

Right Resources for Money Hard Work with Humility Accepting Hard Life Atmosphere

“31 And Joseph said unto his brethren, and unto his father's house, I will go up, and shew Pharaoh, and say unto him, My brethren, and my father's house, which were in the land of Canaan, are come unto me; 32 And the men are shepherds, for their trade hath been to feed cattle; and they have brought their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have. 33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What is your occupation? 34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.” (Genesis 46:31-34 KJV)

Speaking about right resources of money and to work hard, let us also not to be ashamed of the jobs our ancestors held, though they were menial in the eyes of the world. Some parents are ashamed of their employment because their jobs are not on par with other highly paid jobs. Being a farmer or a shepherd is not a highly-regarded profession like managerial jobs, medicine, or engineering. The Israelites were shepherds and that kind of profession was abominable to the world around them. When Joseph presented his family to Pharaoh, he instructed them to tell the truth that they were shepherds and he told them not to conceal their real profession, in order to receive what is due to them, to dwell in Goshen. They did not deny their profession and the profession of their father and they did not abandon the flocks that God had entrusted to them just because others did not like their profession. * Any profession that God has used to provide us should not be considered a shame. Tailoring, baking, babysitting, nursing, farming, shepherding, driving, housekeeping, salesman, teacher, carpenter, goldsmithing, house painting, and many other professions may not be well accepted by the world, but as long as they provide an honest way of living and are entrusted to us by God, we should not be ashamed of them and we should not be ashamed that our children will continue to have such professions. * As long as these professions are ordained by God for us and for our children, we will be sustained along our journey on this earth till the time we are move from this earth to eternity.

Goshen was the place that the Israelites occupied in Egypt because they were shepherds. It was a region in northern Egypt, east of the lower Nile, where the children of Israel lived from the time of Joseph to the time of Moses. The meaning of Goshen means ‘drawing near’. The jobs and the profession that God gives to us is to draw us closer to the target of our lives so that we live to serve Him and do His will; the jobs that He gives us are His provision to us.

Goshen was a place well protected by God, and the Israelites were well protected when He sent His plagues to Egypt. ***“22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.” (Exodus 8:22 KJV)*** ***“25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.” (Exodus 9:25-26 KJV)*** ***“22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: 23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.” (Exodus 10:22-23 KJV)***

Therefore, we need to exercise God’s wisdom and consider it our duty to accommodate ourselves in the place and rank that has been given to us, and not to live outside it. Why can’t we be content with the lot of our fathers in the form of profession and resources and make it the lot of our children too if it is God’s will, and live according to it?

We should not crave for high positions and compare our supplies with other peoples’ professions and income. God had given to us unique features and privileges that are different from others. Comparing ourselves with them will not serve any good but will cause confusion and we will be misled.

Nowadays people want to know how to increase their income, how to get involved in business, part-time jobs and promotional programs to increase their investment. But they are not willing to abide by the Biblical principles of good stewardship that would teach them to live without any lack even though on paper they don’t hold big positions and earn big money.

Another good example of accepting whatever profession God has allocated to us and to our children is the example of the Rechabites. We can read below their testimony to the prophet Jeremiah:

“6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever: 7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.” (Jeremiah 35:6-7 KJV) The Rechabites were Kenites and they were the descendants of Hobab, Moses’ father in law. Moses invited his father in law to stay with them and they would share with them whatever God would bless them with:

“29 And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel. 30 And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred. 31 And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; for as much as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes. 32 And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee.” (Numbers 10:29-32 KJV)

“16 And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which lieth in the south of Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people.” (Judges 1:16 KJV)

They obeyed Moses and stayed, but it seems they were not given a clear-cut inheritance; they were still strangers in the land and had no inheritance in it. Therefore they were instructed by their father Jonadab, the son of Rechab not to build houses and not to plant vineyards and settle but to live in tents because they were not given an inheritance: ***“7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.” (Jeremiah 35:7 KJV)*** They were trained to live a hard life that would develop perseverance and endurance to enable them to pass through hardship in life. Since they chose for themselves to be part of the people

of God, they became accustomed to living without an inheritance in the form of land to build and settle. For this very reason, the recommendation of Jonadab their father was introduced to them in order to enable them to live a hard life. Such kind of hard life would train them and make them ready to face hardships. Since this was ordained for them, they chose to continue in the profession of their fathers. His ancestors had acquainted themselves with a pastoral life. **“16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.” (Exodus 2:16 KJV)** Such a profession might have been looked upon by some with contempt, but Jonadab thought it was the best to recommend to his descendants to depend on.

