



EXPERIENCING GOD IN THE MARKETPLACE

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11/15/2023

1. What is the Marketplace?

2. Why was so much of God's activity accomplished in the marketplace?

- Because that is where people lived throughout the week.

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For too long Christians have assumed God's activity occurs at a church building on weekends. In reality, throughout Scripture God was continually at work in the marketplace. When God launched His great work to bring salvation to all humanity, He called Abraham, one of the most successful businessmen of his day ([Gen. 24:35](#)). Abraham's son Isaac also prospered in the marketplace ([Gen. 26:12-14](#)). Likewise, Isaac's son Jacob became wealthy through his business acumen ([Gen. 30:43](#)). Joseph served God not as a preacher or a missionary but as government official ([Gen. 41:37-57](#)). Moses had a profound encounter with God while working as a shepherd ([Ex. 3:1-6](#)). Elisha was invited to join God's activity while plowing a field ([1 Kings 19:19-21](#)). Amos declared that he was not a prophet or the son of a prophet but a sheep

breeder and a tender of sycamore trees ([Amos 7:14](#)). Daniel served God as a government official.

Jesus was trained as a carpenter. When He called the 12 people who would walk with Him as His disciples, He called fishermen ([Mark 1:16-20](#)), a tax collector ([Mark 2:14](#)), and other career people. I believe one reason Jesus called businesspeople is that they were not intimidated by the world. They lived and thrived in the marketplace. Once these businesspeople had experienced life-transforming encounters with Jesus, they were prepared to turn their world upside down! Joseph of Arimathea was a businessman who, though fearing the religious leaders, had the courage to approach the Roman leader Pilate for Jesus' body ([Mark 15:42-43; John 19:38](#)). Lydia, a businessperson, was a key member of the church in Philippi ([Acts 16:14-15](#)). Two of the apostle Paul's supporters in his church-planting ministry were Aquila and Priscilla, also businesspeople ([Acts 18:1-2](#)).

3. List skills God has placed in your life such as: entrepreneurship, management, accounting, graphic design, IT, nursing, teaching that God might use for His kingdom.

4. What platform has God granted you, such as manager, teacher, author, doctor, business owner that God might use for His kingdom?

5. What opportunity does church provide for the saints?

- Church on Sunday provides an opportunity for the saints to be equipped for their mission work throughout the week at their job sites.

6. Read Ephesians 4:11-12 in the margin and match the persons on the left with the task assigned to them in the body of Christ.

[\(EPHESIANS 4:11-12\)](#) And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ.

- ___ 1. Apostles and prophets a. Equip others for works of service.
- ___ 2. God's people (members) b. Perform works of service to build up the body of Christ.
- ___ 3. Evangelists, pastors, teachers

- One of the greatest movements of God today is His work in the marketplace. These men and women have realized God has placed them in their positions for a purpose. Business leaders impact the lives of tens of thousands of employees. They control huge advertising budgets. They have access to world leaders that missionaries do not.
- Many people are discovering that God has placed them in their companies so they can be witnesses to their colleagues as well as to customers. I could tell you many stories of how I who led my colleagues to faith in Christ. I lead Bible studies for Generals and their staff during the lunch hour. Some physicians pray with and share Christ with patients. Many of the people who meet Christ in the workplace would never have dreamed of visiting a church on the weekend, so Christ sends His servants to job sites where they encounter people who need to hear about Him.
- God is at work among businesspeople around the world. Many of their hearts are restless as they realize that reaching the top of the corporate ladder or achieving their financial goals does not bring the peace and contentment they have sought.
- Many businesspeople have discovered that God has granted them prosperity so they can invest their wealth in the kingdom of God. Suddenly, rather than being absorbed in their work, these men and women have found that a new world of God's activity in His kingdom has opened to them. Some have begun using their resources to build church buildings around the world. Others have invested in Bible colleges and seminaries that are training people for Christian ministry. Others have supported orphanages and ministries to those suffering from hunger and disease. Jesus commanded those who would be His followers, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you" ([Matt. 6:33](#)). This command is not just for people in full-time Christian ministry. Jesus expects every disciple to make his or her first priority to be the building of God's kingdom.

7. Pray, asking the Lord to open your eyes and touch your mind and heart with ways you can serve Him on in your workplace or through the platform and resources your work provides. Consider (but don't be limited to) some of the following.

- ☐ Seek justice, alleviate human suffering, and minister to people in need
- ☐ Share the good news about Christ with coworkers, vendors, and/or customers
- ☐ Invest financial resources in Kingdom work
- ☐ Demonstrate holiness and love to those who need an example of Christlikeness
- ☐ Pray for God's work in the lives of others
- ☐ Provide a listening ear and wise counsel to people facing problems
- ☐ Influence leaders and governments for Kingdom causes
- ☐ Use your expertise to serve churches, ministries, or mission enterprises
- ☐ Lead a Bible study or a discipleship class at lunch or before or after work

Others: _____

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

- One of the greatest movements of God today is His work in the marketplace.

- I believe churches ought to have commissioning services for those who go into the marketplace.
- “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.”