

Gift usage. - Purchased prayers. Paid intermediaries. - Traders expelled from the Temple. - Mediumship usage.

Gift usage

1. *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out devils. Give for free what you have received for free.* (Matthew 10:8.)

2. Jesus warns his disciples to distribute for free, through charity practice, the benefits of the gifts they were freely granted. Through this passage he teaches how a Christian should employ the resources they freely receive.

Purchased prayers. Paid intermediaries

3. *Beware of the priests who appreciate walking around in long robes and being saluted in the marketplace. They take the best seats in meetings and the honor places at banquets. Simulating lengthy prayers, they devour the widows' houses. They will receive harsher condemnation.* (Luke 20:46-47. Also in Mark 12:38-40 and Matthew 23:14.)

4. While dooming hypocrisy of those who fake good intentions in order to exploit their siblings in God, Jesus condemns paid prayer. Praying for someone else should be an

act of charity, a disinterested impulse from heart. When we charge a person for an orison that we direct in their name to God we transform ourselves into unauthorized paid middlepeople.

The Creating Source freely distributes the divine assistance. It is provided for everyone, rich and poor without distinction, alike the sunlight. So, all prayers must be free of charge. Charity must be truly free, without any kind of price, neither *material* nor *moral*.

The strength of a prayer independs from its length or wordiness. One only sincere pleading is far more effective than a lot of mechanically-repeated memorized words.

Paid prayers present yet another drawback: the one who buys it uses to self-judge liberated from the need to pray. They often consider themselves disobliged because they spent their money. Nevertheless, what really touches the good spirits is the pleading fervor. What kind of ardor can a prayer buyer feel? Moreover, how strong can be the zeal of the contracted third party? What result should one expect from a bought prayer?

Traders expelled from the Temple

5. *They came to Jerusalem. Jesus, getting into the Temple, began to cast out those who sold and bought in there. He overthrew tables of the money exchangers and benches of*

the dove sellers. He forbade everybody to carry vases through the temple. At the same time, he taught them by saying: It is written: My house will be called a place of prayer for all nations. But you made it a den of robbers!

The chief priests, when hearing it, sought a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because the crowd was astonished at his doctrine. (Mark 11:15-18 and Matthew 21:12 and 13.)

6. There have always been leaders that, intentionally or not, easily guide their followers toward seductive false solutions. Often through a subtle fashion, such fake prophets spread doctrines which preach illusion, advocate disbelief, stimulate hate and sow moral confusion. Thus, in order to protect free will, God restrains their action.

At the Temple, Jesus dooms the free will theft committed by the religion fake prophets of that time. By expelling merchants from the temple, Christ condemns the saintly thing trading, which was then one of the cornerstones of the dominance structure. However, while the Lord employs energy to combat mistake, he uses kindness to clarify that, as God sells neither blessings, neither pardon nor the clearance to Heaven, then humans lack permission to negotiate the divine help.

Mediumship usage

7. God gave mediums, for free, the faculty of being interpreters of the spirits for humankind instruction. The joint spirit-medium effort should show to the people the pathway of goodness and faith. Mediums are not allowed to sell the spirits' work. God wants divine light, solace, encouragement and care reaching everyone, no matter whom they are. All human beings are entitled to freely receive encouragement, as well as the affection testimony from those they weep for. Mediumship is thus a noble selfless task. Turning it into livelihood or income source means corruption.

8. Good spirits move away from partnerships which are driven by selfish interest. Watchful people would naturally distrust that superior spirits might be at the disposal of someone who alleges evoking them anytime by a certain price per session. Could one really evoke through pay a spirit that we respect or love? Common sense rejects this idea. Indeed, true communications can be obtained in a commercial manner. But would they be authentic? In such cases, what spirit would be talking through the medium? Frivolous, deceitful, mocking and malicious spirits always come running, ready to reply to, without regard

for the truth, whatever question. Thus, those who desire a serious interaction with the spiritual dimension should have a serious purpose and, beforehand, investigate the medium's seriousness. Superior spirits are attracted by the humility and selflessness of the medium. It is wiser rejecting several truths than accepting a single lie.

9. Besides the discredit that usually stems from the morally-sick mediumistic practice, there is another reason which disapproves mediumship from being a profession: this faculty cannot be controlled by the medium. It would be a very uncertain income source because it can fail at the moment the medium most needs it. No medium can force a spirit to communicate. Connection only occurs if the spirits want to interact and are permitted to do it. Using an analogy, we could say that the mediumistic connection is like a phone that rings only from the spiritual world to here.

A talent acquired by study and work is different. It can be legitimately used by its owner to advantage themselves. But mediumship is granted for free. Thus it must be exerted free of charge. The mediumistic interactions that are beneficial only exist due to the voluntary cooperation of the good spirits. If they are absent the connection ceases. The communication aptitude may still remain but its

exercise becomes unsound. No medium can guarantee the obtaining of a spiritual phenomenon at a given moment. Therefore, trading with mediumship is like selling, without permission, something which does not belong to the vendor. However, there are many professional psychics who deceive the one who pays. Such intermediaries, to worsen their situation, exploit the spirits of the deceased ones, whose cooperation they put a price on. This is a quite unfortunate practice. This trafficking, that degenerates into abuse, exploited by quackery, ignorance, credulity and superstition, motivated Moses to forbid contacting the spirits. The Spiritist doctrine, however, understanding the serious nature of mediumship, elevated this ability to the mission category.¹

10. Mediumship is therefore a sacred gift. It should be practiced only in altruistic fashion. And the healing mediumship should be exercised in an even more saintly manner. A doctor gives the fruits of their knowledge, which is gained at the cost of their effort. A price can be put upon their work. A curing medium, however, transmits healing fluids from the good spirits. Then, the medium lacks the right to sell them. Jesus and his apostles, although very poor, cured for free.

¹ - See The Medium's Book, 2nd part, chapter 28; and also Heaven and Hell, 1st part, chapter 11. - The author.

So, one who lacks the necessary resources for living should seek funds wherever they wish, except within mediumship. To this activity, it is better that they dedicate only their spare time, after having satisfied their material needs. The superior spirits consider each one's devotion and sacrifice, whereas they turn away from the medium who expects turning them into a ladder for material prosperity. However, evil spirits are always ready to use the reckless mediums.