

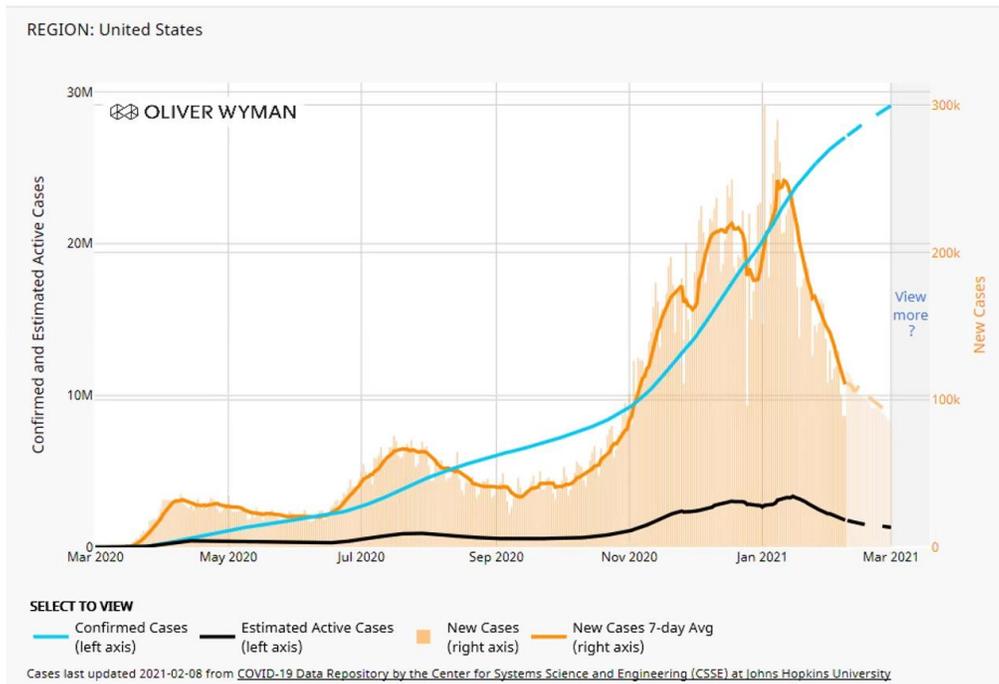
# To the Servants of the Most High God at Topeka, Kansas February 21, 2021

## Return on Investment (ROI) & The Wild Grapes Problem

Corona Virus Update: The US is currently right at 500,000 deaths since the pandemic began one-year ago.

- Per survey data, only 50-70% of Americans say they are willing to get vaccinated now. Though this number is expected to rise over the months.

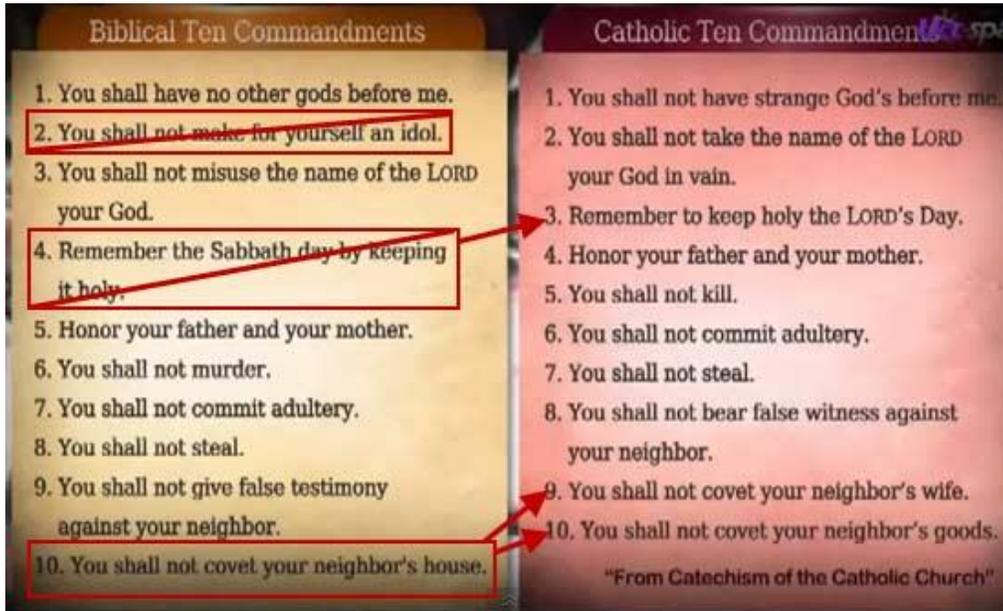
### COVID-19 will influence our world for months to come



