

GRACE ABUNDANGE ABUNDANGE



Excerpt from the message -

GRACE FOR WEALTH & ABUNDANCE by Emi Adelakun

Matthew chapter 6:25-33 says, "Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor yet for your body, what you shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore, take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father know that ye have need of all these things."

In this passage, we see Jesus reminding us not to worry excessively about our material needs. He points out that God takes care of even the smallest and seemingly insignificant creatures like birds and flowers. And so, if God is mindful enough to provide for them, how much more will He provide for us, His beloved children?

The key thing to note here is that Jesus is not minimizing our needs or the fact that they are required for our survival. However, he is opening our eyes to a different order of operation that changes the way that we see these needs. The standard order of men (and he references the Gentiles for this) is to be preoccupied and consumed by the thoughts of how to meet these needs but it appears that it is counterproductive because Jesus is showing us that it's not your worry that ensures these needs are met so why bother with that?

In verse 32, we then see Jesus prescribe the preferred approach to getting these needs met saying "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you". This is the exact opposite system from what we see in the world. The "logical" order we see around us is to put all of our time and energy into getting things done and spending the left over time on seeking God. After all, as many would say, it's only the living that can praise God. Right? So why is Jesus telling us to deprioritize survival activities to focus on seeking the Kingdom instead?

Now, it is important to note that what Jesus is attempting to do here is to reorient us to begin living above the world's standard. His key message to the people was to "repent for the Kingdom of God is here" and so He is attempting to let us know that He brings a different dispensation that functions different from the world but if we can plug into that, we will find that it contains the blueprint for how our needs are to be met within the framework of the Kingdom of God. You must understand that the world system is not built to bring you into abundance or even rest. Following the world system for the provision of our needs is designed to keep us in a constant and perpetual rat race for the next set of supplies. A never ending hamster wheel of hustle and busy-ness that depletes us to where we cannot even think about God. The key to getting out of it is to intentionally and by revelation, reverse the order by seeking His kingdom first! Now what does this even mean?

Jesus warns against serving two masters, emphasizing that we cannot serve both God and worldly wealth (mammon). When we serve mammon, we become bound to a mindset rooted in wealth and self-confidence, constantly striving to increase and maintain our possessions. Instead,

Jesus offers us a way out—a bailout from this system—by urging us to seek God's kingdom and righteousness first. By doing so, we can experience God's provision and break free from the never-ending pursuit of worldly wealth.

Seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness is talking about a few things - In seeking God's righteousness, it means that we are intentional about living according to God's standards and living out the righteousness of Christ that has been graciously bestowed on us. That is, we do not say that we are the righteousness of God while living in a way that is not in accordance to His standard. However, seeking His kingdom and what it really means for us as believers is an aspect that is often overlooked or assumed. When Jesus says to seek the kingdom of God, on one hand, it involves being intentional about establishing and promoting God's kingdom and its values here, advancing the agenda of the kingdom and spreading the news of God's kingdom across the earth. However, it also means that we are to seek diligently to gain proper and thorough understanding of how the kingdom operates! The principles, dynamics and operations of the Kingdom system. Jesus wants us to move beyond blindly identifying ourselves as kingdom people to people who truly understand how the system operates because this is how we can establish a system that breaks us out of the grip of mammon.

The kingdom operates on a system built upon principles, instructions, and laws. Jesus emphasizes seeking the kingdom first because without this understanding, we may find ourselves seeking after other things before truly grasping the essence of the kingdom. This is what distinguishes us from the Gentiles who were led astray from God because they failed to comprehend the kingdom. Instead, they sought resources and survival from other gods like Baal. However, if we understand the kingdom, if we diligently seek to comprehend the kingdom we belong to, we will discover the exact system put in place to meet our needs and it simply becomes a question of implementing it.

In John chapter 6, we see a powerful moment between Jesus and His disciples. They encounter a situation where they had a crowd of 5000 people who had been following and listening to them and were now hungry as it was late in the day. They had nothing but five loaves and two fish which was not even going to be enough for the disciples, much less the crowd.

Logically, and by the standards of the world, it made sense to send away the crowd and share the limited resources among themselves, even though it would still not have been enough to fill them up. However, Jesus took that moment as an opportunity to demonstrate a powerful kingdom key to increase and abundance. He took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and instructed the disciples to distribute the food to the people. Miraculously, the food multiplied, and everyone was satisfied. Moreover, they collected twelve baskets of leftovers, one for each disciple!

