



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 1:1-6:1
- Luke 16:1-13
- Matthew 7:7-12; 25:14-30
- Isaiah 6:1-13

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO

KNOW

- Shrewd Operator
- Inquiring Minds
- Well Done

Ignorance is bliss, isn't it? I guess it's all a matter of perspective. If you want to live your life with your head buried in the sand, then I guess you might be able to pull it off. You just might get by as clueless and happy. However, there are always two sides of every story, and life itself exists on both sides of a coin. If true, then what are you missing if you choose to stay ignorant? Even if you could manage to stay safe, and comfortable, and blissfully unaware, what are you sacrificing by doing so?

Back in the early 1980's, The National Enquirer, a supermarket tabloid, coined the phrase "Enquiring minds want to know." Now, of course, their actual content offered nothing substantive that could even remotely remedy ignorance, but their slogan was spot on! To enquire means to ask and asking is a good thing. But again,

the answers you'd get by reading that rag could never truly cure ignorance. Nevertheless, promoting the desire to ask was an excellent concept. And better than an enquiring mind is an inquiring mind. To inquire goes a step further than asking; it means to investigate. "Inquiring minds want to know!"

Investigation is very satisfying because revelation leads to truth, and truth naturally solves the ignorance dilemma. In the end, you will undoubtedly determine that inquiring is bliss, not ignorance! And, if you apply this tactic to your spiritual life, you will find that it is precisely those who are inquiring that God uses to do great things. Now, if that is not bliss, then I don't know what is!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, **“I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”** So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, **“Here I am.”**” Exodus 3:2-4 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“**Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you. **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**” Matthew 7:7-8 NKJV

“His Lord said to him, **‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.** Enter into the joy of your Lord.’” Matthew 25:21 NKJV

“**For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance;** but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.” Matthew 25:29 NKJV

“And **whatever we ask we receive** from Him, because we keep His commandments and **do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**” I John 3:22 NKJV

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” **Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”**” Isaiah 6:8 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The Hebrew title for Exodus comes from the opening phrase of the book: “Now these are the names (she-mot) of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob” (Exodus 1:1). The English

name Exodus comes from the Septuagint (LXX), the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible. The Greek title is Exodus Aigyptou, "Departure from Egypt." Exodus means "departure."

2. Exodus begins by naming the children of Israel who were invited by Joseph into Egypt during the famine. The narrative includes:
 - a) How Israel went from invited guests to slaves
 - b) How Israel went from slaves to freedom by way of a miraculous redemption through the hand of Moses
 - c) The ten plagues and the first Passover
 - d) The story of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai
 - e) The construction of the golden calf
 - f) The construction of the Tabernacle
 - g) The formation of the priesthood
 - h) It seems at first that the God has forgotten them. But, as the narrative progresses, it is clear that He has done no such thing. Yahweh has not forgotten His promises.

Exodus 1

3. The Israelites who came to Egypt are named, and with their household there is total of 70 people.
4. Joseph's entire generation passes on but Israel continues to multiply dramatically.

5. A new king (Pharaoh) is in power who cares nothing about the memory of Joseph and his descendants, but instead is afraid of Israel's growing strength in numbers.
6. Instead of risking an uprising or Israel siding with his enemies, he places the Israelites under forced hard labor—they go from guests to prisoners (slaves).
7. The oppression does not stop their fruitful multiplication. So, Pharaoh instructs the Hebrew midwives to kill any males at birth. They, instead, honor Yahweh and refuse to do so!
8. Pharaoh instructs his people to kill all the male babies by throwing them in the Nile.
 - a) See Matthew 2 for a similar decree by Herod to kill all the males in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under.

Exodus 2

9. Moses is born and is hidden for three months. To preserve his life he is placed in a basket on the banks of the Nile. His sister Miriam watches over him until he is plucked from the river by Pharaoh's daughter.
 - a) Note: instead of Moses dying in the Nile waters, he is saved in a basket above the waters, like Noah and the Ark!
10. Pharaoh's daughter knows it is a Hebrew boy but it seems that Miriam then offers to get a wet nurse to feed the baby. Miriam

brings Moses' mother to nurse her own child and she gets paid to do so!

11. After he has grown past nursing he is brought back to Pharaoh's daughter, who then adopts him as her own and names him Moses (because he was drawn from the water.)
12. As an adult, Moses sees a Hebrew being abused by an Egyptian and he kills him and hides the body in the sand.
13. The next day he rebukes two Hebrew men for fighting with one another and they ask if he plans on killing them like he did the Egyptian.
14. Now that his crime is found out, Pharaoh wants to kill Moses so he escapes to Midian.
15. Moses rescues the seven daughters of a Midianite priest (Jethro) from raiders and then he helps them draw water.
16. He's invited back to their home and is given one daughter, Zipporah, as his wife. She gives birth to a son, Gershom (immigrant).
17. Pharaoh dies and the Israelites are still groaning because of their hard labor.

