure of defense. But it says ***"...we will remember the name of the Lord"***.

Isa 33: 5 *"The Lord is exalted; for He dwelleth on high: He hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.*

6. *And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure"*

King Hezekiah of whom this was written was one king beside King David whom the Bible records that there was no king like him in Israel. And after him there was none like him. He paralleled King David in everything except in war. In fact record says he surpassed David in worship, in his attitude towards God and everything. He did not write Psalms and songs like David did, but he surpassed him.

It says here that ***"And gives stability to the nation; He always protects***

His people, and gives them wisdom and knowledge. Their greatest treasure is their reverence for the Lord" (Isa 33:6 GNV)

It says "***..Their greatest treasure was their reverence for the Lord***". Here it's speaking of a collective term for Hezekiah and the whole of Israel because in his time things prospered, the nation prospered exceedingly. They were super abundantly rich in gold and silver and everything. They expanded and built cities because God was with them.

So now we can see why he could do what he was doing. The Bible says the fear of the Lord was his greatest treasure. Praise God.

That should be our motivation: the fear of the Lord, because He is One who sees and hears every word spoken either in secret or in the open. He knows every motive and He's the judge. He says "***Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap***" (Gal 6:7). You can't mock Him; you can't deceive Him. Whatever you do you will reap in like manner. God makes sure the harvest comes.

Now he says that the fear of the Lord was His treasure. And the Bible says where your treasure is, your heart will be also (Ref Lk 12:34). If the Lord was his treasure, that means his heart was always fixed upon the Lord. That means also that he did all he did by God because his heart moved him to do and to go where his treasure was.

Why do you do what you do? Why do you go to the places you go? Why do you say what you say? If the fear of the Lord is your treasure you will shrink from some things you do. If you fear God, you will not dare speak evil of any man because you know God is judge and He hears your murmurings, He hears your grumblings, He hears your side talks.

He told the Jews, "***as ye have spoken in Mine ears, so will I do to you:***" (Ref Num 14:28). So He even saw and heard their thoughts.

It is not possible for a man to give with love without the fear of God. The fear of the Lord will bring discretion to your life. It says "***wisdom and knowledge will stabilize your times...***"(Isa 33:6), that comes through the fear of God. When you choose the fear of God in your heart, it will order

your steps to your wealthy place.

There was a time Sennacherib came against Hezekiah, but wisdom and knowledge stabilized him. When they wrote him a letter and showed him all the things he was asked to do, he went to the house of God and said, **“Lord, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, Lord, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib...”** (2 Kings 19:16). Then God sent Isaiah to him. (Ref 2 Kings 19: 10-14, 20).

The same fear of God made him go to the temple to pray. They were fewer than Sennacherib army that had destroyed nations, but he went to pray. The fear of God ordered his steps. What is your wisdom in this day and age? What will make you sell yourself and give with love? The fear of God.

The Bible also talks about the strength of salvation (Isa 33:6b). That word “Strength” means “Wealth” of Salvation. Before we can truly enjoy the wealth of salvation, of His deliverance, of His favour, of his help, the fear of God has to order our steps.

Isa 40:30 **“Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:**

31. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”.

To wait upon the Lord means 2 things:

- To wait as a waiter waits upon somebody in a restaurant: To serve his master.
- To expect from the hand of the master like a dog expects something from the hand of the master.

It says the one who does service to his master, and expects the same from him shall exchange his strength. That means this man will never be poor, he will never go under, he will always have supply. The Bible says **“he will mount up with wings like an eagle”** (Isa 40:31b). Hallelujah!

Exchange your strength by doing service to the Lord and then you will have the right to expect from His hand. What’s your strength? It is your intelligence, your gifts, whatever it is you are rendering. Then it says

“give alms” from what you exchange and your purse will never go dry.

In investing into your future, let the fear of the Lord be your treasure. That is the beginning point. Let the fear of God be your valued possession. That will move you to sell or exchange yourself, sow your seeds and be a blessing, What you get in return He says, give with love and your purse will not grow old. Hallelujah!

‘Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint’. (Isa 40:31).

Don’t fear the economy of the times, just plug in to the principles of God. The word is “Sell yourself”, “exchange yourself” and give with love. Give to your first love.

The fear of God was Hezekiah’s treasure, and all that he did was done from the perspective of the fear of God. That is your wisdom. And truly your life will not be the same again. You will be a light for men to see; men will see you and would like to be like you. The fear of the Lord will be your shield. Because Hezekiah feared the Lord, He put His fear upon him that all the nations around him feared him because of what they were seeing in his life. The fear of God was in his heart.

When God’s fear is in your heart, He will put that fear on all the people around you. They will fear you because of what He will do for and to you. They will bless you beyond what they can think. They will wonder how you do your things that where people labour so hard, you just put in a little and achieve much.

Favour follows the fear of God, so let it be your strong treasure today. You will do well in life when you maintain the fear of God. Nothing can make you fall when you maintain the fear of God. You will know that wherever you are and whatever you do you’re never alone.

It is the fear of the Lord that will make a man give of his firstfruit. But the man without the fear of God will not obey; He will want to explain it out. Those who do not pay their tithes do not fear God; if they do fear God they will not default in their tithing. They will know that this one belongs to God.

Let the fear of God motivate you. Let it move you to do what you do. Be

afraid to touch what belongs to God. Don't let your heart be hardened when you are cautioned not to touch it. Let the fear of God direct you. Let it make you give.

God told somebody sometime ago to sow a certain amount of money and that was all she had. But she went to the bank and withdrew it. With tears and pain she sowed the money. She didn't quite know why God asked her to sow, but the fear of God made her sow. Today the woman has more than enough.

Let the fear of God move you. When you have this in your heart as a deposit nothing can make you stumble. Let the fear of the Lord be your treasure. The fear of God in your heart will create an atmosphere around you that men will begin to fear you because what is in your heart attracts its kind.

It is a small thing for God to prosper His children, only let your heart be settled on His fear so that when money comes it won't get into your head. Let your heart be settled and fixed on God.

Shalom!