

## **Open Hands: Stewardship with Kingdom Vision**

### **The Integrity of the Wallet: Honesty with Little Things**

I mean to start off this message with politics, but I want to spread some important knowledge to you about the economy related to people's well-being. When you look at economic data, inflation is higher in liberal states and lower in conservative states. It explains why you hear and see people moving out of liberal and Democratic stronghold states like Illinois, California, Oregon, Washington state, New Mexico, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. According to economic data, experts and most political analysts call Michigan a conservative and swing state according to recent election cycles. People are paying more for housing, food and beverage, energy and transportation in blue/liberal states and pay less in conservative states. I have experience paying less money in places in conservative states when I lived in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Houston, Cleveland, Detroit and Southeast Michigan, Louisville, Dubuque, Baltimore and Charlotte. Both Chicago budgets are bad for the economy because corporate head tax is bad for businesses and the economy, adding or increasing fees is bad for the economy. Higher fees and taxes burden businesses, employers and families. I feel sorry and have high sympathy for homeless men and women in liberal states right now because they have no jobs and do not have any economic resources for them to help them get out of town to have the opportunity to better themselves. I hate to see homeless men and women in liberal states feeling burdened because they are feeling like they are stuck and have to deal with the burden of high taxes and regulation in those states. I watched Mike Duggan speech with city departments and new mayor-elect Mary Sheffield announcing the city of Detroit has \$550 million in reserves and \$105 million budget surplus. Mary Sheffield won the Detroit mayor race with 78% of the vote and Solomon Kinloch got 18% of the vote. People and reporters have been saying in recent days and months that more people are starting to come back to Detroit and Southeast Michigan because the City of Detroit has been bouncing back since the bankruptcy and corruption the City of Detroit had with corrupt politicians that caused the city to fall and lose jobs. The only thing some residents are saying is that in Detroit growth needs to expand into the neighborhoods to build neighborhoods like they used to look up to the 1960s when people saw small businesses and affordable housing everywhere in the city. Mayor Mike Duggan was a different type of Democratic mayor that managed the city of Detroit as an independent that worked with Democrats and Republicans.

I have been sharing my true story with you about how my well-being got better since I moved out of Chicago in September and lived on the East Coast. First Lady Jennifer says her well-being has gotten better since she does not live in a liberal state as well. It explains why Democrats you see on Capitol Hill complaining about cost of living and inflation because I believe they are talking about the inflation and cost of living in their states. They do not need to complain about Trump and his policies on the economy. Democrats on Capitol Hill, state legislatures and local governments need to be talking to their Democratic governors in states like Illinois, California, Oregon, Washington State, New Mexico, New York, Minnesota, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware. When I lived in Chicago up to 2015, my barn was always empty because my mom was my payee representative at the time for SSI income and controlled my benefits telling me how much I can get from my benefits each month. I feel like I could not strive and strengthen my well-being in Chicago, so I had to leave the state of Illinois at the time and moved to the neighboring state at the time to East Iowa. Star of Hope Mission has helped me live a prosperous life as a Christian as well with budgeting and living by the barn principle with tithing and generosity. I praise the Spiritual Recovery Program and Bible programs at homeless shelters because homeless men and women need to learn how to live by the Barn Principle. I believe in preaching on the Barn Principle in the new year and teaching the seminars to the wider community as well as members can help families and individuals get ahead that are falling behind and holding steady by helping them with their Barn to live their life with righteousness of God with God covenant and grace.

I want to help by teaching seminars about building a legacy blueprint so people can stop surviving by hustle on a daily basis.

When I ride public transportation in Detroit and going to the suburbs of Oakland County and Flint, I never like to get on the bus for free if the bus driver allows it. I am not like those residents in Detroit that try to shortchange the bus driver when I get on the bus. Those bus drivers let people on the bus because I believe some bus drivers try to have sympathy for them. I do not shortchange people in the store or bus driver because I am a Bishop and religious leader. I want God to lead me and I continue to put my trust in him daily. Your soul needs to start by not trying to shortchange people, taking advantage of people's kindness and getting handouts from people for free. It is all about having good integrity and saving many souls to God to live for God under God's grace with righteousness. This 7-Day Integrity Challenge will be part of the Mishpat Toolkit that will give members and the wider community one integrity task to complete each week. The 7-Day Integrity Challenge is the site inspection for your character to look at small cracks in your legacy and foundation.

