

# **TAKING COINS FROM THE FISH'S MOUTH**



## **HOW TO MAKE WEALTH**

BY MENTUS UDOKA OKOLIE

**MARSWELL PUBLISHING, RIVERS NIGERIA**

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# **TAKING COINS FROM THE FISH'S MOUTH: HOW TO MAKE WEALTH**

## **DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to the young man and woman in the Body of Christ. You are not “unemployed” as they you have been led to believe; no, you are not!

The Lord Jesus revealed something extraordinarily exciting in Matthew 17:24-28, which would be in your best interest, IF you would take time out and study this book.

You have no business filing out before the Pastor in front of the Alter every now and then to be “anointed” for job opportunities every new week! It is insulting to the Word of God!

Only look within... there are treasures hid inside of you.

# TAKING COINS FROM THE FISH'S MOUTH: HOW TO MAKE WEALTH

## INTRODUCTION

When you give apt attention to study of the Book of Matthew 17:24-28, you would find some interesting little facts worth of note for general knowledge purposes. Here are 2 of such pieces of information;

- ❖ You would discover that the Lord Jesus Christ paid tax – Temple tax.
- ❖ You would also discover that the money He paid it with was miraculously supplied - it was found in the mouth of a fish; yes, a real fish! It is hilarious, but it is amazing at the same time you would agree with me.

Come to think of it: are these the only notable information there is to be drawn out from that story?

Also worth to note: the account about the “Payment of The Temple – Tax” was only recorded by the Apostle Matthew!

All three other synoptic Gospel writers omitted this account of the Lord. I have come to realize that with God, there are no “ordinary” stories. There is no such thing as, “Well, it is normal not to have added the story.

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Hey! Everyone knows that it was customary for all Jewish men to pay Temple taxes. Maybe the writer just felt like adding it for reading sake!”

Well, if this was your take on that story before, then, I really hate to tell you this; you are so very wrong!

Was the Master simply teaching us that; when next our bills were due, all that we needed do was send a “Peter” or anyone we could trust enough, so we would be sure they did not run away; and send them to the nearest Pond or Stream; Lake, River or Sea, to catch a fish that would MOST certainly have the right amount of gold coins in its mouth to clear our bills?

There was more to that story than just: The Lord Jesus, Peter, the Tax-collectors, the Lake and a Fish!

Jesus actually thought us how to generate the money needed to pay bills and also; to execute the many great plans He has for us.

It is my sincerest desire that above all things; that you prosper in the works of your hands, even as you prosper in healthy, wholeness, vitality, and of a sound mind.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### THE HUBBUB ABOUT WEALTH!

**F**rom where I come from {physical land of my Nativity}, it is generally believed that a man's worth is measure by the amount of material possessions he has. The more houses, cars, businesses, children, money in the bank, and generally anything material; the more he is highly regarded by the society. This is regardless of whether he had acquired all those possessions by "ill" methods. What is important is, he "succeeded"! This belief system is not farfetched from what is obtainable in other parts of the World today.

We now live in a society where the proverbial saying which goes thus: "A good name is better than silver and gold", hold absolutely no meaning whatsoever!

In fact, people with such mindsets are frowned at and are victimized at every turn.

They are the "scapegoats" the "normal" logical, "I am no Saint like Jesus" free-thinkers are bent on setting up at every opportunity they get; to rid them from the system in which they cohabit.



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The word “Integrity” today is not worth the paper it is written on in most business, or organizational circles. It is written there for show! And what say “ye” of the word “Honour”? Trust me; you really do not want me to take off on that with you. But, for the sake of this Book, I will briefly do.

Well, “Honour” in today’s society can be defined as; keeping to “whatever we have agreed upon”, irrespective of whether it was based on Biblical principles or not, which in most case, is quite the opposite of True Biblical principles.

### A Story about a Preacher...

I once overheard a very popular preacher made these shocking comments. In one of his meetings he said,

“God can forgive you for all other sins except the sin of tithing. If you don’t pay your tithe, you rob God; and God will not forgive you!”

