

“A Sermon: Black Economics 101”

by

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There is no way for us as black people to become socially, spiritually or economically independent without the acquiring of...LAND!!

Land is the bases of all economics and land is the key to our true independence.

We as black people will “ALWAYS” be dependent of other people without land that we can call our own.

Now...one of the best economic plans available to us is the economic program put forth by the most Honorable Elijah Muhammad. If studied carefully, one will see the true benefits of implementing such a plan.

But...since there seems to be a reluctance to even study his program due to the misinformation concerning the Muslims and the Nation of Islam, let me see if I can explain Elijah Muhammad’s program from a Christian perspective. Maybe it will be more palatable.

First let me start off by saying that it seems that we as black people have this “AVERSION” to farming like it’s some kind of “PLAGUE” to us.

We have this mentality now that farming is the last thing we want to do since we were “FORCED” to do it as slaves.

Picking cotton and tobacco from can’t see in the morning to can’t see at night and in the blistering sun is the “IMAGE” in our minds that we carry.

In one of Eddie Murphy’s old HBO stand ups (Delirious), he gave a skit about white people trying to make us slaves and pick cotton again in these modern times and our modern day response would be: Suck my d—k Masser, suck my mf d—k, I ain’t bailing a mf thing!! (Sorry, I don’t mean to be so graphic but that’s just the way he said it...lol)

This “IMAGE” in our minds needs to be “REPLACED” with one that is more practical!!

Think about it...every person you know wears some kind of cotton product. We wear cotton underwear, cotton t-shirts, cotton panties, cotton socks, and cotton clothes.

But the image that needs to be changed is “HOW” we pick the cotton for our own needs.

We are living in the modern times where there is a machine to do or assist in just about every kind of work there is.

Today we have “COTTON PICKERS” to do that for us. Think about it...imagine “RIDING” down the cotton field in a fully enclosed tractor, with the “AC” blowing, and with a “CD PLAYER” blasting away to whatever kind of music you want to hear, like some TUPAC...lol.

Do you get the picture??

We are depriving ourselves of a “multi-billion dollar” industry due to an immature and childish thought!! All we have to do is acquire the equipment!!

But “HOW” do we go about doing that? Please hang in there with me as I give another illustration.

In the book of Malachi (3:8-11) in the bible it reads:

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.(KJV)

Now...the message that I’m about to share here is a different kind of message that you normally hear when preachers refer to this passage of scripture.

Most churches refer to this scripture when it’s time for the collection of tithes and offerings. In other words...YOUR MONEY!! Most ministries’ today are delivering what is called...“PROSPERITY MESSAGES” but the problem is...there’s only one person PROSPERING!! But...the real “FOCUS” of this passage of scripture is for “EVERYONE” to prosper!!

Let’s break this scripture down and see if we can pull out the message where “EVERYONE” prospers. “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse:” Now we know that “tithes” equals = Money, right? Now...what do we call the place where we “STOREHOUSE” MONEY?? Today we call that a ...BANK!! “that there may be ‘meat’ in mine house:” Not...cars, jewelry, fine clothes and houses. All of that will come in due time...but...MEAT!! (Food) “and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”(KJV) “Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”(NIV) Now, I like the NIV version because it uses the word “TEST” in it.

God is “DARING” us to “TEST HIM”... AND...if we “TEST” Him, He is promising to “PROVE” to us that He will bless us beyond measure!!

He says that He will throw open the floodgates of heaven. What is a floodgate? A floodgate is the opening and closing part of a larger structure called a DAM!! Now...“DAMS” as we know them are designed to hold back water and if that DAM breaks, then “EVERYTHING” downstream gets...FLOODED!!

Listen...God is saying that right now, all of “OUR” blessings are “DAMED UP” in heaven. BUT...if we give Him a try, He will open up the “floodgates” of heaven and just like a real DAM...“EVERYONE”...downstream will get flooded with more blessings than we can handle!! Now I don’t know about you but I want all the blessing that God has for me!!

Now...let’s look at the “REAL PURPOSE” of the tithes and offerings and see if we can get to all of our blessings that God has in store for us.

But before I do, let me say a few words about the church and preachers.

The Church: The reason I’m focusing on the church is because outside of the “GOVERNMENT,” which can tax our money up to 33.3%, the “CHURCH” is the second largest entity that receives our money at a voluntary rate of ten (10%) percent. And since corporate America has decided to outsource and ship good-paying jobs overseas and the government is cutting back on entitlement programs, then it is the church that has to step up and fill the gap of taking care of its people.

Preachers: The reason many of the preachers of these mega-churches are receiving such bad publicity today is because their “FOCUS” is not in the right place. Their focus is on who can build the biggest church, who has the most members, who has the largest house and who has the biggest jet plane!! Their “focus” is not on making sure that the “SHEEP” has all of that!!

The bible says in Psalms 23: “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.... “STOP RIGHT THERE!!

Now, let’s break down the role of a real shepherd and sheep.

When a farmer raises sheep, it is his job to keep “moving them” to make sure he keep them in “green pastures” because as long as those sheep are eating well and are healthy, they will produce a “PRODUCT” called...WOOL!! This wool is then able to be “SOLD” in exchange for money!!