Exodus 3

18. Next is the burning bush incident: Moses sees a bush on fire which is not being consumed and he goes to check it out.

- a) Moses curiosity and his decision to investigate is no small thing. It is because he takes the initiative to do so that God then uses him!

19. Yahweh appears in the bush and calls to Moses.

20. As he approaches, Moses is told he is standing on holy ground and Yahweh calls out to him.

21. Moses hides his face as he cannot look upon Yahweh.

22. Yahweh promises to rescue his people from Egypt and bring them to a promised land, and that He is sending Moses to deliver the message and lead them out.

23. Moses doubts his ability to do so and **Yahweh** reveals His name to Moses

- a) “This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.”

24. Yahweh tells Moses what to say to the people of Israel: (

- a) Tell them Yahweh sent you.
- b) Yahweh is also the name that will be declared to Pharaoh!

25. He gives Moses signs he can use to convince the people that he was sent by Yahweh.

26. Instructions: First tell the Hebrew people what you are there to do (they will believe you) and then go with their elders and tell Pharaoh that you need to go three-day’s journey into the dessert to worship Me (he will not relent without force).

27. He will not want to let them leave, “So I’ll use my strength and hit Egypt with dramatic displays of my power. After that, he’ll let you go.”
28. In the end, they will not only let you leave but you will not go away empty-handed. You will take their silver and their gold jewelry as well as their clothing.

Exodus 4

29. Moses still has doubts!
- a) What if Pharaoh does not believe anything I am saying?
 - b) Use these signs to convince him: Rod into a snake, leprous hand, and water into blood.
30. Moses fears his lack of public speaking ability, so Yahweh assigns his brother Aaron to help.
- a) Yahweh promises to teach them both what to say.
31. Moses is told to go back to Egypt with his family and to make sure he appears before Pharaoh with the signs.
32. Yahweh warns Moses that He intends to make Pharaoh stubborn, so that he won’t let the people go.
33. **The Ultimate Warning [PROPHETIC MOMENT]** Moses, tell Pharaoh this:
- a) “This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son. I said to you, “Let my son go so he could worship me.” But you

refused to let him go. As a result, now I'm going to kill your firstborn son."

b) Things to keep in mind throughout the entire book of exodus:

- 1) The firstborn is the one at risk.
- 2) The firstborn is the one who either dies without or is delivered by the blood of the lamb.
- 3) We are the church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:22-24).
- 4) Non-firstborns are never at risk and have a choice to stay in Egypt or leave with Israel.

34. On the way to Egypt Zipporah saves Moses' life by circumcising her son and she holds the knife to Moses genitals and calls him a "bridegroom because of bloodshed."

35. Yahweh tells Aaron to meet Moses on His mountain and Moses tells Aaron of the mission and about all the signs.

36. They arrive in Egypt and Aaron relays the message to the people while Moses performs the signs and the people believed and worshiped Yahweh.

Exodus 5

37. In Moses' first meeting with Pharaoh his response is:

- a) Who is this Yahweh whom I'm supposed to obey?
- b) I don't know this God, and I certainly won't let Israel go.

38. As an angry response, Pharaoh removes the straw from the Hebrew slaves and demands they fetch their own straw, yet still they must produce the same quota of bricks.
39. The Hebrew slaves are driven even harder by the Egyptian slave masters and as a result they rebuke Moses.
- a) "Let Yahweh see and judge what you've done! You've made us stink in the opinion of Pharaoh and his servants. You've given them a reason to kill us."
40. Moses questions Yahweh about the negative results.
1. Why have You caused trouble for the people; why have you sent me; all Your name has done is to provoke Pharaoh to do more evil; it certainly has not delivered your people!

Exodus 6

41. Yahweh reassures Moses of His plan.
- a) "Now you will see what I'll do to Pharaoh. In fact, he'll be so eager to let them go that he'll drive them out of his land by force."
42. You can see past years teachings on this portion of scripture here: [Playwright and Players](#) & [Fear God or Fear Man?](#)

SHREWD OPERATOR

1. A King Who Did NOT Know Joseph

A. From Invited Guests to Bitter Bondage

(1) The Problem

- (a) **Abundant Favor:** “And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. But **the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly**, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.”

Exodus 1:6-7 NKJV

- (b) **No More Connections at the Top:** “Now there arose a **new king** over Egypt, **who did not know Joseph.**”

Exodus 1:8 NKJV

(2) The Shrewd Solution

- (a) **Afflict them in their abundance!** “And he said to his people, “**Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them**, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land. Therefore they **set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens**. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.” Exodus 1:9-11 NKJV

(3) It does not work!

