

WHERE GOD IS AT

You are about to dive into an in-depth study on wealth that you've probably never heard before. When I teach on wealth, especially that wealth is warfare, I get one of three reactions:

1. **Religious opposition** because there's a false mindset that was developed many, many, many years ago by the Catholic church that poverty is godly. I have a specific teaching titled, "Poverty is Anti-Covenant," that will address that lie in depth. But for those that are religious concerning wealth, wealth is evil and business owners are greedy. Somehow wealth has been tied to earthly things. But if wealth began with God and is part of His glory (which I'll prove) and poverty entered AFTER the fall, it's apparent that wealth isn't earthly nor demonic. 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

The very last teaching in the initial ekklesia training was all about Paul's journey as a minister learning His authority and God's strategy for effective ministry. That teaching was an introduction if you will for this section of training. And 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.

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 "bushybodies" 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!