-

We recently went past a local Catholic church and right outside the church are some statues – Mary with Jesus in her arms, Jesus on the Cross, an angel, a studious looking monk and the like. I instantly thought, how can they have what are clearly graven images when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment states (Exodus 20:4) *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath,*

or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. And, then I thought I remembered that the Catholics renumbered their 10 commandments so there is not a second commandment. I thought “no, that can’t be true, I must have remembered that wrong.” And, then, I thought, “no, I better look it up.”



Contemplate this for a moment. This is one of the most deceitful things I have ever seen in my life, let alone one of the most deceitful things I have seen in the name of religion. They renumbered the 10 commandments from God for the express purpose of downplaying that they are expressly forbidden to make or bow down/worship a graven image, because that is what they want to do. This is the very definition of “*handling the word of God deceitfully.*”

2 Cor. 4:1 *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; **2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;** but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.*

It is particularly dishonest because for millennia they have taught that the average person should not read the Bible for themselves, because that is the job and the role of the Catholic priest. So, the priests know they will not get called on the lie, because they have taught the parishioners to be Bible illiterate. Under the logic they use for commandments 9 and 10 there should actually be 16 commandments when you put #2 back in place.

Ex. 20:17 (10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, (11) thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, (12) nor his manservant, (13) nor his maidservant, (14) nor his ox, (15) nor his ass, (16) nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. That is crafty, deliberate, evil stuff.

- -

You may not have realized it, but God Almighty invented the business concept of **return on investment** (ROI). Return on investment is taught in business schools and is referred to in corporations and businesses every single day across the globe.

*What Is Return on Investment (ROI)?*

*Return on Investment (ROI) is a performance measure used to evaluate the efficiency of an investment or compare the efficiency of a number of different investments. ROI tries to directly measure the amount of return on a particular investment, relative to the investment's cost. To calculate ROI, the benefit (or return) of an investment is divided by the cost of the investment. The result is expressed as a percentage or a ratio.*

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\text{Net Investment Return}}{\text{Cost of Investment}}$$

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\$1 \text{ Net Profit}}{\$100 \text{ Investment Cost}}$$

$$\text{ROI} = \$1 \text{ or } 1\%$$

It is worth putting your \$100 in jeopardy to earn a return of \$1?  
Or, a return of zero dollars?

Return on investment is used a million times a day in business. It is used to analyze whether the benefit you will receive at the end of the day, is worth the cost of the initial outlay. If I am Ford Motor Company I might ask, should I buy 5 robotic machines at \$20,000,000 each? I do not know! What is my return on investment? What is the life of each machine? How many car parts can I manufacture with each machine? How fast can I produce the car parts compared to traditional methods? How much will my labor costs go down? How long will the machine last? If I am a private investor, should I buy X stock for \$500 dollars per share? I do not know, what is my likely return on investment? If I hold it for 5 years how much

will I make in stock dividends? Will my stock split? What class of stock is it? Do I have to pay tax on the return? What will the share price likely be at the end of the 5 years? If I am a venture capitalist (like on Shark Tank) should I invest in a new product or a new Internet startup? I do not know! What is the risk and what is the reward? A venture capitalist usually wants to get a 20% return or higher on their investment. ROI is, what will I get in return, relative to what my initial and final outlay is. If I buy this vineyard, and I put a lot of time and money into it, what is my likely ROI?