- (a) **Afflict them more!** “But **the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied** and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.” Exodus 1:12 NKJV
- (4) What do you do if you cannot slow down God’s blessing?
- (a) **Double down on the affliction...** “So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. **And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage**—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.” Exodus 1:13-14 NKJV
- (5) Summary
- (a) From Invited Guests to Bitter Bondage
1. Israel was thriving in Egypt when a new King took over who had no connection to Joseph and his leadership role in Egypt.
 2. Pharaoh is worried that Israel is more powerful than Egypt, so he decides to oppress them.
 3. Israel goes from an invited guest to an enslaved nation, but it does not keep Israel from growing in strength.
 4. So, Pharaoh doubles down on his methodology and increases their affliction! That does not work either.

B. Whom will you serve?

(1) Triple Down on the Affliction

- (a) **Serve Pharaoh? Kill the unborn sons!** “Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiprah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, “**When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him;** but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.”” Exodus 1:15-16 NKJV

(2) Once again, affliction does not work—Fear of God

- (a) **Serve Yahweh? Save the unborn sons!** “But **the midwives feared God**, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, **but saved the male children alive.**” Exodus 1:17 NKJV

(3) Summary

- (a) Whom will you serve?
1. The slavery thing can't slow down Israel's multiplication, so Pharaoh directs the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male babies (as soon as they know the gender).
 2. This is what we would call today, partial birth abortion!
 3. The midwives outright refuse to do so!

C. **Does “Shrewdness” Really Pay?** Pharaoh: *“Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply...”*

(1) The Problem

(a) **Poor Stewardship:** “He also said to His disciples: “There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and **an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.** So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? **Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.**’ “Then the steward said within himself, ‘What shall I do? For **my master is taking the stewardship away from me.** I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.” Luke 16:1-3 NKJV

(2) The Solution

(a) **Lie, cheat & steal (a brand of shrewdness):** “I have resolved what to do, that **when I am put out of the stewardship,** they may receive me into their houses.’ “So he called every one of his master’s debtors to him, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ And he said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ So he said to him, ‘**Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.**’ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ So he said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’

And he said to him, **'Take your bill, and write eighty.'**"

Luke 16:4-7 NKJV

(3) Shrewd Operator

- (a) **Shrewdness seems to pay off!** "So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light." Luke 16:8 NKJV

(4) The Ultimate Price of Unrighteousness

- (a) **Oops! That type of unrighteous shrewdness won't translate into true riches!** "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. **Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?** And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" Luke 16:9-12 NKJV

(5) You simply cannot serve two masters...

- (a) **There is one true God, and your appeal to the wrong God will always turn out badly!** "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the

other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon.**”” Luke 16:13 NKJV

(6) Summary

(a) Does “Shrewdness” Really Pay?

1. When you are not managing well and you get busted, what should you do?
2. Well, if you are unrighteous, you try to lie, cheat and rob your way out of it.
3. It will seem like that works well in the natural, but in the end it will never bring true success.
4. The reason why is because God is always watching to whom you pay your ultimate allegiance, and when it is to the god of this world, you will invariably flop!

**D. Back to our Exodus narrative (appealing to the correct God)
—Midwives to the Rescue**

(1) The Good Lie

- (a) **Righteous shrewdness that Yahweh can honor!** “So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?” And the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because **the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian**

women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.” Exodus 1:18-19 NKJV

(2) The Favor of God

- (a) **No servant can serve two masters! The midwives chose the right Master to serve! “Therefore God dealt well with the midwives,** and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so **it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.”**

Exodus 1:20-21 NKJV

(3) Quadruple Down—When first, and second, and third you don’t succeed—try again!

- (a) **Kill all the Born Baby Boys!** “So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, **“Every son who is born you shall cast into the river,** and every daughter you shall save alive.”” Exodus 1:22 NKJV

(4) Summary

- (a) Back to our Exodus narrative (appealing to the correct God)—Midwives to the Rescue

1. Righteous shrewdness that Yahweh can honor! When you have a holy fear of God (reverence), you will do anything to honor and obey Him, even if that means lying to an unrighteous leader.

2. No servant can serve two masters! The midwives chose the right Master to serve!
3. When first, and second, and third you don't succeed—try again, just kill the babies after they are born!
4. But as we will see, it is impossible to kick against the goads, in other words, you cannot slow down God's plan or His favor over His people, no matter how hard you try!
5. Pharaoh's command to kill the "born sons" eventually leads to Israel's freedom and Egypt's ultimate demise, at the hands of Moses, and Paul could not do it to the church!

E. Afflicting God's people will not slow them down!

- (1) This is exactly what Paul did, as the church multiplied!
But, you simply can't kick against the goads!

(a) **The church was fruitful and increased abundantly...**

1. **God's Favor!** "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising **God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily** those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47 NKJV

2. **Multitudes!** “And **believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women**, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.” Acts 5:14-15 NKJV
 3. **Multiplied greatly!** “Then the word of God spread, **and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly** in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.” Acts 6:7 NKJV
- (b) **Afflict them in their abundance! That should stop them!**
1. “Now Saul was consenting to his death. **At that time a great persecution arose against the church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... As for Saul, he **made havoc of the church**, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. **Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.**” Acts 8:1, 3-4 NKJV
 2. **Paul’s Burning Bush Experience!** “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly **a light shone**

around him from heaven. **Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice** saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, **“Who are You, Lord?”** Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**” So he, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”** Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”” Acts 9:3-6 NKJV

3. **After Paul’s Conversion—the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied:** “Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. **And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.**” Acts 9:31 NKJV

(2) Summary

(a) Afflicting God’s people will not slow them down!