You must understand that in trying to communicate the thoughts of the Holy Spirit to God’s people; it is worth of note that: God’s words have ambiguity in interpretations. What I mean is that, when God says something, He has in those words: prehistory,

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present-hour and futuristic information all wrapped up in the same words, regardless of whether the words were short or lengthy.

Let me give you an illustration.

In Genesis 3, reading from verses 14 to 15; God figuratively introduced Jesus there. Now I want you to take particular notice of God's words to the Serpent; He said, "Her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite their\* heel."

In some manuscripts it says "bite his heel", and it makes much sense substituting "their heel" with "his heel", and I will explain. You see, God is always careful with His choice of words.

However, it is man's prerogative to be certain of the words spoken unto him by God. So, when for instance, God says to you to carry out a specific task that sounds ambiguous in its interpretation; it is in your right to ask again so as to be properly guided.

When He used the word "offspring", singular in the case of the woman; He did not refer it to mean plural. But, we see in the concluding part of His statement in

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that verse 15 He use “bite their heel”, giving a mixed interpretation. Therefore, the proper interpretation should be:

“I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite his heel.”

Genesis 3:15 emphasized; mine.

God is all Wisdom, Power and Might. When He speaks, His words can appear to be ambiguous in its interpretation. The reason they appear so is because; His words are series of events all “wrapped” up in one simple and short communication.

Did you know that when He spoke those words to the Serpent that we were included? Yes, we were. I will show you.

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## THE INTERPRETATION OF THE SAYING

And God said to the Serpent, by this act that you have perpetrated, you have brought upon yourself eternal condemnation and judgment. Henceforth, there shall be enmity between you and the Child of the Woman. The Child will crush your head, and you will only bruise the Child's heel.

Now to the ordinary eye and to the “baby” Christian; the saying above may not mean as much as it means to some of us, but let us take a closer look;

*And God said to the Serpent, by this act that you have perpetrated, you have brought upon yourself eternal condemnation and judgment. Henceforth, there shall be enmity between you and the Child\* of the Woman\*. The Child will crush your \*head, and you will \*only bruise the Child's heel.*

### **Diagnosis 1**


- ✚ **The Child:** After the first Adam lost his “headship” to the Serpent, there was a need for a Second Adam. For the Book of Hebrews let us understand; if there had been nothing wrong

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with the first covenant, there would have been no need for a second one. Adam and Eve were the principal cause to why the first covenant with God was faulty. Consider Romans 5:14 KJV;

“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, [even over them that had not sinned after the similitude] of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.”

So you see, Adam was compromised, and as such, there was need for a New Adam to fulfill God’s Divine plans. Jesus was that Child introduced.

 **The Child Will Crush Your Head:** When Adam lost his authority of control over the earth, the Serpent took control over it. But, God was not pleased with that arrangement and so, He introduced Jesus Christ in Genesis 3:14-15. But before Jesus Christ was made physically manifest before men; all those who were ever born into the world, carried Adam’s very disobedient nature in them. Whether they wanted it or not, was theirs not to decide. After Christ manifested in the Flesh, and dwelt amongst men; He willfully gave up Himself as

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willed by the Father to reconcile us back to the Father. He established a far better covenant between God and us. The beauty of His Works was summarily poetized in Colossians 2:6-15;

“As therefore ye received Christ Jesus the Lord, ‘so’ walk in him, rooted and builded up in him, and established in your faith, even as ye were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ: for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and in him ye are made full, who is the head of all principalities and power: in whom ye were also circumcised with the circumcision not made with hands, in putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ: having been buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with him through faith in working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, being dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, you, ‘I say’, did he make alive together with him, having blotted out the bond written in ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us: and he hath taken it out that way, nailing it to the cross; having despoiled the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them

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openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Colossians 2:6-15; ASV

So you now see what God meant when He said, “The Child will crush your head”. He is saying “the Child will take back the Headship of the earth I had intended for Mankind”.

### Diagnosis 2

✚ **The Woman:** Prior to His vicarious death; Jesus said to Peter in the Book of Matthew 16:18-19 KJV;

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...”

