

WHERE GOD IS AT 1

I want to give a disclaimer because we are going to talk a lot about wealth, business, purpose, etc. And when I teach on wealth, I get one of three reactions:

1. **Religious opposition** because there's a false mindset that was developed many, many, many years ago by church leaders that poverty is godly. I have a specific teaching titled, "Poverty is Anti-Covenant," that will address that lie in depth when we tackle that topic. For some, wealth is evil and business owners are greedy. Poverty entered AFTER the fall. It's the love for money that is the root of all kinds of evil. Money is neutral. The heart determines your response to it.
2. **Confusion** because so many believers have no idea the importance of the marketplace and wealth in God's plan. Many believers have put money in a box called tithes and offerings thinking that satisfies God's plans for your money. The reality goes WAY beyond tithes and offerings. Your wealth is assigned a purpose. Once you find that purpose and learn a few kingdom laws, you are well on your way to causing extreme damage to the enemy's kingdom. Confusion also comes from being taught that money is evil and Christians who pursue wealth are greedy.
3. **A knowing** by a few believers out there who God has already started unveiling how He views wealth and others that are already walking it out and FINALLY hear someone telling them what they already knew. There are some of us that see how every dollar we earn is warfare against the enemy who coveted the wealth of the nations.

GOD IS IN THE MARKETPLACE

What I want to do is take you on a quick journey in Acts to set the stage. You will want to take notes. Also, I will use the Greek term, ekklesia, for the word, "church," because that's a different word, kurios. And Jesus didn't use that word.

Here is the main point you need to know—**GOD IS IN THE MARKETPLACE. That's His focus and always has been His focus, which is why Paul finally saw long-term results and extraordinary miracles.** For too long, Christians have felt that God is only inside church buildings. But He is erasing that invisible line between secular and sacred. In God ALL things are sacred—marketplace (in fact one of the first places His blood was shed was in the marketplace), marriage, marriage bed, relationships, health, home, car, everything.

This training is for the 95% of believers that are in the marketplace as business owners or employees.

Ephesians 4:11–12 ESV

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

This passage reveals the sole focus of the 5% called into the fivefold ministry—to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Unfortunately, much of the fivefold ministry has been reduced to one function—pastor, and while pastor is a definite function in the ekklesia, it is not the only nor main function. On top of the out-of-balance pastoral focus, many business owners and employees feel they are second-class citizens (or made to feel that way) because they are not “FULL-TIME MINISTERS,” but according to [Ephesians 4:11-12](#) and you are. The only difference (get this because it’s important) is WHERE you minister.

YOU ARE AN APOSTOLIC (SENT ONE) MARKETPLACE MINISTER. And, as such, you are the MOST important part of the ekklesia. And it’s not just so you have money to give to churches for their projects. Your actively engaged presence in the marketplace plays a key role in the takeover a city, a state, and a nation like we saw with Paul. And as you operate in your marketplace role, talents, and skills solving problems, you create trust currency with what are called the “elders of a city.”

The elders of a city are the business owners and governmental leaders. Here’s a secret I teach my clients—solve problems. When you solve others’ problems, you are not only paid very well for that but you open a door where they trust you (trust currency) and what you have to say leading to an opportunity to deliver the good news. Many try to deliver the good news before creating trust, which feels sales-y. And elders are very alert to such tactics.

And as a side note, I want to point out that God is extremely strategic with whom He targets. If you study Paul, he went to the most strategic cities and often got an audience before rulers and prominent men and women of those cities. Yes, we are to stop for the one, but God always targets those on top of the mountains—the influencers. Why? Because the enemy has already targeted them and if that’s not changed, they can greatly harm a business, a city, a state, and a nation. Unfortunately, Christians have been very naive in this area, too religious by not learning the language of Babylon, and have such a poor identify of who they are that they disqualify themselves from the start.

OCCUPY UNTIL I COME

Luke 19:11–27 ESV

¹¹ As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. ¹² He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³ Calling ten of his servants,

he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' ¹⁵ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ¹⁶ The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' ¹⁹ And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' ²⁰ Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' ²² He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' ²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' ²⁵ And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' ²⁶ 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ²⁷ But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.' "

This parable is a picture of the kingdom of God as we see in verse 11 and letting his disciples know that there was not going to be an immediate appearing of the kingdom. Instead, we are instructed to "engage in business until I come." That's interesting, isn't it? He doesn't say to "engage in full-time ministry in a church and if you don't you're second class tome." He says to specifically engage in **business** until I come and then gave them some investment capital. The King James Versions says, "Occupy until I come."

Business is the Greek word "pragmateusomai" and means "to be engaged in some kind of business, generally buying and selling, to do business, to be involved in business." Pragmatic, which means busy with practical affairs, is related to this word. Interestingly, pragmatic also means "state business." We could conclude that engaging in the marketplace is conducting state business for our King and His kingdom.

When I first saw this, especially the use of the word "occupy" in the KJV, it reinforced my study on wealth is warfare. I decided to look up the word occupy especially because it seemed to be a military term. And why do we call our job or business an OCCUPATION? Where did that come from? Now in the Greek, occupy means the same in the KJV because it's the same Greek word. ESV translated it "business" and KJV "occupy." So I went to the dictionary. Here it is:

- › 1300–50; Middle English *occupien* < Middle French *occuper* < Latin *occupāre* to seize, take hold, take up, make one's own, equivalent to *oc-oc-* + *-cup-*, combining form of *capere* to take, seize

Occupy means “to seize, take hold, take up, make one’s own.” We all know that when one takes territory in a way, they are occupying that territory. An occupation has the idea of “devotion” to something, a “pleasant calling” not just a job. What this tells me is that what you do should be something you’re devoted to and that you like to do. In fact, God’s will is that you enjoy what you do. Now sometimes the lack of enjoyment can be a mindset. But often people are more focused on making money versus being in their marketplace calling because to them full-time ministry is more noble or maybe they don’t understand the importance of their place in the marketplace. Either way, God wants you to enjoy what you do!

Ecclesiastes 3:12–13 ESV

¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God’s gift to man.

The main point is that your engagement in the marketplace is a warfare term and act to take over, seize, and make one’s own a company, a city, a state, and a nation.

And, I’m not meaning that you take over those things necessarily physically; although, my husband was given his boss’s business, but I mean spiritually and influence that changes culture and takes a city for the kingdom.