1. This is exactly what Paul did as the church multiplied! But, you simply can’t kick against the goads!
2. The church was fruitful and increased abundantly.
3. Afflict them in their abundance and that should stop them!

4. Paul is persecuting and wreaking havoc on the church.
5. Then, Paul has a Burning Bush Experience! And an Inquiry—Lord, what do you want me to do?
6. After Paul’s Conversion—the more they afflicted the church, the more they multiplied.

F. Moses is Preserved

(1) From Birth to Sonship

- (a) “And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi. So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months. **But when she could no longer hide him,** she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, **and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank.** And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him. Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. **So she had compassion on him, and said, “This is one of the Hebrews’ children.”** Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s

daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "**Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.**" So the woman took the child and nursed him. And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. **So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."**" Exodus 2:1-10 NKJV

(2) From Sonship to Fugitive

- (a) "Now it came to pass in those days, **when Moses was grown**, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. **So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian** and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? **Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?**" So Moses

feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" **When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled** from the face of Pharaoh **and dwelt in the land of Midian;** and he sat down by a well." Exodus 2:11-15 NKJV

(3) From Fugitive to Peace

- (a) "Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.** When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?" And they said, "**An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds,** and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock." So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." **Then Moses was content to live with the man,** and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. And she bore him a son. He called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land.'" Exodus 2:16-22 NKJV

(4) From Peace to Instrument of God

(a) **“Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned** because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. **So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.” Exodus 2:23-25 NKJV

(5) Summary

(a) Moses is Preserved

1. Moses is rescued after birth and becomes a son of Egypt.
2. Moses goes from leader and a son of Egypt to a fugitive.
3. Moses goes from a fugitive to at total peace and contentment with where he has settled!
4. He goes from being at peace to becoming an instrument of God.
5. We do not have time here to elaborate, but if you study II Samuel 7, you will notice that it was when King David was at total peace that he had one of the most important revelations you will see anywhere in

scripture. I highly recommend you study [The Tale of Two Prepositions](#)

G. History Repeats Itself— A King Who Did NOT Know Y’shua

(1) A King Who Did NOT Know Y’shua

- (a) “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea **in the days of Herod the king**, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born **King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” **When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled**, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he **inquired of them where the Christ was to be born**. So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; **For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.**’ ” Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “**Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me,**

that I may come and worship Him also.” Matthew
2:1-8 NKJV

(2) Fear of God not Man = Favor of God

- (a) “When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod,** they departed for their own country another way.” Matthew 2:9-12 NKJV

(3) Protection of the Child

- (a) **“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream,** saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, **he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod,** that

it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Matthew 2:13-15 NKJV

(4) Kill the Baby Boys

- (a) "Then Herod, **when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men** *[they did not come back with the word of the child's birth and whereabouts]*, **was exceedingly angry;** and he sent forth and **put to death all the male children** who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, **from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.** Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." Matthew 2:16-18 NKJV

(5) The King is Dead

- (a) "Now when **Herod was dead**, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, **"Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel,** for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, “He shall be called a Nazarene.”” Matthew 2:19-23 NKJV

(6) From Peace to Instrument of God

(a) Chapter three of Matthew shows the preparation of the way for them Messiah by John the Baptist. How?— through the water, like Moses.

(b) And then we see the introduction to the ultimate Instrument of God...

1. “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly **a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**”

Matthew 3:16-17 NKJV

(7) Summary

(a) History Repeats Itself— A King Who Did NOT Know Y’shua

1. Herod wanted the “wise men” to report back to him when and where this “king child” was born.
2. The wise men have a vision from God that they SHOULD NOT do so and they bolt out of town after they meet the child “king and ruler”.
3. Herod is not happy when he discovers he’s been deceived.
4. He orders all the babies two and under killed (in similar fashion or Pharaoh).
5. God warns Joseph and Mary to go hide in Egypt until Herod is dead (similar to how Moses hid in Midian until Pharaoh was dead).
6. Then they take Y’shua back to Israel, so he can then fulfill His destiny of becoming the deliverer of God’s people (similar to how Moses went back to deliver God’s people).
7. We see that at the onset of His “deliverance ministry”, Y’shua hears God’s voice, just as we will see that Moses hears God’s voice as he sets off into ministry!