A bucket of freshly cut grapes during at Château Fieuzal in the Pessac-Leognan wine-producing area near Bordeaux, France, in 2014.

*Isaiah 5:1 Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching His vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And He fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and He looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of*

*Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? 5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry. 8 Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth! 9 In mine ears said the LORD of hosts, Of a truth many houses shall be desolate, even great and fair, without inhabitant. 10 Yea, ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath, and the seed of an homer shall yield an ephah.*

The vineyard as described in Isaiah 5 stands representative of the Jewish people and the nation of Israel. The LORD had great expectations for this vineyard – His vineyard. He should be able to attain a high return on His investment.

1 ... *My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill:* First, the vineyard is a *very fruitful hill*. The vineyard sits on high quality ground. This ground is not out in the desert or on the side of a mountain. *“Running a vineyard is like selling real estate: location is everything. We tend to think grape variety drives flavor, but it’s location - location transcends grape variety every time.”* This vineyard is sitting in a premium place for growing grapes. Rolling hills in particular are a great place for growing grapes, because of



their exposure to the sun and the ability to drain moisture away. To grow most fruits and vegetables you need full sun. Period. It takes a lot of “horsepower” and energy to grow fruits and vegetables and that comes from the sun. God had planted His people in circumstances where He has a right to expect great growth in attachment to Him. I once got invited to a plush, hoity toity, Napa Valley,

California event at one of their vineyards. Napa Valley is a beautiful place. It is just north of San Francisco. Napa Valley is one of the premiere places for wine growing in the world and is number one in the U.S. for growing grapes in terms of quality and desirability. The cost per acre in Napa Valley is around \$400,000. Napa Valley is stunningly beautiful, and the vines and grapes are immaculately cared for and quite dense. However, its resources are nothing next to God’s resources.

*2 And He fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.*

*And He fenced it.* I know a little about fencing. Fencing is hard work in the hot sun. You must keep up on it or the fencing falls apart and then you have cattle and other livestock in your vineyard. It is expensive and time consuming. At our little garden this is one of my least favorite tasks. It is tedious work. The LORD fenced and hedged Israel about. He put them under His special and careful eye to keep them safe night and day. He staged angels round about them to ensure their safety and well-being.

He *gathered out the stones*. You do not want rocks and stones in your vineyard. Stones prevent the vines from thriving and growing well. Gathering stones out of the soil is tedious work. We have done that. In gardening at least, it is ALL about soil quality. Soil quality is EVERYTHING. You can have great plants, with lots of sunshine and rain, but if you plant

them in poor quality, depleted soil, it will not matter, your plants will die, or they will be weak and sickly. The Lord made sure that nothing in this soil would take away from or prevent them from being fruitful. The Lord helped the Israelites get rid of the heathen and idols that were in the land so they could thrive. The Lord ploughed the ground. He weeded the ground. He tended to the soil day and night. Most of you, young and old have worked or weeded in a garden or flower bed, you know exactly what I am talking about.

He *planted it with the choicest vines*. Did you know with the right care and pruning, a single grape vine can last more than 30 years? But you must have the right vine for the right location. He chose goodly vines, the likes of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Great care was



taken to plant the right vines. This also presupposes that God will prune the vines and tend to the vines as needed. It is a continual investment. Every year professional wineries cut back 90% of the vine. It does not seem logical, but the reality is that pruning grape vines (the right way) will produce more and better-quality grape clusters. IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME TO PRUNE VINES. The “trunk” of the vine/plant looks like

