

DR ENOCH B MNISI

**BEING
FRUITFUL +
PRODUCTIVE**



Transcribed Teaching

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Being Fruitful and Productive

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Today I would like to continue on the series the principles of life but we will be looking at another aspect of life.

We live in a world that defines our value based on our contribution to it. In this world, if you do not contribute to the system you are more likely to be left behind. In this system, your worth is commercialised. You are worth so much because you can contribute this much. In such a world, the dynamics become very tricky. Many people have grown up under the wrong circumstances. So our history is not that conducive to the machinery. We have become that machinery in the system and now that we are emancipated from our history our identity as African people is to fight in order to have value in the system. The system classifies us not on the basis of our contribution but on the basis of our skin colour.

There is a truth in the Word of God that I would love to show you that can help us in redeeming our lives in the system in which we live in.

The sad thing that has happened to Africans as a whole is that they feel entitled and that is why we have amongst many other races the lowest drive among human beings. We feel like this world owes us something and our approach to life become different. We feel that life should offer us every single thing on a silver platter. We are supposed to have new eyes by which we see life.

Paul said that there is neither Jew nor Greek. So everything God-ward is okay but man-ward there is a struggle for position in life. 99% of the world's wealth is owned by 1%. What you are supposed to ask yourself is that how can that be so possible.

There are 7 billion people here on Earth and if you think about 1%. The rest of the 99% are fighting for the 1% and this shows you how life is. If the odds (humanly speaking) have been stacked up against you, your reaction or your response to life should be totally different. At the end of the day you have nothing to lose. Africans are the only few people who are born without an inheritance and I think that we are the only race that lives under that predicament. It is not our fault because we have not been given enough time to get that wealth. If you trace down the African history, you would find out that Africans were slaves and they were not allowed to buy or sell

anything. The African lineage has no inheritance.

The problem is not outside but it is inside. You go to the townships today and you find young boys and young girls who are visionless. It is like the strength or the ability to dream has been taken away from them. They feel like everybody owes them something and they go through life like that. They do not want to put in some effort. The system works in such a way that if you put in the efforts, you will surely move forward.

Matthew 13:31-32 (NKJV Strong's) Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Now think about this, what if the farmer looked at the seed and said to himself that there is nothing that this seed can do and disregarded it. He would not have had the opportunity to see that tree grow in its full strength. He still needed to plant it and water it. And Jesus says that is how the kingdom of God is like. The kingdom of God is pictorial of life!

In life, we have all these seeds as our possession but we may never realise its producing power until we do something about it. Your mind is a big huge field and it can only give you what you plant. If you put in your mind worry, lamentation, discourage and all these negative things, that is what you going to get out of life. In Latin they say 'As you think you are' It is the same thing that King Solomon said: "As a man think in his heart, so is he..."

The reflection of your life outward will always be determined by the efforts you place in your hearts. What we are grappling with here is an eternal switch that needs to be changed.

Tonight I would love to share with you about being fruitful and productive!

We exchange our skills and contributions in this world for livelihood. In other words, we get something for what we give. No one on Earth determines your worth in monetary terms except you. If you are not earning in life, it is because of the value and worth that you have placed on yourself. In the world you are as important as what you

have to offer. And that is how the system works.

You must position yourself mentally to engage the system with the expectation that this world will give you what you worth. The Lord gave certain parables about value systems to help us understand certain things. You as a Christian! You are not of this world but you are in this world.

Look at Jesus, He was not from this world yet He suffered under the elements of this world. He suffered tiredness, weariness yet He had money. He was the King of the world yet He had money. The Bible says that Judas Iscariot was His treasurer (Banker) and you cannot have serious money without a treasurer. He was the Son of God yet He needed money to get Him from point A to B. He sent the disciples to buy food, and obviously they used His money.