Summary: SHREWD OPERATOR

1. A King Who Did NOT Know Joseph

(a) From Invited Guests to Bitter Bondage

1. Israel was thriving in Egypt when a new King took over who had no connection to Joseph and his leadership role in Egypt.
2. Pharaoh is worried that Israel is more powerful than Egypt, so he decides to oppress them.
3. Israel goes from an invited guest to an enslaved nation, but it does not keep Israel from growing in strength.
4. So, Pharaoh doubles down on his methodology and increases their affliction! That does not work either.

(b) Whom will you serve?

1. The slavery thing can't slow down Israel's multiplication, so Pharaoh directs the Hebrew midwives to kill all the male babies (as soon as they know the gender).
2. This is what we would call today, partial birth abortion!
3. The midwives outright refuse to do so!

(c) Does "Shrewdness" Really Pay?

1. When you are not managing well and you get busted, what should you do?
2. Well, if you are unrighteous, you try to lie, cheat and rob your way out of it.

3. It will seem like that works well in the natural, but in the end it will never bring true success.
 4. The reason why is because God is always watching to whom you pay your ultimate allegiance, and when it is to the god of this world, you will invariably flop!
- (d) Back to our Exodus narrative (appealing to the correct God)
—Midwives to the Rescue
1. Righteous shrewdness that Yahweh can honor! When you have a holy fear of God (reverence), you will do anything to honor and obey Him, even if that means lying to an unrighteous leader.
 2. No servant can serve two masters! The midwives chose the right Master to serve!
 3. When first, and second, and third you don't succeed—try again... just kill the babies after they are born!
 4. But as we will see, it is impossible to kick against the goads, in other words, you cannot slow down God's plan or His favor over His people, no matter how hard you try!
 5. Pharaoh's command to kill the "born sons" eventually leads to Israel's freedom and Egypt's ultimate demise, at the hands of Moses, and Paul could not do it to the church!
- (e) Afflicting God's people will not slow them down!

1. This is exactly what Paul did as the church multiplied! But, you simply can't kick against the goads!
2. The church was fruitful and increased abundantly.
3. Afflict them in their abundance and that should stop them!
4. Paul is persecuting and wreaking havoc on the church.
5. Then, Paul has a Burning Bush Experience! And an Inquiry—Lord, what do you want me to do?
6. After Paul's Conversion—the more they afflicted the church, the more they multiplied.

(f) Moses is Preserved

1. Moses is rescued after birth and becomes a son of Egypt.
2. Moses goes from leader and a son of Egypt to a fugitive.
3. Moses goes from a fugitive to at total peace and contentment with where he has settled!
4. He goes from being at peace to becoming an instrument of God.
5. We do not have time here to elaborate, but if you study II Samuel 7, you will notice that it was when King David was at total peace that he had one of the most important revelations you will see anywhere in Scripture. I highly recommend you study [The Tale of Two Prepositions](#)

(g) History Repeats Itself— A King Who Did NOT Know Y'shua

1. Herod wanted the “wise men” to report back to him when and where this “king child” was born.
2. The wise men have a vision from God that they SHOULD NOT do so and they bolt out of town after they meet the child “king and ruler”.
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7. We see that at the onset of His “deliverance ministry”, Y’shua hears God’s voice, just as we will see that Moses hears God’s voice, as he sets off into ministry!

INQUIRING MINDS

2. Yahweh Rewards Inquiring Minds with Awesome Assignments

A. Enquiring vs. Inquiring

- (1) Asking vs. A Formal Investigation
 - (a) To enquire is to ask, however, the idea of inquiring takes asking to another level. It connotes more of an action or formal investigation, rather than a simple enquiry.
- (2) Going about his daily business...
 - (a) “Now **Moses was tending the flock** of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.” Exodus 3:1 NKJV
- (3) When you are faithful in little things, big things happen...
 - (a) “His Lord said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.** Enter into the joy of your Lord.’” Matthew 25:21 NKJV
- (4) The Encounter—in the midst of your daily faithfulness...
 - (a) “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and **behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.**” Exodus 3:2 NKJV

(5) Ignore it or make an inquiry? I Think I'll Take a Closer Look...

- (a) **I will inquire...** "Then Moses said, **"I will now turn aside and see** this great sight, why the bush does not burn."" Exodus 3:3 NKJV
- (b) **Paul essentially did the same thing after his encounter; he inquired: ... "Who are You, Lord?"... "So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"** Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and **you will be told what you must do.**"" Acts 9:5-6 NKJV
- (c) **And Ananias responded the same way when he was asked to encounter Paul after his conversion: "Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."**" Acts 9:10 NKJV

(6) Summary

- (a) Enquiring vs. Inquiring: Yahweh Rewards Inquiring Minds with Awesome Assignments
 - 1. To enquire is to ask, however, the idea of inquiring takes asking to another level. It connotes more of an

action or formal investigation, rather than a simple enquiry.