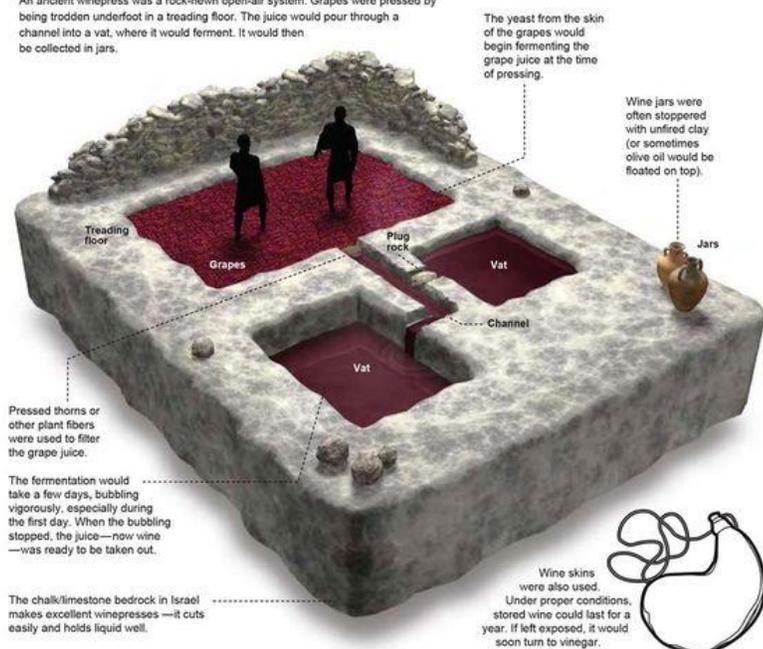
a small tree with bark. Above that, the “canopy” of the plant springs forth from fresh canes. Grapes will only grow from those young, one-year-old canes. This means annual pruning is the only way to maintain a consistent yearly supply of young canes, allowing high-quality grapes to grow. Failing to prune a vine would result in a lower yield and lower quality fruit.

He *built a tower in the midst of it*. The tower was for security and for the watchmen to defend it and to keep it from violence. The tower was also a space for the wine dressers to lodge on-site. He is going to spare no expense to make sure they have everything they need to be successful, even as He does for us. This vineyard is going to be well taken care of. Anytime, you have a capital project, like a tower, that is a substantial expense.

He also *made a winepress* on-site to tread the grapes. Again, he spared no expense to make sure they had everything needed to be successful.

# A Winepress in Ancient Israel

An ancient winepress was a rock-hewn open-air system. Grapes were pressed by being trodden underfoot in a treading floor. The juice would pour through a channel into a vat, where it would ferment. It would then be collected in jars.



GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA, COPYRIGHT 2011 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

And he looked – God watched and waited patiently so see what the vineyard would produce. Typically, when you plant a new vine it takes three years before the vine will produce mature grapes. *He looked that it should bring forth grapes, and instead it brought forth wild grapes.* Notwithstanding the substantial investment He made in the people of Israel, including appearing to them in person, giving them His law, and working with them daily, they brought forth “wild grapes.” This means bad, stinking, corrupt,

worthless, or rotting grapes. These grapes had no value to Him. You cannot make fine wine with stinking or worthless grapes. They are bitter, sour, and poisonous. You cannot reform rotting, poisonous grapes. God omitted nothing that they needed to produce piety, obedience and happiness and they abused it all and instead became worldly and exceedingly corrupt. He lost his whole investment. God’s return on investment was zero! If you have a ROI of zero you immediately abandon the investment and look for a new one. This is a huge disappointment. He rightfully expected a great return and instead received nothing. *Matthew Henry: God expects vineyard-fruit from those that enjoy vineyard-privileges... There must be fruit, a good heart and a good life, vineyard fruit, thoughts and affections, words and actions, agreeable to the Spirit, which is the fatness of the vineyard.* He is *Lord of the vineyard* and entitled to *fruit according to the season. His expectations are neither high nor hard, but righteous and very reasonable.* Yet, this naughty vineyard is full of the vines of Sodom. *Easton’s Bible Dictionary says: Vine of Sodom referred to only in Deuteronomy 32:32. ... this is most probable that in the 'osher of the Arabs (a modern view of Arabic history and culture), which abounds in the region of the Dead Sea. Its fruit are the so-called "apples of Sodom," which, though beautiful to the eye, are exceedingly bitter to the taste.* The people of Israel are referred to here by Moses as being utterly corrupt, bringing forth only bitter fruit. *De 32:32-33 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall, their clusters are bitter. 33 Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of asps.* *Smith’s Bible Dictionary adds this: It is*

*generally supposed that this passage alludes to the celebrated apples of Sodom, of which Josephus speaks, "which indeed resemble edible fruit in color, but on being plucked by the hand, are dissolved into smoke and ashes."*

*Isaiah 5:3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? 5 And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.* When you have made a substantial investment in something and it produces no return, you do not “throw good money after bad.” You leave that wasted investment. You take away the investment that you made. You immediately look for a new and better investment and opportunity that will turn out better than that one.

