

The Kingdom & Business

Workshop Handout for Navigator KMI Conference – February 2005

Part I. Introduction – what is God doing in the marketplace?

- “I believe one of the next great moves of God is going to be through believers in the workplace” **Billy Graham**
- “I’ve never seen the activity of God this deeply in the business community as I do right now.” **Henry Blackaby**
- “God has begun an evangelism movement in the workplace that has the potential to transform our society as we know it” **Franklin Graham**

A. How well is our thinking aligned with what God is doing in the workplace?

- Our presuppositions about how God works (ISA 55:9)
- Our presuppositions about the “how & where” of those who are committed (interpreting the applications of LK 9:62, Matt. 6:33, Matt. 28:19)
- Faithfulness to where he wants us to be, not our own ideas of faithfulness
- Our “in the ministry” terminology and what it says about our mindset
- Priesthood of the believer (Rev1:6; 1Pet 2:5,9), Responsibilities of a Priest

B. Strategic (belief & reality alignment) vs. Tactical (operational issues)

- A basic premise: God does indeed call some people to lead companies for Christ, and they all need help in learning how to do it better
- Small peer groups as the best source for practical/operational help (Heb 3:12,13)
- Satan’s primary strategy of deception & our response: aligning what we believe & how we think with the Word (Jn 8:44, 2 Cor 4:4, 1 Jn 1:8, Rom 12:2, Hos 4:6)

C. Self Assessment:

Is the Holy Spirit prompting me about my paradigms of how God works or wants to work, especially in the marketplace? What do I need to do about it?

Part II. Our Vision of the Kingdom

DECEPTION #1: The deceiver wants us to believe that the Kingdom of God is an abstract, metaphorical concept that is future only and not really all that important to understand clearly. Then it will not significantly affect how we think or act in daily life but rather only be ancillary to whatever it is we make our real pre-occupation.

A. Why focus on refining our vision on the Kingdom?

- The clarity of its reality has been watered down in our culture (or was it just me?)
- The Kingdom was a very major topic in the preaching for Jesus (Matt 4:17, 4:23, 13:52, Acts 1:3)
- Serving the Kingdom is in fact, our purpose for staying here on earth (Eph 2:10)
- How to see the kingdom, grow in our awareness of it (Jn 3:3)

B. Taking to heart the reality of the “Kingdom of God”

- What did Jesus mean? (Why didn't he just use "platinum club" or something?)
- The Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9-13)
- "Helen Kellerism", the "Holideckian" reality of earth & discovering invisible reality
- We are in the midst of Dual Kingdoms (Jn 18:36; Jn14:30 Eph2:2)
- Who has keys to the kingdom?
agreement, authority, power

C. The effects of better kingdom vision

- Basic Premise: Our view about what the kingdom of God really is TODAY is one of the most significant factors about how **effectively** you integrate your faith and work and how **well** you lead your company for Christ (with what eternal impact).
- The magnificent obsession, like a hidden treasure, a pearl of great price (Matt.13:44-46)
- The Kingdom and our will to operate in the marketplace
- Seeing the kingdom produces action (Parable of Talents Matt 24:14-31)

D. Self Assessment:

Is the Holy Spirit prompting me about anything regarding how real and present the Kingdom of God is to? What's the best response to that prompting?

Part III. Our Vision of the Role & Effect Christians in Business Have

DECEPTION #2: The deceiver wants us to think that our role in business and our role in the Kingdom are two entirely different things with little overlap. He also wants us to think that the only thing Christian businessmen can do is to provide funding for others to do the real work of the kingdom.

A. How can society be transformed by a work of God in the marketplace?

- Separation and Integration of Faith in the marketplace
- The Impact (or non-impact) of believers in the workplace. Not better, different.
A Few examples:
Denver Post
Mel Gibson
Truet Cathy
Lee Strobel
Bush, Frist, Rice, ...

B. His Calling & Our Vocation

- Glorify God wherever he calls you (1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:17,23)
- The commitment & evaluation criteria (Matt 6:33, 1 Cor 3:11-15, Gal 5:6)
- Submitting "my" business to God: Sub-mission

C. Applications of the vision for Kingdom Business

- My Purpose, My Use/Leverage Luke 16 – Shrewd Manager
- View of Profits vs. mission – not alternative paths, just not the end of the road
- Stewardship (Parable of talents - Matt 25:14)
- A Kingdom Plan in addition to the Business Plan

D. Self Assessment:

Is the Holy Spirit prompting me about anything regarding my view of faith and business and/or submitting my business to the dominion and purposes of the King?
What is the best response I can make to that prompting?

Part IV. Expecting & Handling Opposition & Difficulties after Committing to Lead a Company for Christ

DECEPTION #3: The deceiver wants you to think that once you make a commitment to lead your company for Christ, to seek him first that everything will go smoothly and easily and you won't have any difficulties. This way when trial comes you will doubt God and get discouraged instead of understanding that difficulties are very often part of God's leadership development program.