What the Lord was simply saying to Peter was: he would be the leader of the “rock” - the foundation, or if you would, “the pillar” of His Church He had established on earth.

The Apostles were the Pillars of the New Testament Church, just as the Prophets were in the Old Testament. The “keys” made mentioned by the Master,

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were the teachings He passed on to them after His death and resurrection, but not before His ascension.

Many of such teachings were not recorded by the Apostles in their accounts of the Life and Times of Jesus Christ on earth in the synoptic Gospels. However, we find many of those keys from the Acts of the Apostles onwards. Those “keys” were what the Apostles are to teach members of the Church, so that the gates of Hell would not overcome the Church, and send it out of existence.

After Jesus’ ascension, the baton was passed on to the Church. Now, because the Second coming of the Lord is so crucial, a period of time was set by God before that time would come. The Church was handed the same authority passed down by God to Mankind in the beginning. The Church is to “control and subdue” the earth up until the Second coming.

Consider these wonderful Spirit revealing words of the Master that confirms the points above.

When some Pharisees gathered together, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is he?” “He is David’s descendant,” they answered. “Why, then,” Jesus asked, “Did the Spirit



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inspire David to call him 'Lord'? David said, 'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit here on my right until I put your enemies under your feet.' If, then, David called him 'Lord', how can the Messiah be David's descendant?" No one was able to give Jesus any answer, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Matthew 22:41-46 GNT

Jesus was merely repeating what the Father had said in Genesis 3:14-15 but, in a more elaborate way. He tried to let the Pharisees know that He was the Messiah been spoke of by all the Prophets, but they were too carnal minded to assimilate spiritual knowledge. He then went on to educate we the Church, of the Father's promise to Him for the Victory accomplished by His willful Sacrifice; and how that promise will be carried out, and actualized through the Church. It explains why in His communication the word "until" was used.

Read again:

'The Lord said to my Lord: Sit here on my right [until] I put your enemies under your feet.'

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This means that the Scripture reference was an insight into a conversation between the Father and Jesus Christ after His Triumphant procession in Colossians 2:15; and this conversation were expressed through the mouth of King David, thousands of years before Jesus' physical manifestation!

The "Woman" typified the Church of Christ. It is in so many ways synonymous to the woman in that it reproduces {gives birth} offspring {children}. By this, the Church is to grow in the accurate and precise Knowledge of God and of His Christ, and in its Membership through soul winning. This was to continue until the set time chosen by God for the Second Coming, of which, would be when all of Christ Enemies would be judged, and Christ made Ruler of all the Nations {Revelation 12}.

✚ **Only Bruise His Heel:** Now, when Jesus passed over Leadership of overseeing and tending to His flock on to Peter; He never said there would be no problems; no, He said quite the contrary. He said. "The gates of hell shalt not PREVAIL". He never said they will not attempt to overcome it. But, He assured us that no matter how hard they tried, they will not overcome

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because, “I have given you the ‘keys’ or the Word of God to do “warfare” with.”

Once again, we find the Lord Jesus only confirm the very words of His Father in Genesis 3:14-15 of which says, “Only bruise their heel”.

You can now see the ambiguity of that simple scripture reference in Genesis 3:14-15. To the non Christian; all he see is God speaking to a serpent, most assumedly a snake; then, He speaks to a woman and finally to her husband. But to the “Baby” in the Lord; the Baby sees God also in the same light as the non Christian but, he or she understands just little enough to know that the “serpent” mentioned was actually the Serpent, the Enemy, the Devil.

However, both have never seen few words interpreted and taught in such lengthy manner until this Book.

### Back to the Preacher's story...

The reason I had to take out time to explain the ambiguous nature of God's words is to help you begin to read, study and understand beyond the written words in the Bible.

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The Bible is an advanced Book of Heaven “Codes”. And, in order to decipher the codes therein, you would need the “Decipherer”! You would need the Holy Spirit so as to be able to decode the codes and use the messages extracted.