*8 Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth! 9 In mine ears said the LORD of hosts, Of a truth many houses shall be desolate, even great and fair, without inhabitant. 10 Yea, ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath, and the seed of an homer shall yield an ephah.*

Those Israelites – at that time - were no good. Their houses, from the day our Lord Jesus Christ spoke the words, to this day, have been made desolate. You can plant a ten-acre vineyard and it will produce one bath of wine, or about 4 gallons. A productive vineyard in our day, will produce between 2 and 10 tons of grapes per acre. We will calculate on the low side. 1 ton of grapes results in about 2 barrels of wine. Each barrel contains about 60 gallons, or 300 bottles. So, if each acre is producing 2 tons of grapes that equates to 4 barrels of wine or 240 gallons per acre or 1,200 bottles of wine per acre. For a 10-acre vineyard, on the low side, the vineyard should produce 2,400 gallons of wine verses 4 gallons (or somewhere around 12,000 bottles of wine). That is a dismal return on investment. You walk away from that investment.

I am telling you beloved, we want to produce a lot of fruit. We desperately want to: *deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world*

(Titus 1:12). *We want to walk after the spirit and not after the flesh (Rom. 8:4). For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit (Rom. 8:5). For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Rom. 8:6). Because the carnal mind is enmity against God... So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom 8:7-8). But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you (Rom 8:9). For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live; For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Rom 8:13-14). The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God (Rom 8:16).* We want to represent a good return on investment for the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Tim 2:3 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; **that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier...** 6 The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits.* To use the vineyard metaphor in another way: Paul is telling Timothy that he has to labor in the vineyard before he can reap the reward of the first fruits of the harvest. We must do the same. We must endure hardness, avoid becoming entangled in the affairs of this life and please Christ who called us to be a soldier for Him.

Mat. 25:14 *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. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 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. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou 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. 22 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. 23 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. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not*

*strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 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. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

The LORD Jesus Christ has traveled to a far country – heaven. He has not yet returned at his second advent. His Second Coming is yet to occur. Before He left, He left instruction as to what His servants should be doing in His absence. E.g. Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.* But there are some that are wicked and slothful servants. Their ROI is zero. In His absence he is going to determine through this exercise, who is a faithful and good steward, worthy of His investment and who is not. The Lord Jesus Christ is committing in some cases a large sum of worldly money (think silver or gold) to their care based on the abilities of each person as He saw them able to improve it. Luke 12:48 *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.* We are in a state of work and business. We have something to prove. This is no time to walk in the night as to rioting (partying) and drunkenness, chambering (laying down for adultery and fornication) and wantonness (unbridled lust), strife (contentiousness and debate) and envying (rivalry and jealousy) (Rom. 13:13). Diligence, singleness of mind and fidelity to our mission is required. The LORD has given us the privilege of being here, we have no right to it. We have a job to do. We are tenants upon His land, and we have no right to be here, except for His good privilege. All His servants were given at least something, and then He left. *Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* What are you going to do with the time you are given, and the resources entrusted to you? Gran's advice is worth noting here. She said, "do more for the Lord."