The disciples of Jesus left their businesses, houses and their families. If you read Act chapter two, Peter said: “That silver and gold have we none...”. They did not have any money and they used Jesus money that whole three years. Jesus understood the principle of living on Earth, He was a carpenter. He was doing business for a living. This tells us that Jesus understood how the world works.

He has set us in this world and He has given us His wisdom to help us function in this world. Growth is possible and you can grow in this life. If you don't grow, you are as good as dead. The progression of nature is that all things must grow and everything that does not grow dies. You were built for growth! Everything in creation grows but it all starts small.

If you do not develop your value in the world which you are living in, the world cannot give you anything. There is something we call the blessing of creation.

Genesis 1:20-22 (NKJV Strong's) Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

That is the blessing of creation! And that is why there are so many trees, birds and all

these creatures.

Genesis 1:26 (NKJV Strong's) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

While creation has been blessed, God gave man dominion to subdue.

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV Strong's) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

It is the expectation of God for creation to be fruitful. If creation is not fruitful that means God cannot be pleased. The design of every single thing in creation is to be fruitful and abound. Remember when the Lord was hungry in the book of Mark? The bible says, He went to a fig tree but found nothing and as a result He cursed the tree. Jesus expected the tree to bring forth something_ He expected it to be productive.

Look at the parable of the three servants, the Master gave each one of them talents and went away to a faraway country. He gave the first servant five talents, the other he gave two talents and the last servant he gave him one. The servants did not know when the master was coming back but when he came back he expected that the servants would give him his own and more.

There is an appointed time of reconciliation for everything in creation to give back to God its fruits. So fruitfulness is the Will of God for everyone.

When Jesus was raised up from the dead and met up with the Apostles. The bible says, they toiled all night yet caught nothing. They were doing something in hope that Jesus would not rise up again. So Jesus finds them and asked them if they found anything. He asked them purposefully because He knew that they didn't catch any fish. Jesus told them to throw in their nets and have a catch. Peter told him that they have been doing that all night but they still couldn't catch anything. When they finally heeded to the instruction of the Lord, there was more yet the nets did not even break. When they got on the shore they did not catch anything. Jesus had already started baking some fish.

The capacity required for growth and fruitfulness. You must have the capacity!

Look at the widow whom her husband left with debts. She had to pay, the collectors were coming. The woman went to the Man of God crying and asked the Man of God to help her. She told the Man of God that the husband died owing all these debts. The Man of God asked what she had. The woman said that just some little oil. The man of God told her to go and borrow pots. The woman borrowed the pots and filled them with that little oil that she had. The Bible says, when she had poured her last drop of the oil, it also ceased.

This tells us that the miracle supply of God will be hindered by our capacity. You must be fruitful! You are today and you have today because of the value you have placed on yourself not what somebody else has placed on you. Your salary notice isn't the problem of the manager. The problem is your increase in value because high flow goes to high value makers.

You are measured by the ability of what has been disposed to your trust. If you are unable to handle it, you cannot be able handle more. You do not have the right to wish for more if you have not learned to handle what you have.

God does not reward you based on the amount of work that you do. He does not reward you based on the longevity of how long you have been working for Him.

Remember the prodigal son?

Luke 15:11-32 (NKJV Strong's) Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Make me like one of your hired servants.” ’

20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.

25 “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’

28 “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. 29 So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. 30 But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’

31 “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. 32 It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’ ” And that is what happens most of the time in our walk with God.

The capacity that you have determine is the height that you would reach, that’s how life is. Here is the reality: You do not need any business degree to start a business. But if you want to work for that same business you need that degree. Remorse in life does not work at all.

Look at Joseph: he was sold as a slave for twenty pieces of silver. The fact that he was a slave it did not stop him. When he was in prison he was the head slave and he did not dig a pit for himself and stayed there. That is what many of us have done and it’s

not supposed to be like that.