Now, here comes the slightly difficult part: you have to give yourself willingly to the Decipherer or else, He will not assist you. The reason is that; if you refuse to give yourself willfully to Him, you give the impression of, “I can do it on my own. I’m not dumb you know. I have a PhD, OK?” When you give the Holy Spirit such an attitude, He lets you be. The Gods are not forceful People. They are very Respectful Deities, and they would always respect your decisions.

I wish to reiterate that the purpose for this Book is not centered on Tithing.

Tithing is commanded by God, and should be obeyed **WILFULLY**, and not **GRUDGINGLY**. Any attempt to manipulate the giver into doing it grudgingly, is an abuse of authority on the part of the teacher. Moreover, the core principle behind the act of Tithing is “Selfless Giving”!

Money is a very good tool, but it is not to be revered

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above its Creator. You would discover these days that the Gospel been preached out there is largely centered on money, but the theme of the messages are “baptized” to carry “Prosperity” instead of money on their advert materials. Now the teaching about this tool as if true success lies with it, or is measured by it, is wrong.

Yes, of an infallible truth, Giving is part of the three primary purposes of Ministry {Prayer, Paying and Preaching} but, it is time we moved past dwelling and being endlessly repetitive on the same foundational teaching.

See what the author of Hebrews Chapter 6 had to say;

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.”

Hebrews 6:1; KJV

“So let us stop going over the basis teachings about Christ again and over. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in

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God”

Hebrews 6:1; NIV

The words of the author in Hebrews 6, is to all Christians {Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers and You}. There is really no need for the hubbub about wealth and riches.

Both have already been supplanted in your spirit-man the day you accepted Christ Jesus in your heart. The problem is that you are distracted by the successes of others who are most likely, doing the right things that God had intended for them, which He had placed in their spirits. Their success gives you the impression that you are lazy and probably “cursed”!

Listen, Tithing is great; it is **ABSOLUTELY** fantastic! It helps rebuke the “Devourer” – the Devil and his crony, Mammon for your sake.

Interestingly, it did not say it would kill the Devourer, or stop him permanently. This means he would come back again. So, wisdom dictates that you keep tithing. In the words of one of my mentors,

“If you refuse to tithe, things would be tight for you.”

Bishop O Oyedepo.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **JESUS PAYS HIS BILLS**

**W**hen Jesus and his disciples came to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple-tax came to Peter and asked, “Does your teacher pay the temple-tax?” “Of course,” Peter answered. When Peter went into the house, Jesus spoke up first, “Simon, what is your opinion? Who pays duties or taxes to the kings of this world? The citizens of the country or the foreigners?” “The foreigners,” answered Peter. “Well, then,” replied Jesus, “that means that the citizens don’t have to pay. But we don’t want to offend these people. So go to the lake and drop in a line. Pull up the first fish you hook, and in its mouth you will find a coin worth enough for my temple-tax and yours. Take it and pay them our taxes.”

Matthew 17:24-27; GNT

Let us go over that story again shall we...

Once upon a time, Jesus and his disciples had journeyed and came into Capernaum. They were accommodated by a generous follower of the Master

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teachings, who was more than excited to have Jesus and His disciples in his home.

One day, Peter had gone to run some errands, and on his way back, he was stopped by two officials of the Temple's tax office (for it was customary for the Jews to pay Temple taxes from a certain age). Peter politely engaged them in a 'gentlemen' conversation and promised he was sure to relay the message back to His Teacher, and that they would pay their bills promptly.

When he got home, he met with Jesus and before he could narrate his encounter with the Temple's officials, Jesus asked; "Simon, what is your opinion? Who pays duties or taxes to the kings of this world? The citizens of the country or the foreigners?" "The foreigners," answered Peter.

The Lord response was an astonishing one: He told Peter, "So go to the lake and drop in a line. Pull up the first fish you hook, and in its mouth you will find a coin worth enough for my temple-tax and yours. Take it and pay our taxes."

It is worth of note that; in those short verses in bold letters above; contains two kinds of interpretation to it.



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Let me show you....