2. Moses was going about his daily business when he was encountered by God.
3. Faithfulness in the everyday things of life prepares us to do great things for God.
4. Moses witnessed something supernatural and he has to make a choice. Walk away or take a deeper look?
5. He chooses to divert his attention from his daily tasks to inquire! Inquiring minds want to know!
6. Paul, after his encounter, essentially did the same thing, as he was going about his business; he inquired! "Who are You, Lord?" "Lord, what do You want me to do?"
7. Ananias too responded like Moses and Isaiah (as we will see) "Here I am; what can I do for You!"

B. Because he inquired...

(1) God calls him...

- (a) "So when **the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him** from the midst of the bush and said, "**Moses, Moses!**" And he said, "**Here I am.**"" Exodus 3:4 NKJV

- (b) Note: Look at the pattern of these “Burning Bush” encounters! The name called twice; the response: “Here I am, reporting for duty!”
1. **“Abraham, Abraham!”** “But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, **“Abraham, Abraham!”** So he said, **“Here I am.”**” Genesis 22:11 NKJV
 2. **“Saul, Saul!”** “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul,** why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, **“Who are You, Lord?”** Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”** Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”” Acts 9:4-6 NKJV
- (2) God introduces Himself...
- (a) “Moreover He said, **“I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”** And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.” Exodus 3:6 NKJV
- (3) God informs him...

- (a) “And the Lord said: **“I have surely seen** the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and **have heard their cry** because of their taskmasters, for **I know their sorrows**. So **I have come down to deliver them** out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, **the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me**, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.”Exodus 3:7-9 NKJV
- (4) God assigns him...
- (a) “Come now, therefore, and **I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.**”” Exodus 3:10 NKJV [like Paul— “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”]
- (5) Summary
- (a) Because he inquired...like Paul— “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”
1. God calls him into something great!

2. Look at the pattern of these “Burning Bush” encounters! The name called twice; the response: “Here I am, reporting for duty!”
3. God introduces Himself formally. Remember, Moses grew up in Egypt and it’s time for him to become acquainted with his God!
4. God informs him of the problem and what He is going to do about it.
5. God assigns Moses what role he is going to serve in His great plan!

C. Who? Me?

(1) Me?

- (a) “But Moses said to God, “**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”” Exodus 3:11 NKJV

(2) Yes you!

- (a) “So He said, “**I will certainly be with you**. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”” Exodus 3:12 NKJV

1. **A man of unclean lips...** “So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because **I am a man of unclean lips**, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.””

Isaiah 6:5 NKJV

2. **Isaiah, don't worry about what you should say...**

“Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: **“Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”**” Isaiah 6:6-7 NKJV

3. **Disciple, don't worry about what you should say...**

““Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, **do not worry about how or what you should answer**, or what you should say. For **the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**”” Luke 12:11-12 NKJV

4. **Disciple, don't worry about what you should pray...**

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. **For we do not know what we should pray** for as we ought, **but the Spirit Himself makes intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He makes intercession for the**

saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:26-27
NKJV

(3) This is My name...

(a) “Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, **when I come to the children of Israel** and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ **and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”** And God said to Moses, **“I AM WHO I AM.”** And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘**I AM has sent me to you.**’ ” Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: **‘The Lord [Yahweh] God of your fathers,** the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. **This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.’**” Exodus 3:13-15 NKJV

(4) Summary

(a) “Who? Me?

1. Yes you! It is common that when we are called by God to first question if we are the worthy of the task or ready for the task.
2. God says—absolutely! I called you and because you responded, I will be the one who goes with you!

3. In particular Moses, I will show others supernatural signs that you have been given this assignment by the Ruler of the universe.
4. By the way...Isaiah will have a similar reaction in the future when I give him a “burning bush” experience. He will feel unworthy and ill-prepared to be My voice.
5. And...the disciples of Y’shua will also have similar feelings when they are called to speak for Me. But I will go before them as well.
6. And if anyone wants to know who sent you, you tell them Yahweh sent you! That goes for everyone!

D. What happens when you are willing to ask?

(1) The Promise...big things happen!

- (a) “Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, **“I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction** of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.” ’” Exodus 3:16-17 NKJV

(2) The ask...go ask Pharaoh!

(a) "Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, **let us go three days' journey into the wilderness**, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.'" Exodus 3:18 NKJV

(3) The result...Pharaoh will say no! So...

(a) "But I am sure that **the king of Egypt will not let you go**, no, not even by a mighty hand. **So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst**; and after that he will let you go. **And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians**; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed. But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. **So you shall plunder the Egyptians.**" Exodus 3:19-22 NKJV

1. "Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the

church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV

(4) Summary

(a) What happens when you are willing to ask?

1. The Promise...big things happen!
2. Not only will God do what He says, but it will turn out better than you can imagine!

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- (d) What happens when you are willing to ask?
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WELL DONE

3. Inquiring Minds Get to Know!

A. Mysteries of the Kingdom

- (1) The Parable of the Four Soil Types!

