

The Ministry Of Helps

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The Gospel Entrepreneur is a person who is called of God to make money for use in the kingdom of God. It is contained within the ministry of Helps, as listed by Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 12.

1 Corinthians 12:28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

The Greek word translated "helps" in that verse is Strong's G484 and is *antilepsis* and the basic definition is: relief, help. That doesn't do much to explain the ministry of helps. Notice this is a ministry "calling" listed along with the apostle, prophet, and so forth. A true apostle does not call himself to be an apostle. It is a calling, and God co-labors with that person to accomplish his calling. It is the same with all of the "callings" listed above, including the ministry of "helps."

But what kind of "helps" is being referred to here? Is it taking a cup of cold water to a thirsty person? Feeding the hungry? Clothing the naked? All of those are forms of help, but this Greek word "antilepsis" was used in a particular way during the historical time period when Paul wrote that letter to the Corinthians.

According to the Complete Biblical Library (a sixteen-volume set just for the New Testament), the definition of *antilepsis*, the ministry of helps is: *"Those with gifts of 'helps' are not necessarily people in positions of authority. Instead, they are individuals with resources which others lack. The gift of 'helps' therefore, involves the giving and sharing of those resources."*

According to the AMG Expanded Greek Lexicon, the literal definition of *antilepsis* is: *"The receiving of remuneration for the purpose of rendering help or assistance."* The definition of remuneration is: *"Money paid for work or a service."*

To some extent, all Christians do this because all of us work jobs, or have businesses, or do investments, or do something that provides labor or a service. We receive money for our efforts, and we all place a portion of that income into the work of the gospel by giving to our local church, supporting orphanages, and

giving to various ministries. All of us are called to be good stewards of the finances we receive, but the true ministry of helps, what I am calling the Gospel Entrepreneur, is actually a ministry "calling" in the same category as the apostle, prophet, and so forth.

Jesus taught specifically on this calling of "helps" several times in the New Testament. Today we are going to look at one of His teachings. I call this lesson Stewarding The Pound.

Luke 19:12-27 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. (13) And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. (14) But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this *man* to reign over us. (15) And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. (16) Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. (17) And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. (18) And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. (19) And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. (20) And another came, saying, Lord, behold, *here is* thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: (21) For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. (22) And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, *thou* wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: (23) Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? (24) And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give *it* to him that hath ten pounds. (25) (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) (26) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. (27) But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay *them* before me.

I have a six-part audio series at my website that teaches on this subject in great detail. It is titled: Stewarding The Pound. It is in the Kingdom Finances section of the website. Today I feel the Lord wants me to do an overview of that series.

First of all, when was the last time you heard this taught in any church in a literal way? Most do not teach it as being literally a calling to make money to be used in the kingdom of God. Most spiritualize it and say that it is speaking of using the gifts and talents God has given you to expand the kingdom of God. It is normally taught in the sense of using our natural abilities to "help" by ministering to the sick, evangelizing the lost, feeding the poor, etc. That is not wrong. We are ALL supposed to do those things. That is Christianity 101 at its most basic level.

However, the ministry of "helps" is a specific calling in the same category as the apostle, prophet, and so forth. It is the ministry of HELPS, the receiving of money through various endeavors to be used for the purposes of the kingdom of God. Jesus is literally teaching how that ministry gift is to function, and how it is not to function.

Let's take a macro look at this teaching.

1. ALL of the money gained, and also the original principle amount (the pound) was for the Lord ... not you.
2. This teaching is not about meeting your needs.
3. This teaching is about a calling that meets the financial needs of the kingdom of God.
4. The people who did it correctly kept none of this money for themselves.
5. From Luke chapter 17:7-10, making money is how this group goes into the Master's field (plowing or feeding cattle) and when they come in from the fields, they know they did none of it for their own personal profit. All of it was to meet the needs of the Master.

Luke 17:7-10 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? (8) And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? (9) Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. (10) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those

things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

6. From my grandfather's family farm analogy, these "sons" have been assigned to go into the fields of the world and make money to be brought back to the Father for His use. They dine at the dinner table to get their needs met. The money they gathered was simply their reasonable service in the family business. It was a harvest for the Father, not for them personally. Their needs are met at the family dinner table.

It is obvious how to do it wrong. The wrong way is a heart problem. The man who hid the Lord's pound simply had no heart, no desire, to spend his life making money for the Master. He was concerned about his own "best life now," and if the Lord was going to take all of the increase, if there was nothing profitable in it personally for him, he was simply not interested in giving his life to it. I highly warn against that heart attitude. It did not go well with him.

If you are going to function in the ministry of helps, you must have a heart that desires to make money and then give that money into the kingdom of God. It has nothing to do with your personal profit. This is for the profit of the kingdom of God. God watches faithfulness. Notice that both of the people who did their ministry of helps faithfully were promoted. God is a good God, and He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

If you are going to function in the ministry of helps to be a Gospel Entrepreneur, you are going to have to make a separation in your mind of your own personal provision vs the pound you steward for the kingdom of God. These are two separate things: 1) Your Provision 2) The Lord's Pound

Your provision simply means ... the amount of finances you need to live on. This means you will need to determine a budget. I am literally amazed at how seldom I meet people who have ever made a personal budget. They don't even know how much they need to live on, yet they have a desire to handle great wealth for the

kingdom of God. You need to know how much money is required for your Provision.

You cannot skip this part, or you will most surely fail. Look at how Jesus taught this again. All of this money, the original pound and ALL of the increase, was for the Lord to be used in His kingdom. NONE of it was kept for the people to live on.

This was kingdom money that was totally separate from what they personally needed to live on. It is exactly like what Jesus taught in Luke chapter 17. The servants went into the Master's fields, they made money, they came back and met their Master's needs, and only THEN did they go and eat from the dinner table.

I teach on all of this in greater detail in the six-part audio series titled Stewarding The Pound in the Kingdom Finances section of my website. There are many sources available online about how to make a budget. I am not going to teach that but let me give you a few pointers I have learned over the years about budgeting for your Provision.

The Lord is generous, not stingy. The first budget I ever made was way too small. The Lord was not pleased with it. He had me do it again and leave some room in it for us to enjoy.

Your budget (provision) will change over time. As an example, we needed more money personally when we had children in the house. Later, we actually lowered our budget amount because we simply did not need that much anymore. The opposite has happened also because we have had to increase our budget (provision) amount when He has given us assignments that caused our personal expenses to increase.

You have a Counselor to help you establish your budget. His name is the Holy Spirit. He will help you ... but He will not do the work of making a budget for you.

One more time I am going to stress the importance of making a budget to determine your Provision amount. If you do not make this separation in your mind between your Provision and His Pound ... I can already prophesy your future with pinpoint accuracy.

When you are out there on the battlefield of mammon to cause an increase to the Lord's pound, the enemy will use "care" against you to disobey the Lord's instructions if you do not separate Provision from Pound in your mind.

I will teach on this at length in a future lesson but let me end this lesson by asking you to please begin working on developing a personal budget for you and your family so that you know how much your Provision amount is. That is an essential first step if you intend to fulfill your calling as a Gospel Entrepreneur ... the MINISTRY OF HELPS.