“Simon, what is your opinion? Who pays duties or taxes to the kings of this world? The citizens of the country or the foreigners?” “The foreigners,” answered Peter. “Well, then,” replied Jesus, “that means that the citizens don’t have to pay. But we don’t want to offend these people.”

There’s the Spiritual interpretation to that Scripture reference, as well as a Physical interpretation.

But, because of the purpose of this Book, we will limit ourselves to its Physical interpretation; however, we will touch briefly on the Spiritual.

### **INTERPRETATION UNTO SPIRITUAL**

When the Lord asked Peter who were to pay taxes to the “kings of this world”, He asked based on the “pre-” and “fore-” knowledge of the true ownership of the earth.

However, Peter’s answer was an expected one because; he processed the question based on the present hour knowledge he had. And so, he replied the Master,

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“Foreigners”. Jesus, then answered Peter by saying, “Well, then, that means that the citizens don’t have to pay. But we don’t want to offend these people.

The Master was simply saying, “Peter, we are the original owners of the earth. We need not pay any tax as would any Roman citizen. But nevertheless, because the State of Israel is under the Roman Government for now; and they are human beings, and God expects us to live in peace with them; even though we are not of this world. We are foreigners in their eyes. Let us not disobey God by not paying taxes thereby offending them.”

We then see why Jesus Christ then instructs Peter,

“So go to the lake and drop in a line. Pull up the first fish you hook, and in its mouth you will find a coin worth enough for my temple-tax and yours. Take it and pay them our taxes.”

Having touched briefly on the Spiritual Interpretation in that story; let us now concentrate fully on its Physical because; there is wealth already encapsulated inside your spirit-man; and the Lord Jesus wants to teach you how to get it out, and do so many great things for Him, and the Kingdom of God.

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## CHAPTER THREE

### A GIFT IN EVERY MAN

“A person’s gift makes room for him, and leads him before important people.”

Proverbs 18:16; NET

**I**n the story about Jesus paying His Temple tax; few questions never failed to come to mind: Why the Lake? Why did He not simply say, “Peter? Be a good lad and go to my bedroom and look under the bed...” or “Deep your right hand in your right pocket...” or “Go and dig near that big old fig tree behind the house”. The answers became clearer as I studied more. I realized that there was more to that story than just a fish with a gold coin in its mouth.

In our opening Scripture reference, the author reveals a vital piece of information worth of note. He let us understand that it is a person’s gift that makes room for him, and leads the person before important people. Notice that he did not say it was a person’s money or uncles; educational degrees such as Masters and PhDs; and tithes and offerings; no, it did not have any of such

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therein. The author was specific: he said “gift”. {Or “gifts”}

Let us read what faithful Apostle Peter had to say about gift. 1 Peter 4:10; GNT;

“Each one, as a good manager of God’s different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God.”

And I can hear someone ask himself; “But, what is my gift. Do I have any?”

Yes, you have, and it is inside your spirit. Every single human being has “gifts” inside them. God made us all and put gifts in us. The challenge however, is many do not know what a gift is? The gift they have, and how to use it.

In the Book of Matthew, and Luke; a Parable was written by both Apostles. It was one of the many inspiring and insightful Parable of the Master. It was the;

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### “Parable of the Three Servants”

“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. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway too his journey. 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 two talents, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over few things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, 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 he which had received the one talent came and said,

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Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: And 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 knowest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money top the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 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. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 25:14-30; KJV

The scripture reference above is actually telling us something that has a relationship with our opening reference; Proverbs 18:16.

Now in that story about the three servants, a certain Master calls His servants and hands them “talent” of various amounts. To the first servant He gave 5. To the

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next, He gave 2 and 1 to the last. Before we continue, you should probably be intimidated on this bit of information: “Talent” was a monetary unit back in Jesus’ time. It is the same as saying Naira, US Dollar, or the name of your Nation’s currency.

Here is the thing: I did state earlier that it is a person’s gift that makes room for them, and not their money or uncles (Pro. 18:16).