Often, we focus on Jesus giving thanks as the key that unlocked the increase mostly because it would seem to be the easy way out. But while gratitude is important, we overlook another crucial element of the miracle. The increase did not occur after thanks were given but when the disciples took what little they had and began to distribute it to the people. It was in their act of giving that the key of increase was triggered and the multiplication took place. That key is giving.

Giving is one of the biggest keys to abundance and increase in the kingdom. It is vital not to ignore or dismiss the significance of giving. Many instances in the Bible demonstrate that miraculous increase and abundance were preceded by acts of giving. While there are various principles to consider for obtaining different things in the kingdom, giving is a fundamental aspect that brings increase every single time. Understanding this principle will help us navigate the journey toward abundance.

The story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath in Kings 17:7-16, clearly demonstrates a situation where the available resources were not enough. However, Elijah's instruction brought about a miraculous outcome. Again, the question arises: how did the provisions increase? Did the bread mysteriously multiply in size? Although it may seem implausible, the Bible records that the widow and her household never lacked. They were sustained throughout that season. Jesus' demonstration of this key at work helps us understand that giving is not merely a religious effort to persuade people to part with their belongings or give to men of God. Instead, it is a fundamental principle of the kingdom for your own good, and those who have practiced it have experienced it's transformative impact in their lives. If we look at the world today and compare countries considered affluent with those labeled as third world or impoverished, we observe that the prosperous nations are often the ones actively aiding others. These giving nations tend to thrive economically, while those solely focused on taking or hoarding resources remain in a state of lack. We think they are giving because they are rich. But I tell you that they are rich because they are giving. As long as you are an end user, a consumer, the flow stops with you. You will never have enough. The god of this world makes very sure of that in order to keep men in service to mammon.

Proverbs 11:24 states, "There is one who scatters, yet increases more, and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty." Furthermore, in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, It emphasizes that those who sow sparingly will reap sparingly, and those who sow bountifully will reap bountifully. It then encourages individuals to give according to their heart's desire, not reluctantly or out of obligation, for God loves a cheerful giver.

We see in the latter scripture that sowing is used in the same context as giving. This is because in the kingdom giving is considered to be sowing. And so in everything we receive from God, He actually expects us to set some of it aside to sow as seeds. Therefore, when we come into possession of resources, we can either consume it all and live to hustle another day or follow the principle of the kingdom and take the seed out and sow it to ensure continuity of supply.

In Genesis, we learn that God designed the world with the principle of seed time and harvest. And so, just as fruits contain seeds, every portion we receive from God includes a portion (seed) to be given. By withholding this portion, we take what is not rightfully ours and find ourselves in a perpetual state of lack.

We often hear phrases like "more money, more problems". We also notice how our expenses seem to increase as our income grows. This is not a coincidence. The world is designed to keep us in a perpetual state of insufficiency. This means that true sufficiency and abundance are not found in the world's system. It is essential to understand this truth because our minds are often clouded by the opinions of those around us. People ridicule and criticize us for giving when we seemingly have so little. But the reality is that everything God gives us contains a seed. If we consume everything without planting the seed, we will remain hungry and stuck in the cycle of lack. This principle exists to take care of us.

To enter the kingdom of God, Jesus teaches that we must become like children. Our maturity, wisdom, and intelligence can sometimes hinder our ability to accept the ways of the kingdom. The world has conditioned our minds to be limited by what we see. We must learn to trust and embrace the foolishness of a child. Entering the kingdom of God as a child means letting go of our preconceived notions and accepting the simplicity of the principle of sowing and reaping.

It's not about the amount we possess, but about understanding that true abundance is found in the kingdom of God, not in the world's system. We must break free from the veils that have prevented us from fully grasping this truth and from accepting the lies and deceit perpetuated by the world.

As a Kingdom entrepreneur, it's not enough to just say you're a kingdom entrepreneur; you need to live by Kingdom principles. Otherwise, you won't truly experience the reality of being a kingdom entrepreneur.