When the Rechabites abided by the will of God and the instruction that they received from their father, Jonadab son of Rechab, and continued in the profession and the kind of life that God had allocated to them, they were blessed by the Lord; they were well provided for and were preserved even during the most difficult times they had passed through.

Our lives on earth are the same as the Rechabites. We do not have an inheritance on earth to settle down. We live difficult lives and are expected to toil till the Lord comes and takes us to Heaven. When we get used to facing the harshness of life, we will learn to adjust and accommodate and with time it will become easy for us and we will be trained to live in such a way. We should not expect life to be smooth and embrace laziness. We need to be trained to face ‘the weariness, the fever and the fret of the world’ so that we can overcome problems easily.

Our lives on earth are temporary because our citizenship is in Heaven. Therefore, we need to comply with God and submit to His will and we need to teach our children and be a good example to them in how to serve God. We need to be a good role model to our descendants and to instruct them on how to live so that they will continue to follow God and serve Him.

The Rechabites followed the instruction of their fathers. They abided by it and did not break it.

“6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever: 7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.” (Jeremiah 35:6-7 KJV) They avoided drinking wine and did not live a luxurious life. They lived in tents since they had no inheritance on earth and did not crave for worldly things.

As the Rechabites abided with the instructions they were rewarded by the Lord who promised them that they will continually have a man to stand for them before the Lord.

If we continue to abide by the instruction of God, then even though we will pass through difficult times in our lives, we will still be protected, for there is always someone to lead us in the right direction, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God's Church.

This promise was confirmed to the Rechabites by God in His temple through the prophet Jeremiah and in the presence of Hanan, the son of Igdaliah, a man of God:

“18 And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you: 19 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.” (Jeremiah 35:18-19 KJV)

My dear and beloved: Jobs and living conditions in life as we understand from the Scripture are ordained by God and we need to be content and glad about what God has given us. As we persevere to do our best with what God had given us, we can enjoy wealth and riches, material and spiritual blessings, that God would make available to us so that we can serve Him in a better way.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the job and the income that you are giving to me to sustain me and to sustain my family and ministry. Lord thank you for the teaching and the correction that I received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your pride, your lack of contentment and your non willingness to follow the plan of God and the style of life that He had ordained for you to live. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of doing your own will and your own plan. Repent of your non willingness to live for Christ and suffer for Him. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to go along your Word and the teaching we received in this message. Lord thank you for my job that you gave to me and the style of life that you want me to live. Lord I commit myself to go along the good plan that you have for me and to do your will in my life. Lord I commit myself to honor the profession of my fathers and willing to accept suffering and the manner of life that you want me to live for you. Lord I commit myself to serve Christ and do the good works that you prepared for me to do. Lord sustain me, provide for me, give me good health and strength so I can do my job well and live my life for you until you come and take us.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and decided to obey your Word and what we learned in this message. Lord give them patience and perseverance to live the style of life that you ordain for them to live and the jobs that you want them to perform. Lord give them more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, faith, meekness, patience, self-control and long-suffering that people will see Christ through their lives. Lord grant them favor in their jobs from their superiors and promote them in their working places. Lord fulfill all your good promises to them, provide for them and protect them from the evil one so they will continue to serve you and do your will.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people that we are reaching out for you. Lord thank you for all the professions and the places of work and living that you put in my brethren, Lord use their lives and testimonies to attract others to you. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and

plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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