However, from the story of the “Three Servants”, it might want to appear that I might have been wrong because; in that story, two out of the three servants used their “Talents” and did excellently in their trades, and made a 100% returns on their investments. The third servant was also given money {Talent}; as the two others.

Someone might be tempted to say, “Oh! Come on now, the third lad was not treated fairly! He was given a small amount of money when compared to the others.” This line of thought is not wrong; in fact, I would have been tempted to have agreed with such a folk, if I did not know any better.

The gift is what makes way for a man or a woman; not the money. Money is only an “amplifier”; it “amplifies”

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your gift, if you knew you had one the first place!

The two servants who returned with a 100% return on their various investments used their individual gifts in their various endeavours. It was their gifts that produced the desired results, though, the money played its own part.

Recounting the wise words of Peter; “Each one, [as a good manager] of God’s different gifts, [must use] for the [good of others] the special gift he has received from God.”

A careful study of Peter’s advice to us brings out much needed useful information for an effective use of one’s gift(s). The first information Peter tries to let us grasp is this:

✚ **“As a Good Manager”**: This means that we are to have a business minded approach concerning our gifts. It explains how the “Two Servants” came back with double return on investment. They applied a business approach to their gifts. They knew it was the ability to generate money put in them by God. And so, when they got capital from their Master, they saw an opportunity to exploit their gifts, and managed



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their finances as a good manager would. It explains how they were able to have returned their initial capitals to their Boss.

✚ **“Must Use”**: Now, I am not against fasting and prayer. However, fasting and prayer is not really the right principles that you ought to be engaging on concerning the state of your finances. It is very good to fast, pray and study the Word to “fatten” your inner-man, and tame your flesh. But, it is not the actual scriptural principle you ought to be involved in, if your finances are not “healthy”! You can involve in it to get deeper insights from the Word concerning how to grow your finances. After all the lambasting of tongues, and 40 day dry-fast, what next? So, Peter tells us we “must use” our gifts. Use your gift!

✚ **“Good of Others”**: This is where a lot of Christians have lost it. They have full knowledge of their gifts, but they make it self-centered. Apostle Peter admonishes us to use our gifts for the good of others. This is self explanatory; but for those who would prefer lengthy repetitive messages, I would be more than obliged to grant your request.

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What Uncle Peter is simply saying is that; after you might have discovered your gift; develop it so it could be a blessing to other persons, other than yourself. The first person whom is to benefit from your gifts is other persons! You would get adequately compensated afterwards.

The Parable of the Three Servants shows us that God has put in every human being, gifts in form of {"Talents"; money}.

Apostle Peter, by the inspiration of the Spirit, admonished that we use our gifts for the benefits of others (which subsequently, will work for our profiting in the end).

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **WHAT GIFT IS**

“But we don’t want to offend these people. So [go to the lake and drop in a line]. Pull up the first fish you hook, and in its mouth you will find a coin worth enough for my temple-tax and yours. Take it and pay them our taxes.”

Matthew 17:27; GNT

**I**n the opening verse, Jesus understood that the Father had already blessed every single human being with gifts, and He recognized Peter’s as fishing. I mean, this man Peter could fish! He was so skilled; he could fish in a canoe with just a line of hook, right in the middle of the night!

Noticed the Lord did not say; “Go to the Lake, and when you get there, stand on one foot and say; ‘Fish... Fish...Fish! Come out now!’”. No, He did not.

Peter actually had to work when he got to the Lake. He had to employ his fishing skills. It was from this particular experience that he wrote us those great

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words of advice is 1 Peter 4:10. Remember his words: “Each one, [as a good manager] of God’s different gifts, [must use]” So Peter had to work! He had to employ his fishing skills.

The account in Matthew 17, did not tell us the distance Peter had to trek or ride on donkey back to get to the Lake. It also did not say how long it took him to catch the fish. And more worrisome is: the distance from the Lake to the Temple, and back to his lodge. So, you would agree that Peter did W-O-R-K!

The story in that Scripture reference (Matthew 17:24-27) is actually symbolic in the sense that; it teaches Christians the way God had designed for them to generate income. Discover yours and quit looking there and here; or, trying just about anything you might have caught wind that “it pays so well!”