Look at the lives of the well-known men of faith, before you judge them, examine their lives closely. The secrets of men can be found in their habits. All of them are compulsive givers! Both to the needs of people as well as the furtherance of the kingdom. Perhaps you've been giving, but you haven't seen the desired results yet. Don't lose heart. It's important to examine your giving with the right perspective. Giving isn't just about the act itself; it's about having a clear revelation of what you are doing and doing it in faith not fear

Giving goes beyond monetary contributions. It encompasses acts of kindness, generosity, and support in various forms. It's a mindset of abundance and a demonstration of love. When you give with a pure heart, expecting nothing in return, you align yourself with the principles of the Kingdom. Remember, every seed you sow is an investment in your future harvest. It may take time for the seeds to grow and bear fruit, but they will bring forth a bountiful harvest in due course. Just like a tree that provides abundant fruit, you'll find yourself blessed and able to bless others.

Many of us are quick to invest in earthly businesses, which are prone to risk and crashes and malpractice (we see the news speaking about a possible recession). Yet we hesitate to invest in God's kingdom business. Many of us have such a robust physical portfolio while our kingdom portfolio is empty. Part of our practice of giving means that we must set aside money specifically for investing in the advancement of the kingdom. The Bible says where your treasure is, there your heart is. If you are so ready to invest in earthly stock but approach investing in the kingdom with fear or resistance, then you should check your heart. The Bible instructs us to lay up treasures in heaven, where moths, dust, and thieves cannot touch them. Many times, we struggle because we focus on earthly matters and neglect the principles of the kingdom.



Giving to the work of God, tithing, and partnering with ministries should not be done for the recognition or approval of others. The entire book of Matthew chapter 6 is the guideline on giving and it opens up with telling us the need to do what we do in secret. There is a return for us when we give. It is crucial to understand that increase does not come through empty declarations or confessions. It comes through taking real actual action - giving.

The Bible may sometimes appear veiled, but the Holy Spirit can unlock hidden messages for us to apply in our lives. This is one area that we hope has become unlocked for you. Incorporate giving as a way of life from today and witness the transformative power it holds. Increase and abundance are not achieved through mere words or naming and claiming, but rather through proper understanding and application of the right kingdom principle

Emi Adelakun EIC Co-Founder





Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life, but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.

- PROVERBS 19:16 NIV

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT KING'S ARROW?

King's Arrow is a Christian ministry (I the US and Africa) centered on the pillars of prayer, the study of the Word and the Holy Spirit with a divine assignment to empower and raise up women to step into their purpose and identity in Family, Industry, Leadership and Ministry.

Meetings & Times

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- Prayer & Fasting 1st 3 Days of Every Month @ 1AM EST/5AM GMT6AM WAT/7AM SAT/8AM EAT
- Prayer Training Fridays @ 1PM EST/5PM GMT/6PM WAT/7PM SAT/8PM EAT





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BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

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7 REASONS WHY THE MARKETPLACE IS A GREAT PLACE FOR CHRISTIANS

If God has called you into business, please don't wish you were called somewhere else. The marketplace is a great place for Christians right now. Here's why:

1. Almost all non-Christians are in the marketplace.

Today, less than 20% of Americans attend church regularly. In many European countries, the percentages are much lower. Even in African with Churches in almost all their streets, attendance rate is greatly dropping At the current rate, regular church attendance is projected to drop to 11.7% by 2050.

The good news is that these people who aren't attending church will still be waking up to go to work alongside their Christian co-workers in the marketplace each morning.

2. Almost all Christians are in the marketplace.

At least 85% of the Christian workforce spends 60-70% of their waking hours in the marketplace. In addition to serving our families and our local churches, the marketplace is the primary context in which our spiritual gifts should be used. The ministry potential for Christians using their spiritual gifts collaboratively in the marketplace is astounding!

3. Discipleship can actually happen in the marketplace.

Church leaders often are criticized for the lack of discipleship and spiritual growth among their congregations. Let's give our pastors a break. How much discipleship can happen during a two-hour church service on Sunday?

Discipleship—that is, becoming more like Jesus—happens in everyday life. Yes, discipleship can happen anywhere... even during a two-hour, lecture-style event on Sunday. However, the potential for discipleship and ministry investment in a weekly service is a fraction of what is possible during an entire workweek spent with our co-workers, clients, etc.

4. The marketplace is a more authentic showroom of Christianity.

If you were shopping for a car, you'd probably go to a showroom. Before you buy anything, you'd probably want to see if the car functions properly on the road. You might even ask the dealer to allow you to take the car home for a day or two to test it out.

The local church is like the showroom for Christianity. The marketplace is the test drive. The marketplace is where our unbelieving co-workers get to see if they really want what we have. Daily, they see how we react under pressure. They see how we treat people. They see how much God truly matters to us in our daily lives.

