

WHERE GOD IS AT 2

The next part is crucial in understanding how important your marketplace role is. When the Lord returned, he dealt with his enemies and then settle accounts with his servants. Let's read that again.

[Luke 19:15–27](#) (ESV)

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.' "

The servants who turned a profit were given cities. Many Christians always talk about "taking cities." Ok, that's a noble idea. But how are you with your money? Debt? Giving? If you can't control your money, then you will NOT be given cities. The money question must be answered first.

And then we get to the one who hid the mina in a handkerchief. First, the Lord only gave minas to those he knew could double his profit implying that the one's failure was first rooted in how he saw himself and how he saw the Lord. He didn't believe he could make a profit so he hid. He then said that the reason he hid it was because of his perception of the Lord as a "severe man." **HOW YOU SEE GOD DETERMINES HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF because our origin is in Him.** We can't get away from it.

The Lord saw those who made a profit as FAITHFUL. And the one who didn't as wicked. Wicked is "pertaining to possessing a serious fault and consequently being worthless." Wow. If this servant had seen himself as the Lord saw him, he would have known his WORTH and not have been WORTHLESS! He could have at least put the money in the bank to collect interest. **Fear is based in how you see yourself. Always remember that.**

A similar story is in [Matthew 25](#), the Parable of the Talents. I want to dissect a couple of verses from this one real quick in the TPT.

Matthew 25:26–27 TPT

²⁶ “Angered by what he heard, the master said to him, ‘You’re an untrustworthy and lazy servant! If you knew I was a shrewd and ruthless business man who always makes a profit, why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank?’ ²⁷ Then I would have received it all back with interest when I returned.

In this story, we see that this servant is called “untrustworthy” (or wicked in the Greek) and lazy. Lazy is very important, which we’ll get into in a second. But let me show you a note on verse 27 from TPT notes:

The Passion Translation: New Testament

The Aramaic can be translated “Why didn’t you throw my money into the offering? Then I would have returned to ask for what was mine together with its bounty.” The implication is that money given in sacred offering to God will be returned with even more, by God’s generosity.

This ties back to the “working believer offering” I taught in the first training section of ChurchShift. In the process of learning who you are and overwhelming fear with faith, at least give it to working believers!

The main idea is that wealth is warfare. You can spiritualize this all you want, but the Greek makes it plain. God expects you to make more money by engaging in the marketplace. To Him, how you handle money determines whether you’re faithful or not. It also determines if you take a city or not. Wealth is warfare.

WE COMMANDED YOU THIS

For further evidence that wealth is warfare, I want to revisit the “lazy” aspect of the parable of the talents.

2 Thessalonians 3:10–15 ESV

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴ If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵ Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

As I stated in previous training, the distribution of funds to the believers in the early ekklesia were only to those who qualified. If a person could work or a young lady marry or remarry, then he or she should. Otherwise, you were cared

for by the ekklesia. Here Paul is stating that if you don't work, you don't eat. The ekklesia will NOT take care of those who refuse to work. In fact, he also said that if someone refused to obey that command, note that person and do not keep company with him. That's how serious it was.

1 Timothy 5:8 ESV

⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

DENIED THE FAITH AND WORSE THAN AN UNBELIEVER! Wow. But let me get back to the military aspect of being engaged in the marketplace and laziness. The word "idleness" is translated "lazy" or "laziness" in other translations. **It literally means, "not showing up for the war."** The NKJV calls this walking in a "disorderly manner." The word "busybodies" referred "in some languages one may speak of a busybody as 'one who puts his spoon in someone else's cup.'"

Paul finishes it by telling us to not "ever grow weary in doing what is right" (TPT). Listen to what that means:

Doing right in this context is not growing tired of honest work. The Hebrew word for "work" (*avodah*) is the same Hebrew word (a homonym) for worship. Our work can be a form of worship. Our lives are to be a seamless expression of offering to God all of our activities as things we do with all our might for the glory of God.

Simmons, B. (Trans.). (2017). *The Passion Translation: New Testament*. BroadStreet Publishing.

For far too long, the 95% of believers in the marketplace have felt BELOW the professional minister in full-time ministry not understanding that you, too, are in full-time ministry on the frontlines of the battlefield.

For far too long, the 95% of believers have been ATM's for churches to fund their projects and visions without even consulting with those in the marketplace, especially in business, that have the unusual perspective of efficiency and results due to a business profit-and-loss mindset.

For far too long, the 95 have been maligned as greedy and sleazy business owners due to the fact that their ministry and anointing is not understood. Marketplace ministers are in the trenches in the Babylonian system shrewdly using it and spiritual gifts to take cities. They think different. Look different. And speak different. Their "clothes" might be dirty from all the sewage they've had to swim through during the day. This offends those who have kept their clothes spotless. But the fact is that in order to have the strength of the oxen, you must have some dirty stalls.

It's time for marketplace ministers to be equipped to do the work of ministry within the marketplace where God is focused and coached in order to navigate through those difficult decisions and situations that can ruin a person.

Let me finish building you up with how God sees you:

Proverbs 11:26 *ESV*

²⁶ The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.

Selling your valuable product or service to those who need it is pleasing to God. You are blessed by God in your business!