In the story of Matthew 17:24-27 "Jesus"; typified God; the Giver of gifts. "Peter" typified the Mankind. The "Lake" typified the immediate sphere you find yourself, and subsequently beyond it. The "Fish" typified the people who are in need of your gifts, and are willing to give you “Coins” for them.

Here is what to do; firstly you need to come to terms

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with yourself and agree that you have a gift, or gifts, inside your spirit.

When King Solomon wrote those beautiful words in Proverbs 18:16, He never said anything like; ‘Only a Christian’s gift makes room for him...’ No, Sir/Madam, he did not. So, agree with yourself that you have it!

Now the best way to describe a “gift” would be by these words.

“Whatever it is that you enjoy doing for a considerable abnormal length of time that; 999,999 out of 1,000,000 persons would not do; that is your gift. A gift is what you do joyfully; even in the stress of it, and with no pay.” (Definition, mine)

That is a Gift from God!

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### KNOW YOUR PASSIONS

**T**o those who are yet to discover their gift(s) or “passions”; a gift is whatever it is that you enjoy doing for a considerable abnormal length of time that, not even 1,000,000,000 persons would not do; that is your gift. A gift is what you do joyfully; even when woken from deep sleep, and offered no pay. That is a Gift from God!

For those who have already discovered theirs, but are not enjoying the 100% return on investment like the “Two Servants”; these 3-Steps would most certainly help you.

#### **Step One**

1. Identify your gift(s).
2. Appreciate it. Do not lust after another person's gift; yours is also “cool”, too!

#### **Step Two**

3. Develop it by always sharing it with persons {fish} in your immediate sphere of contact.
4. Now, do not commercialize it yet. It still needs A LOT of working at. That you got a testimony from a sister or brother is not enough. Keep Sharing it...Do not be afraid to test it...Stretch

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it! Study dozens of materials relating to it.

### Step Three

5. Now commercialize it. Peter had a business man's approach when he got to that Lake. He understood bills needed to be paid. He understood the Temple-tax guys would be back to harass and mock the Master, himself and the Ministry. Likewise, you got to have a business approach. Give it an international business approach.
6. Be sure you run every idea, thoughts and actions by God's Word. You have the Greater One IN and WITH you; the Holy Spirit. Rely solely in and on Him. He loves these kinds of things. Be sure it passes all the conditions for healthy and productive thinking in Philippians 4:8. Else, scrap it!

Just like Peter, you also have your “fish in the lake” to catch!

See beyond the ordinary...God Bless You!

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### **PRAYER OF SALVATION**

We trust you have been blessed by this Book. We invite you to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life by praying thus:

“O Lord God, I come to You in the Matchless Name of Jesus Christ. Your Word says, “Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21).

I ask Jesus to come into my spirit to be the Lord of my life. I receive eternal life into my spirit and according to Romans 10:9, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved,” I declare that I am saved; I am born-again; I am a child of God! I now have Christ dwelling in me; greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)! I now walk in the consciousness of my new life in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!”

Congratulations! You are now a child of God. To receive more information on how you can grow as a Christian, please get in touch with us through any of the contacts below:

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## The Author

### **Background:**

Mentus Udoka Okolie is an ardent Word Scholar who tutors in the Youth arm of Ministries seeking his exceptional insights into the Word, granted him by the Holy Spirit.

A former President of the Youth Alive Ministry arm of the renown Living Faith Church, International; a two time Cell Leader, a Sunday School Teacher, and Department Head all in the Ministry; is equipped by the Holy Spirit for the Office of a Teacher of the Knowledge of God, and of His Son Jesus.

He is currently a Member of the global impactful Cell Ministry called “The Haven”; an arm of the Prestigious Believers’ LoveWorld, Inc aka “Christ Embassy”.

### **Current City:**

He lives in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

### **Book Bio:**

This Book communicates the Mind of the Holy Spirit to you. It is time to return to your true Family.

“Welcome home, my beloved child!” says the Spirit.