As mentioned in "Reason #1," most people aren't even coming to the "showroom" anymore, so marketplace Christians are now serving as both the showroom and the test drive of Christianity.

5. The marketplace forces the Church to use all its capabilities.

Personality-driven and super-pastor Christianity doesn't work in the marketplace. Having a bunch of Christians sitting on the sidelines of ministry may not prevent a local church from increasing numerically, but it won't transform the marketplace for the glory of God.

So far, most of the teaching about "marketplace ministry" has been defining marketplace ministry without regard for people's unique spiritual gifts. For example, if I have an apostolic gift, of course I'm going to view marketplace ministry as a mandate to "ascend and take the Business Mountain for God" (see 7 Mountains). If I have a pastoral gift (i.e. marketplace chaplains), of course I'm going to view marketplace ministry as a calling to "care for the personal needs of my employees and/or co-workers." We need to approach marketplace ministry in a way that leverages the spiritual gifts of all Christians in the marketplace. The "one-size-fits-all" approach only produces self-condemnation and ineffectiveness for marketplace Christians attempting to operate outside of their God-given spiritual gifts.

6. Denominational divisions are less destructive in the marketplace.

We can choose whether to attend a Baptist Church, Pentecostal-Charismatic Church, Presbyterian Church, a Non-Denominational Church, etc... but most of us don't have the luxury of co-working only with Christians with whom we agree theologically. The marketplace has a way of diluting some of these differences. This opens the door to collaborative ministry beyond the walls of our local churches and traditions.

7. Everything gets funded from the marketplace.

All money comes from value that has been created in the marketplace, and business professionals ultimately decide what gets funded. These business professionals need to know God and His plan for their lives to make righteous decisions concerning money.

Although business is often thought of only as the economic engine of the Church, I hope that we will begin to see and realize its full potential for transforming society for the glory of God.

Discussion: In addition to these seven reasons, what is another reason why God is mobilizing Christian business professionals for ministry in the marketplace?



LOVE LETTER

JOAN, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES AND I'D LIKE TO HELP! I COOKED YOU A MEAL! IF YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

— 2 Corinthians 3:3 NIV

GRACE FOR ABUNDANCE

Abundance, according to the Bible, is a concept that encompasses the idea of overflowing blessings, prosperity, and richness in various aspects of life. The Biblical perspective on abundance goes beyond material possessions and encompasses spiritual, emotional, and relational aspects as well. It emphasizes God's provision, grace, and generosity towards His people.

In the Bible, abundance is often associated with God's faithfulness and His desire to bless His people. It is depicted because of obedience to God's commandments, trust in His promises, and seeking His kingdom above all else.

God as the Source of Abundance: The Bible teaches that all good things come from God. He is the ultimate provider and the source of abundance in every area of life. In Psalm 23:1, David proclaims, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." This verse highlights the idea that when we have a personal relationship with God, we lack nothing because He supplies all our needs.

Material Abundance and Stewardship: While material wealth is mentioned in the Bible, it also emphasizes the importance of being good stewards of the resources we are given. In Deuteronomy 8:18, God reminds His people that it is He who gives them the ability to produce wealth, but they are to remember Him and use their resources wisely.

Spiritual Abundance: The Bible teaches that true abundance goes beyond material possessions and includes spiritual blessings. In John 10:10, Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." This verse highlights that Jesus came to offer abundant and eternal life to those who believe in Him.

Generosity and Giving: The Bible encourages believers to cultivate a spirit of generosity and to share their abundance with others. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Paul encourages the Corinthians to give generously, assuring them that God will bless them abundantly so that they can continue to give to every good work.

Contentment and Thankfulness: While abundance is desirable, the Bible also emphasizes the importance of contentment and gratitude. In Philippians 4:11-12, Paul states, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance, and need." This passage emphasizes that true contentment comes from a deep trust in God's provision, regardless of the circumstances.

It is important to note that abundance in Biblical context does not guarantee a life free from challenges or hardships. The Bible acknowledges that believers may face difficulties, but it also assures them of God's presence and provision in every situation.

In conclusion, abundance encompasses more than just material wealth. It includes spiritual blessings, contentment, generosity, and a deep reliance on God as the ultimate provider. It is not solely about acquiring possessions, but about embracing a life of gratitude, stewardship, and trust in God's faithfulness.

Olayemi Olakanmi EIC Admin Assistant









THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS GHRST



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