- (a) Following the parable of the soils in Matthew 13:1-9, and before Y'shua explains it in verses 18-23, the "inquiring minds" of His disciples "came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" (v. 10)
- (2) Good question...your inquiry is a blessing...because he who has a little will be given MORE!
- (a) "He answered and said to them, "**Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given. **For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance**; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah [*chapter 6*] is fulfilled, which says: '*Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.*' **But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for**

assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

Matthew 13:11-17 NKJV

(3) God will reveal His mysteries because you have inquired—but you must take it seriously and manage them well, in other words, be good stewards of mysteries—(remember what happens to poor stewards: Luke 16:1-13)

(a) **"Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."** 1

Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV

(4) Summary

(a) Mysteries of the Kingdom: The Parable of the Four Soil Types!

1. Following the parable of the soils in Matthew 13:1-9, and before Y'shua explains it in verses 18-23, the "inquiring minds" of His disciples came and asked, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
2. It's a great question...your inquiry is a blessing... because he who has a little will be given MORE!
3. And the "more" you will be given is the ability to know the mysteries of the Kingdom!

4. This is what the prophets of old wished they could understand.
5. This is why Y'shua refers to Isaiah 6 in His explanation of parable.
6. It takes an inquiring mind to investigate further and the payoff is that you will be blessed to see things that you would not have seen otherwise.
7. Then you are charged to be an excellent steward of what you have been given.

B. Here am I! Send me.

- (1) When you "*see the Lord sitting on a throne*" (a burning bush encounter), what SHOULD be your response? "*Here am I! Send me.*"
 - (a) "In the year that King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord sitting on a throne**, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "**Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a**

man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; **For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.**” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. **And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”**

[v. 8] **Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:**

“Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” And He said, **“Go, and tell**

this people: *[The following is what we see referenced in*

Matthew 13] ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand;

Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ “Make the heart

of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their

eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their

ears, And understand with their heart, And return and

be healed.” Then I said, “Lord, how long?” And He

answered: “Until the cities are laid waste and without

inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is

utterly desolate, The Lord has removed men far away,

And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the

land. But yet a tenth will be in it, And will return and be

for consuming, As a terebinth tree or as an oak, Whose

stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump.”” Isaiah 6:1-13 NKJV

(2) Summary

(a) Here am I! Send me.

1. When you “*see the Lord sitting on a throne*” (a burning bush encounter), what SHOULD be your response?
2. It’s natural to have doubts, at first, that you are worthy of seeing what you’ve been shown.
3. And it’s natural to feel you are not prepared.
4. Have no fear, Yahweh will go with you.
5. So, when you inquire further of the Lord, the correct response to Him is “*Here am I! Send me.*”
6. Then you will be sent to fulfill your assignment.

C. Inquire and you shall find

(1) Ask—Seek—Knock

(a) **““Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good

gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him! Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 7:7-12 NKJV

(2) Parameters for proper inquiry...

(a) **You must both ask and ask with right intentions...**

“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. **Yet you do not have because you do not ask.** You ask and do not receive, because **you ask amiss**, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” James 4:1-3 NKJV

(b) **You must both believe in Him and as in His name...**

““Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me**, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. **And whatever you ask in My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” John 14:12-14 NKJV

(c) **You must abide in Him and He in you... “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what**

you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”John 15:7-8 NKJV

- (d) **You must obey Him and do what is pleasing to Him...** “And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.” I John 3:22-23 NKJV
- (e) **You must ask according to His will...** “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” I John 5:14-15 NKJV
- (f) **You must pray and believe...** “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” Mark 11:24 NKJV
- (g) **Bonus for Married Men—you must dwell in peace with your wives and understand they are more sensitive to the Holy Spirit...** “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them

with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”1 Peter 3:7 NKJV

(3) A House Divided

(a) Following Luke’s version of Matthew 7:7-12 (Ask—Seek—Knock) in Luke 11:9-13...we see a few other parameters associated with inquiring correctly in Luke 11:14-23!

(b) Lose the doubts and hypocrisy!

1. “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and **a house divided against a house falls.**” Luke 11:17 NKJV
2. “**He who is not with Me is against Me**, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.” Luke 11:23 NKJV
3. “**But let him ask in faith, with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For **let not that man suppose that he will receive anything** from the Lord; **he is a double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.” James 1:6-8 NKJV

(4) Summary

(a) Inquire and you shall find

1. You have to Ask—Seek—Knock if you want to see and do great things for God. But, there is also a right way to do that!
2. You must ask with the right intentions. It cannot be about you!
3. You must have the faith to believe He is who He says He is.
4. You must live with Him and His word at the center of your life.
5. You must obey Him and do what is pleasing to Him.
6. You must ask only for what is within His will, if you expect Him to hear you.
7. And when you pray you must pray believing you will receive what you ask for.
8. And if you are a married man, you better have peace in your home and acknowledge that your wife is more sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
9. Oh, and lose the hypocrisy! When you have a divided mind, nothing works out!