*...He that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.* He went. It means "to lead." He went forward, he moved about, he pursued his journey and he expended energy. He traded. It means to work and labor. It means to make gains by doing business and earn by working. It means to exercise, to

perform, to acquire and to commit. He earned 100% on his investment. As soon as his master left, he immediately began applying himself to the task at hand. He got an A in *Makes good use of his/her time*. In other words, "time is of the essence." This is a legal term that means that failure to act upon the agreed upon time constitutes a material breach of performance. The true Christian has a lot of work to do in this world and a limited amount of time to do it. 2 Tim 4:1 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* We must apply ourselves to our business. Matthew Henry says: *Thus does a true Christian act in the work of religion; we have no stock of our own to trade with, but trade with our master's stock. The endowments of the mind — reason, wit, learning, must be used in subserviency to religion; the enjoyments of the world — estate, credit, interest, power, preferment, must be improved for the honour of Christ. ... From those to whom God hath given five talents, he expects the improvement of five, and to reap plentifully where he sows plentifully. The greater gifts any have, the more pains they ought to take, as those must that have a large stock to manage. From those to whom he has given but two talents, he expects only the improvement of two, which may encourage those who are placed in a lower and narrower sphere of usefulness; if they lay out themselves to do good according to the best of their capacity and opportunity, they shall be accepted, though they do not so much good as others.* Robert Haldane says that we are to *attend to the duty of our office with earnestness and diligence. It is the duty of all to spend and to be spent in the service of our Lord.*

*His lord said unto him, Well done, thou 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.* A faithful servant is one who does his Lord's bidding in His absence as if His Lord was in front of him. A faithful servant is one who carries out his Lord's mission, vision, values and work. He is accountable to His Lord and meets all of his deliverables. Gill says: *and such may be said to be "faithful," who preach the pure Gospel of Christ, and the whole of it; who neither mix it with the inventions of men, nor keep back any part of it from the saints; who seek not to please men, but their Lord and Master; and not their own honour and applause, but His glory; and who abide by Him and His cause, notwithstanding all reproaches, afflictions, and persecutions.*

*I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of the Lord.* They shall inherit the kingdom prepared for them, sit down with Christ in His throne, and wear the

never fading crown of glory, life, and righteousness. *They will enter into the joy of the Lord – not their own joy – but that of the Lord’s.* It is said if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life. We love to do the work of the LORD. It is our passion and our joy. It is not grievous, it is lovely. Psalm 84:1 *How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.*

*24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.* His return on investment is zero. Who told you, God loves everyone? They are a liar. Even the man with one talent is brought before the bar of God to give account for the things done in this life. The LORD wants to know what His return on investment is. There are no passes here. 2 Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.* Here is the question. If the man was not working toward the Master’s ends and was unfaithful toward His master – what was he in fact doing after he hid the talent in the earth? What was he doing? What are you doing? This was neglectful of his duties. He engaged in frivolous, and wicked behavior. He was lazy and slothful. He was carnally and worldly minded and engaged in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). These were not just unintentional acts, but they were in fact intentional. He convicts himself because he says he knew his master was an hard man, reaping where he had not sown, and gathering where he had not strawed. And, in fact, if the man was fully committed to his Lord he would never see Him as such, but that He was reasonable and faithful and kind and just and merciful. He describes Christ as covetous and as a hard master – which is not our experience beloved.

Matthew Henry says: *It was an aggravation of his slothfulness, that his fellow-servants were busy and successful in trading, and their zeal should have provoked his. Are others active, and shall we be idle?* So, the man is afraid and hides the talent in the earth. Rev. 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

*26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest*

*therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 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. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

The judgment is rendered. *Thou wicked and slothful servant...* Gill: *He hid his talent (what are you saving it for?). He neglected the gift that was in him; did not stir it up, or study to show himself a workman that needeth not to be ashamed; he did not give himself up to reading, meditation, and prayer; but trusted to, and depended on what other men had done;...entered into the labours of others; and being afraid of difficulties, indulged himself in ease and pleasure, served his own belly, and not the Lord Jesus; he gratified his worldly lusts, and had no regard to his master's interest.* A record is being made, and that record is just and true and will be consulted in the day of judgment.

*And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* This man is in fact “unprofitable.” It is a statement of fact. His return on investment was zero – no profit – no benefit – no enhancement. The sentence is read and delivered with finality and certainness. The man is cast into outer darkness where there is only weeping and gnashing of teeth. Mat 13: 41 *The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.* Mat. 22:12 *And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Luke 13:6 *He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.*

I love you all. Amen.