

# JESUS IN THE MARKETPLACE

## **Marketplace ministry is nothing new.**

Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son...

### **Examples of God's Sovereignty in History:**

**Alexander the Great**

**common language**

**The Roman Empire**

**road system**

**common language**

**common currency**

**free trade**

**The printing press and the Reformation**

**Example: William Carey**

**Mao Tse-Tung unwittingly prepared China for the spread of the gospel.**

**simplified Chinese characters**

**outlawed religions**

**increased literacy**

**unified the country**

John 4:35

"...open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

**Grass fires are more fun than bonfires.**

Matthew 13:31-33

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

**Who do you think you are?**

**You will never grow beyond your concept of yourself.**

**What shapes your self-concept?**

**Gifts**

**Experiences**

**Choices**

**What does God say about you?**

John 14:12-14

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Luke 7:28

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Matthew 27:50, 51

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.

### **We are all called to ministry.**

Ephesians 4:11-13

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

John 3:8

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Micah 5:7

The remnant of Jacob will be  
in the midst of many peoples  
like dew from the Lord,  
like showers on the grass,  
which do not wait for man  
or linger for mankind.

### **How to change the world:**

### **Character is everything.**

**Character = moral or ethical quality**

**Our character is who we are by choice.**

"Let your light so shine..."

**The Sermon on the Mount --**

**Character vs. religion** -- e.g. "You've heard it said..., but I say to you..."

**Our character is who we are when no one is looking.**

**Don't be a dork.**

**The meek get everything.**

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth. Mathew 5:5

**The meek are those who have become more confident in God and less confident in themselves.**

Psalm 37:7-11  
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when men succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.  
Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret—it leads only to evil.  
For evil men will be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.  
A little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look for them, they will not be found.  
But the meek will inherit the land  
and enjoy great peace.

Proverbs 20:22

Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!"  
Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

Psalm 81:13-16

"If my people would but listen to me,  
if Israel would follow my ways,  
14 how quickly would I subdue their enemies  
and turn my hand against their foes!  
15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,  
and their punishment would last forever.  
16 But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;  
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

2 Corinthians 5:3

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

Isaiah 30:18

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious  
to you;  
he rises to show you compassion.  
For the LORD is a God of justice.  
Blessed are all who wait for him!

Genesis 12:1,2

"I will make you into a great nation  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you."

Isaiah 35:3,4

Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
say to those with fearful hearts,  
"Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you."

Isaiah 61: 1,2

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,

James 4:1-3

From where do wars and fightings among you come ? Is it not from this, from your lusts which war in your members? You desire, and do not have. You murder, and are jealous, and cannot obtain. You fight and war, yet you have not because you ask not. You ask and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it upon your lusts.

Jeremiah 17:5-8

This is what the LORD says:  
"Cursed is the one who trusts in man,  
who depends on flesh for his strength  
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.  
He will be like a bush in the wastelands;  
he will not see prosperity when it comes.  
He will dwell in the parched places of the desert,  
in a salt land where no one lives.  
"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose confidence is in him.  
He will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit."

Romans 12:17-21

Repay no one evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as far as is in you, being in peace with all men. not avenging yourselves, beloved, but giving place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him. If he thirsts, give him drink. For in so doing you shall heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Jesus was not ashamed to call himself meek.**

Matthew 11:29, 30

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

**The world will not be given to the clever, the strong, the cruel, or the rich, but will be given those who have surrendered control and self-preservation to God. Those who consider this world not their home are the ones to whom God shall give it.**

**There's good stress (stimulation), and there's bad stress (worry).**

**Work is good; worry is bad.**

Genesis 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

**It's ok to like your job.**

**Business is a beautiful thing.**

**Your gifts glorify God, and so do everyone else's.**

**Vocation = "the expression of one's identity and the exercise of one's gifts in a new and dynamic way to glorify God and serve his fellow beings."  
(unknown)**

**Stress is not always bad. Worry always is.**

Matthew 13:22

The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

Genesis 3:17-19

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat of it  
all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you,

and you will eat the plants of the field.  
By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return."

Mark 15:17

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

### **Do Not Worry**

Matthew 6:25

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

28"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Peter 5:6-8

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

### **Contentment**

1 Timothy 6:6-10

But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

**Jesus did not come to make us happy (at least not by our definition).  
Don't throw away your birthright.**

Acts 5

Ananias and Sapphira

1Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. 2With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

5When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. 6Then the young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

9Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

10At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

1 Corinthians 6:9,10

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:5

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**Evangelism is easy.**

**How would God reach your co-workers and neighbors?**

**It's better to take the fire to the grass, than to take the grass to the fire.**

Luke 10

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

"When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.

Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

**(strategic)**

"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.

**(acceptance and fellowship)**

Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'

**( priestly and prophetic )**

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

**Sheep Among Wolves**

**the Luke 10 model:**

**acceptance**  
**compassion**  
**prayer for immediate needs**  
**proclamation of the gospel**  
**(in that order)**

Luke 15:1

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.

**The gospel is an invitation.**

**If our mission field is here, then we should live like missionaries.**

**Study the language.**

**Study the culture and look for entry points for the gospel.**

**Be a good steward of your resources.**

**Discipleship is natural.**

**Discipleship is duplication.**

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

**Have a mentor and be a mentor.**

Matthew 28:18 -20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Discipleship is practical.**

**(e.g. the Israelites coming out of Egypt)**

**It's better to be ordinary.**

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

Isaiah 53:2,3

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.  
Like one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Matthew 26:71-73

Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

**Charisma, good looks, earthly success, and eloquence will draw a crowd (addition), but ordinariness is easily reproduced (multiplication).**

**God is raising up dynamic communities, not dynamic leaders.**

**The importance of community:**

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**(We've lost the art of radical obedience.)**

**A body is born, not made.**

**Community can happen anywhere.**

**How to recognize your community:**

**Who are the people God has given you?**

**The pre-believer is starving for community.**

**Be inclusive.**