D. “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

- (1) What is the Parable of the Talents really about?
 - (a) ““For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, **who called his own servants and delivered**

his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, **to each according to his own ability;** and immediately **he went on a journey.** Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his Lord's money. **After a long time the Lord of those servants came and settled accounts** with them. "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His Lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.**' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His Lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.**' "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, '**Lord, I knew you to be a**

hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' "But his Lord answered and said to him, '**You wicked and lazy servant, you knew** that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. '**For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance;** but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Matthew 25:14-30 NKJV

(2) Summary

(a) Well done, good and faithful servant: What is the Parable of the Talents really about?

1. Answer: they already knew what they were supposed to do!
2. They must have known their Lord intimately!
3. They must have asked Him what to do in advance!

4. They must have heard His voice!
5. They must have desired to obey Him!
6. They were blessed abundantly because of it!
7. In other words...
8. Go inquire... Like Moses did! Like Paul did! Like Isaiah did! And when God speaks and tells you to go do great things, say to Him, "Here am I. Send me!"
9. And God will respond with...*"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord...For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance."*

Summary: WELL DONE

3. Inquiring Minds Get to Know!

- (a) Mysteries of the Kingdom: The Parable of the Four Soil Types!
 1. Following the parable of the soils in Matthew 13:1-9, and before Y'shua explains it in verses 18-23, the "inquiring minds" of His disciples came and asked, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"
 2. It's a great question...your inquiry is a blessing...because he who has a little will be given MORE!

3. And the “more” you will be given is the ability to know the mysteries of the Kingdom!
4. This is what the prophets of old wished they could understand.
5. This is why Y’shua refers to Isaiah 6 in His explanation of parable.
6. It takes an inquiring mind to investigate further and the payoff is that you will be blessed to see things that you would not have seen otherwise.
7. Then you are charged to be an excellent steward of what you have been given.

(b) Here am I! Send me.

1. When you “*see the Lord sitting on a throne*” (a burning bush encounter), what SHOULD be your response?
2. It’s natural to have doubts, at first, that you are worthy of seeing what you’ve been shown.
3. And it’s natural to feel you are not prepared.
4. Have no fear, Yahweh will go with you.
5. So, when you inquire further of the Lord, the correct response to Him is “*Here am I! Send me.*”
6. Then you will be sent to fulfill your assignment.

(c) Inquire and you shall find

1. You have to Ask—Seek—Knock if you want to see and do great things for God. But, there is also a right way to do that!
 2. You must ask with the right intentions. It cannot be about you!
 3. You must have the faith to believe He is who He says He is.
 4. You must live with Him and His word at the center of your life.
 5. You must obey Him and do what is pleasing to Him.
 6. You must ask only for what is within His will, if you expect Him to hear you.
 7. And when you pray you must pray believing you will receive what you ask for.
 8. And if you are a married man, you better have peace in your home and acknowledge that your wife is more sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
 9. Oh, and lose the hypocrisy! When you have a divided mind, nothing works out!
- (d) Well done, good and faithful servant: What is the Parable of the Talents really about?
1. Answer: they already knew what they were supposed to do!

2. They must have known their Lord intimately!
3. They must have asked Him what to do in advance!
4. They must have heard His voice!
5. They must have desired to obey Him!
6. They were blessed abundantly because of it!
7. In other words...
8. Go inquire... Like Moses did! Like Paul did! Like Isaiah did! And when God speaks and tells you to go do great things, say to Him, "Here am I. Send me!"
9. And God will respond with...*"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord...For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance."*

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. At some point Israel went from an invited guest in Egypt to an enslaved nation...**
 - A. What caused that transition?
 - B. How was Israel immediately treated?
- 2. The treatment of Israel after the transition was meant to accomplish something...**

- A. What was the intent and what was the backup plan?
- B. What was the outcome and why?
- C. Who was involved in the outcome?

3. Compare Paul's treatment of the Church to Pharaoh's treatment of Israel.

- A. What has Paul's "Burning bush experience"?
- B. What role did the voice of God play in both Moses' ("*God called to him from the midst of the bush...*") and Paul's encounters? (*Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him...*)
- C. Bonus Question: What was the common response that Moses (Exodus 3), Isaiah (Isaiah 6) and Paul (Acts 9) had to their "burning bush experience"?

4. Moses' life as an infant was spared...

- A. How and by whom?
- B. What position did it lead to?
- C. How did he lose that position?
- D. What did his loss in position lead to?
- E. What was the similar pattern in the life of Y'shua?

5. Moses was ultimately raised again to a prominent position...

- A. How was he encountered by God in the course his normal day's activity to start him on his journey back?
- B. What did he do that opened the door to God using him?

C. How does the phrase, "Here I am" relate to both Moses and the prophet Isaiah?

6. God wants to use you in a powerful way...

A. What must we do similar to what Moses did?

B. How can we be sure that God wants to use us?

C. Name at least five parameters for making proper inquiry from God.

D. How does the namesake of this sermon, "Inquiring Minds Want to Know" relate the the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30?