BUT...in the religious world, the preachers are supposed to be God’s “direct representatives” here on earth, overseeing and “shepherding” God’s people...His sheep!!

Now...what is the “wool” that the people produce?? It is the cultivation of their talents and gifts and the infrastructure by which they can thrive!! It is the “establishment” of the Kingdom of God...here on earth!!

When a preacher is standing in the pulpit, he is looking at people (the sheep) with every kind of talent, in every field of endeavor, sitting right there in the congregation. He is looking at lawyers, doctors, teachers, mechanics, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, truck drivers, accountants, managers, supervisors, store owners, farmers...you name it...it's sitting right there in front of him!!

But...where is the "green pastures" (the infrastructure) that he has them in??

This is why in the black church you will find it filled with more women than men. The black man in the streets sees preachers as no more than "PIMPS" in the pulpit!! The preacher just simply brought the street game into the church!! And as they say in the streets: Game recognizes Game!! It is the pimp on the street that's living well, riding well, dressing well, and eating well. So it is with today's preacher!!

BUT...if the black men in the streets who are leery and reluctant to come to church, saw where there was a "PLAN and a PROGRAM" in place that is benefiting "EVERYBODY", then maybe they would join in and become a contributing member!!

This is why God gave a strict..."WARNING"...to preachers in the bible: Jeremiah 23:1 "Woe to the 'shepherds' that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Saith the Lord."

Now... let's get back to the "REAL PURPOSE" of the tithes and offerings. Let's use as an example of a church with 500 members. Now we know that this is a small church in today's time where there are so many "MEGA-CHURCHES!!" Now, let's say that the average income of the members of that church is \$500.00 dollars per week. Ten percent of \$500.00 dollars is \$50.00 dollars...right? Now...500 members giving \$50.00 dollars per week for 52 weeks in a year equals = how much?? The answer is \$1,300,000.00 dollars!!

Question: What do you do with 1.3 million dollars??

Listen, we were all taught that the three (3) basic necessities of life are: food, clothes and shelter and that they are implemented in that order.

OK, let's say we take \$300,000.00 dollars of the 1.3 million and let's say we use that to:

1. Pay the Pastors salary = \$100,000.00 per year.
2. Pay for the church mortgage and utilities = \$100,000.00 per year.
3. Pay for the different programs throughout the year such as women's day, men's day, youth day, etc., etc., etc. = \$100,000.00 per year.

This leaves us with \$1 million dollars!!

Now the scripture says: that there may be "MEAT" in mine house!! (Food) But listen, you can't have "crops and livestock" without..."LAND"...to grow them on. So let's say that we use \$500,000.00 of the 1 million to purchase...LAND!! Let's say that the average cost per acre in the rural areas is \$5000.00 per acre. This gives us 100 acres!!

Now let's look at investing in livestock.

CATTLE: The price of cattle depends not only on the breed of cattle but also on the usage. But generally speaking, let's say we are able to purchase Bulls for \$1200.00 ea. and Heifers for \$1000.00 ea. So if we purchase 5 bull (\$6000.00) and 40 heifer's (\$40,000.00), grand total = \$46,000.00 dollars. Now... what do we get from cattle? 1. We get MEAT 2. We get MILK 3. We get LEATHER and we get 4. Butter. (Note: each one of these is an "INDUSTRY" by its self that would produce many, many jobs for our own people!!)

SHEEP: Now a sheep can costs anywhere from \$65.00-\$750.00. Let's say the average price is \$500.00 dollars. 5 males = \$2,500.00 and 40 females = \$20,000.00. Grand total = \$22,500.00 Now...what do we get from sheep? 1. We get WOOL and 2. We get Lambs MEAT. WOOL...is another multi-billion dollar industry alone!!

GOATS: Prices for goats can range from \$60.00 to \$1000.00. Again, let's say the average cost of a goat is \$600.00 dollars. 5 males = \$3,000.00 and 40 females = \$24,000.00. Grand total = \$27,000.00 Now...what do we get from goats? 1. We get MEAT and we get 2. Goats MILK.

Now we're not going to mention "PIGS/SWINE" here because we "KNOW" that God says in the scriptures in the book of Leviticus, that the swine is an abomination and that we should not even touch its carcass.

So...the grand total investment in livestock is: \$95,500.00 So, from our budget above and after purchasing the land for \$500,000.00, we have only used another \$100,000.00 dollars for livestock.

This still leaves us with \$400,000.00 left over!!

Next comes the "EQUIPMENT" to cultivate the soil and the "SEEDS" to grow crops with such as: cotton, corn, greens, cabbage, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and okra ...just to name a few!!

My point is...look at how much can be accomplished using just one small church as an example!! Look at how many jobs that we could start producing for our own people!! Not to mention that we would be growing healthier crops that's not covered with unhealthy pesticides and healthier livestock that's not injected with harmful steroids and other chemicals!! And listen...the example above is just for one year!! What would the above example look like after five years?? 10 years?? 20 years??