A. *God's Leadership Development Program*

- Expectations of **ease** after committing to Christ? It is better by far and perhaps even more simple because of reliance on God in faith, but it is not always easy
- He cares more about your character than your comfort (Heb 12, Jas.1)
(God's leadership development program is usually not held at a 5 star hotel)
- The worth of faith and how it grows (1 Pet 1:7)
- The Desert Experience. God values the how, the process more than destination
Process of realizing needs (usually through pain kind of like a donkey),
process of discovery, process of conquest, process of building...
- Our God is a Consuming Fire, a Jealous God (Heb 12:29, Deut 4:24))

B. *Responses & Lessons to Difficulties: Overcomer*

- Two ways to learn things, the hard way and the easy way
- Faithfully waiting on God (Hab 1:7, Ps 27:14)
- Prayer & the process of learning dependence.
- Lessons from the Israelites. (Ps 105, 78) Loyal hearts, Happy with Manna
- Lessons from Joshua: Strength & Courage; Inquiring of the Lord
- Lessons from Job: never curse God or question his justice
(Job 2:10,13:15,34:12, 40:8)
- Lessons from David in Psalms 23:
1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (NIV)

C. **Self Assessment:**

Is the Holy Spirit prompting me about anything regarding my desire to avoid trials and lessons that God wants to take me through? Is my response to current difficulties in my life causing me to continually circle back in the same area or am I learning and growing stronger?

Part V. Lordship & the Power for Leading a Company for Christ

DECEPTION #4: The Deceiver wants us to believe that we don't have to crucify the flesh in order to effectively lead a company for Christ - that it is our company, that we are responsible for its success, that indulging self from time to time won't hurt...

A. The "why" for difficulties: Lordship, Cleansing, Usefulness

- Ramifications on leadership of the Spirit/flesh conflict (Gal 5:16,17; 1Pet 2:11)
- Requirements for being useful to the master (2 Tim 2:21)
- What we want is found through death to self, not indulgence.
The process of transformation requires death (Jn 12:24, 25)

B. The presence and dominion of false gods among us today

- What was (and is) a false god? Why did people give their attention to them? What does God think about it? (PS 81:9)
- How should we think about it? (PS 115:4-8. Isa 44:9; Hab 2:18)
- Worship of false gods is not just in the past. Rev 9:20. The reality of believers today prostrating ourselves before false gods in new forms - the goddess of sensuality, the god of mammon, of success/ego, of the stomach, of ...
- Is the Kings dominion over all of our life? "I will give you **all** my worship..."

C. Causing & embracing death for my old nature, to open true life

- The Perspective
 - Volitional obedience is difficult without a proper understanding of the real nature of sin, temptation, the old nature, and the path to abundant life
 - Clearly distinguishing between sources: the old and the new natures
 - The counter-intuitive nature of indulgence & bondage, denial & freedom
- The Process
 1. Sentencing: Condemning the old nature to an early death. Gal.2:20
 2. Carrying out the sentence, Luke 9:23 & the right type of denial. Matt 11:12
 3. "Temptation Transformation" - opportunities to worship God through sacrifice
 4. The cycle of sacrifice and renewal

Three key areas for death to self and renewal by the Spirit of God:

- 1. Appetites: The sacrifice and renewal of Desire → Holy Pleasure**
- 2. Aspirations: The sacrifice and renewal of Dreams → Holy Purpose**
- 3. Assurances: The sacrifice and renewal of Dependence → Holy Power**

A Limited List of Resources Related to Kingdom & Business:

Organizations that have Small Group Kingdom & Business type resources:

- **Christ at Work:** www.Christatwork.com
Excellent materials, excellent annual conference, least expensive membership fees (compared to those below), typically weekly meetings

Other small group organizations for Christian business owners/executives that are based on the "TEC or YEO" model, typically monthly meetings, more expensive because they are not volunteer led:

- **Wise Counsel:** www.wisecounsel.com
- **BBL Forum:** www.bblforum.com
- **C12:** www.thec12group.com

Some other Kingdom – Business related Web sites:

- The Navigators Bus. & Professional Ministry: home.navigators.org/us/bandp/
- Os Hillman/Marketplace Leaders: www.marketplaceleaders.org/
- EC Institute: www.ec-i.org
- International Coalition of Workplace Ministries www.icwm.net

Magazines

Business Reform Magazine www.businessreform.com

World Magazine www.worldmag.com (mainly news from a Christian perspective)

Books

Many books are listed as resources on the above web sites, check those sites.

I personally thought the book [The Dream Giver](#) by Bruce Wilkinson was excellent regarding the process of discerning and pursuing a calling of God

I also liked [On Kingdom Business: Transforming Missions through Entrepreneur Strategies](#) by Ted Yamamori and Ken Eldred so much that I wrote a review about it on amazon.com. Was one of the first books I read after the light bulb turned on. Also includes a good bibliography.