John 15:1-2 (NKJV Strong's) "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

God does not tolerate unproductiveness. He will not expect an orange tree to give him apple fruits. That is not what He is talking about here. He is talking about being fruitful in the area which He has designated for you. If in any specific area you do not bear fruit, He cuts you off. That would make you understand how God feels about idleness. He hates it.

The nature of God requires progressiveness in human life. Do not stay where you are for too long!

John 15:2 (NKJV Strong's) Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Every branch that bears fruit is pruned and cleansed so that it will be able to bear more fruit. He pays attention more to those who bear fruit. What He expects from you is potentials of growth.

I am of the belief that anything is possible within the parameters of your ability. God cannot give you a temptation that you cannot handle. In that same breath He cannot give you a blessing that you cannot handle.

John 15:3-5 (NKJV Strong's) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Jesus is the living word and you cannot do anything without Him. He is the cause of all productivity. The word 'abides' means to settle down. If He abides in you, His ability becomes your ability and your function in life will be by the ability of Christ. It is not difficult living in this world when you know He is on the inside.

John 15:6-7 (NKJV Strong's) If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire,

and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Jesus was giving a proposition in the above scripture. The word 'done' In the above scripture means to be generated from none existence material. It means that if that thing was not there, it would be generated just for your sake. There are things that can be tailored made for you. The boldness to ask God for something will come when you abide in Him and His words abide in you.

John 15:7 (NKJV Strong's) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

The word 'ask' means to demand. It is a sibling to the word calling.

John 15:8 (NKJV Strong's) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

I always tell people that it is God's Will that you become rich. If that is not your intent in life, you can never be able to glorify God. It is God's dream that you become lavishly rich and someone might disagree. But God gave riches to Solomon when he did not even ask for it. Solomon was already rich by inheritance but God made him richer. David said that God has been his father and has made him very rich. The Bible says that God blessed Abraham in all things.

God wants you fruitful and productive. There must also be fruits in your life to show that you are fruitful.

John 15:8 (NKJV Strong's) By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Jesus expects that no disciple of His would ever unfruitful.

I was thinking about something today as I was washing my hands in the restroom. As I looked into the mirror, the Spirit of God spoke to me. He said to me "Ministering the Gospel should be the highest paying occupation on Earth". I asked the Lord what He meant, then He said to me "Those who cater for the body (doctor's) are amongst the highest paid. How much more those who cater for the spirit?"

If doctors who deal with the body can be worth so much then how much more the Ministers of the Gospel because they go much more deeper.

God's word needs to go much deeper to liberate you from certain beliefs. We need the Word of God to help free us from certain thoughts. For instance, several of you have many misconceptions about money and because of those misconceptions you are where you are in monetary terms today. But when the Word of God comes, it is able to liberate you.

In the year 2014 or 2015, I did not know anything about financial astuteness. I thought that a person has to work very hard and come out with big things to be really rich. In the year 2016 the Lord Jesus Christ taught me about money for 6 months every single day. I asked Him why He was teaching me about finances. He told me that "If you are not free here on Earth in your financial life, you cannot be free in the spirit"

One of the grand statements that the Lord Jesus Christ has ever made is that you cannot serve God and mammon. This tells us that mammon on Earth is the counterpart of God.

The Spirit of God has to have constant refreshing's of your mind. Because unless that happens, you would think that life happens on a silver platter. When we teach that it is God's Will for people to become rich, ideas start coming into your mind and it opens to a whole new realm.

Poverty is an enemy of destiny and if you embrace it, you are an enemy of your own destiny. It is a sin to be poor!

John 15:16 (NKJV Strong's) You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

The Lord Jesus Christ said that you were chosen to bear fruit and that means that wherever you are in life or whatever job you are working. He said that you were ordained for fruit bearing. You should expect to be fruitful. To be fruitful means to bear results. When you bear results you get a better chance of getting God's hands involved in your life.

It will take much more effort to chop down a tree with a blunt axe. It is the same thing with life and with a down mind you cannot go very far.

We shall continue again next week!