If preachers would stop preaching that "Name-it-and-Claim-it" type of "PROSPERITY MESSAGES" and start preaching THIS..."ROLL-UP-YOUR-SLEEVE-AND-GO-TO-WORK" type prosperity message, then "EVERYBODY" would benefit and be blessed by it!! The bible says that: "Where there is no 'VISION' the people PERISH!" (Proverbs 29:18)

Now...of all the people who "should" have vision...it should be the preacher that is standing in front of you every Sunday!! BUT...if your preacher is "SPIRITUALLY BLIND" then the scripture also says: "If the blind lead the blind...BOTH...fall into the ditch!!" (Mathew 15:14)

BUT...let's not stop here, let's take this "VISION" even further!! Now, I used to be a member of a Baptist Church in which the pastor, at one time, was the president of the GMBC-Georgia Missionary Baptist Convention, which at that time consisted of approximately 862 churches!! This is just one church organization out of many around the country. But the question that came to my mind was: How much money are these churches generating...COLLECTIVELY!! AND...where is all that money going??

Now let's say we could get the member churches of "organizations" like this one to agree to tackle certain aspects of the "VISION" above. Let's say out of 862 churches...200 churches are assigned to the buying of land. Another 100 churches are assigned to the purchase of equipment. Another 100 churches are assigned to the purchase of livestock. Another 100 churches are assigned to the building of the "INFRASTRUCTURE" for farming i.e., building the barns, the grain silos, the pastures etc., etc. Another 100 churches are assigned to the building of warehouses, storage houses, "MEAT" processing plants etc., etc. And let's say the last 200 plus churches are assigned to starting up a "CENTRALIZED BANK"... for all of our future endeavors.

Do you see how we as black people have the "POWER" to change our own "CONDITION" and to change our own "DESTINY?"

If "MANY" can do a little, then a "FEW" won't have to do a lot!!!!

It says in the scriptures: "God has not given me (US) a spirit of fear but of power, love and a SOUND MIND!!" (2 Timothy 1:7) A ... "SOUND MIND"... means that God gave us "INTELLIGENCE!!"

How can we be from the "CREATOR" and not have "CREATIVITY" ourselves??

How can we be made in His image and after His likeness and not use "OUR" Godly powers??

In the movie Forest Gump, he said: Stupid is as Stupid does!!

Right now, it is "STUPID" of us to be the largest "CONSUMERS" of everything and not be the "PRODUCERS" of anything!!

The most Honorable Elijah Muhammad said that his whole ministry could be summed up in six (6) words: Accept Your Own and Do For Self!! He said: Why ask the white man to do for you what you can do for YOURSELF!!

Now let's get back after the scripture in Malachi!!

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.(KJV)

Listen...God is saying here, if you “TEST” me, I will not allow anything negative to hamper your progress. And In terms of growing crops, He will make sure that your efforts “WILL” be fruitful!!

The scripture says that: God gives the INCREASE!! Sometimes 30 fold, 60 fold and sometimes a 100 fold.

BUT...there is a serious question that has to be answered.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Why are we cursed with a curse?? Why are we OPRESSED, SUPRESSED AND DEPRESSED??

Let’s look at Malachi 3:7.....

7. Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "

But you ask, 'How are we to return?

Somewhere down the line, we stop trusting, believing and “DEPENDING” on God to “SUPPLY” all our needs and started trusting, believing and “DEPENDING” ...in someone else to “SUPPLY” all of our needs!!

Now, did slavery have a lot to do with this? Yes...to a certain extent. But today we are now a “FREE” people and we can’t keep using slavery as an excuse!!

The scripture goes on to say: “Return to me, and I will return to you!!”

Now that’s the God of ... A SECOND CHANCE!!

So...in my conclusion, we are now living in the time of “ENLIGHTENMENT” and I hope that this “different look” at a scripture that we have all here heard all of our lives has shed some light on the “potential” of us as a people.

I end with this story from the bible...Mathew 25:14-29

“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the Master of those

servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have five more. His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more. His Master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. "Come share in your Master's happiness!" Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you. His Master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I harvested where I have not sown and gathered where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten talents.' For everyone who has will be given more and he will have an abundance." Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

So...what's the moral of the story?

First of all, since this passage of scripture is dealing with money, it shows that we should be "pooling" our money and "investing" it. And, at the bare minimum of all investment strategies, we should at least put our money in the bank where the money can at least...draw interest!! But lastly and more importantly, this scripture shows that: God doesn't like anyone that's sitting around doing...NOTHING!!

Now we all say that we are looking for the return of Jesus...THE MASTER...right? The question is: How do we want Him to find us? Do we want Him to find us sitting around doing...NOTHING?? Do we want Him to find us afraid and lazy like the servant above in the scripture? Do we want Him to find us...dependent...on others? Or... do we want Him to come back and find us "UNITED" and using all of the talents and gifts that He has put "IN" us and "COLLECTIVELY" pooling our resources and working together in establishing His Kingdom?

Rise up Black man and Black woman and let's take our place in this world as a SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE!!

May God bless us all with the light of understanding!!

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