Day 1: The Borrowed Item Audit

Day 2: The Receipt Accuracy

Day 3: The Time Stewardship

Day 4: The Debt Acknowledgement

Day 5: Small Change Test

Day 6: The Identity Check

Day 7: The Tithe of Integrity

This message will talk about the Mishpat in the micro and having honesty in the little things. I will talk about the little things law to Luke 16:10-11 and building your blueprint to God. The little things law is the foundation that God is looking at our finances and receipts to see if we know how to manage little things and money wisely before he grants us with big things in our life. God does not look at our bank balance to determine our readiness for wealth.

Read Luke 16:10-11:

*"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"*

When you and I read this scripture, we must think about not letting the devil control our personal finances and money in the world. We must let God guide us with our finances to build a barn. It is time we stop trying to survive with hustle and build a barn under God's covenant. This is the reason why it is important to live the Mary path, not take the Martha path in this world with stress and be overwhelmed by the world. If you have \$10 in your pocket or bank account, God is looking at you on how you manage that money. Are you managing it the Godly way or sinful way? When your family and friends are giving you money, how are you managing it? Are you managing money given by friends and family the Godly way or sinful way? Legacy Blueprint seminars will teach you and the wider community about eliminating our dishonest and small habits that are sinful and not the Godly way that we do to keep us in survival mode. Turn to the person next to you and say clear your rubble and dishonest habits. The first step to eliminate our dishonest habits and rubble in our life is keeping things that do not belong to us, such as unpaid personal debts, borrowed tools and unreturned favors. If you are in mourning and lost a loved one, you may do this because you want to hold onto memorable things to remember them after their passing. We need to be honest with everything by applying for jobs, serving in government and working

for the people of your city and community, household expenses and finances, and paying your taxes and debts. You need to avoid stealing in order to build a blueprint.

We must be honest with our mammon and do little things because God will block us to true riches. When I talk about this, I think about those homeless men and women stuck in homelessness and you hear them say homelessness has been running circles around them. It is the reason why they are managing money they get in an unrighteous way. I look at homeless people asking for money and buying cigarettes and marijuana from people not trying to build their barn and building a legacy for God as well as his covenant. There are too many homeless men and women living their lives in survival mode and not trying to build a barn/legacy blueprint for themselves to build their barn. I want you to do this week and in the new year identify one small thing you have been dishonest about and fix those small lies. The Mishpat Toolkit will have an expense log to help you be honest about your money and where it goes. Expense log is only good for people that do not bank or have an active bank account. You save some people that like to do stuff the old fashioned way is keep money stashed under the mattress or hidden shoe box. When you and people are placed with a covenant mentor, I encourage you to tell them to pray for you and integrity on your well-being, barn and income. I want you to trust God with your wallet. We need to stop letting people influence us through hustle except for those people that do get money without hustle.

I want to say this prayer with me:

Heavenly Father,  
I stand before you as beggars, but as a covenant family.  
I ask you to give me and my family mishpat spirit at the close of 2025 to 2026  
I ask you to forgive me for dishonest things I did in our life and mismanaged our life financially and economically without you.  
Help me build my barn and legacy with more honesty with my money and possessions under your grace and covenant.  
I will repent my hustle to survive and start building a legacy to your kingdom.  
Guide and guard my wallet during our legacy going forward in my life.  
Wash my hands of my added sorrow that come from shortcuts and shadows  
Grant me the courage to be honest so you can trust me and provide me with more  
I ask you to repair my broken silo and help me build my barn to live my legacy for your kingdom  
Help us move our bank account from survival to stewardship for the rest of 2025 into the new year.  
Let me depend on the barn to be my solution in my household and friends inner circle going forward in the new year.  
In Jesus name, Amen