

What is **Marketplace** Ministry?

Every place
where people are
engaged in business
on a **daily** basis.

So, what is **your piece** of the puzzle?

Our Creator God has designed *every* human being with a *specific* assignment for the benefit of mankind.

Some get to fulfill it; *some* never get to. Some are still on a life journey to find their purpose. Before I go any further, let me be clear: You can go around the whole world attempting to find your true purpose; *but without the help of the One who designed you, you never will.*

My specific assignment is to represent Jesus in my field of work. No... I don't wear a clergy collar; in fact, I'm not a chaplain or part of a Clergy. Rather, I am a lover of Jesus; a business owner that has experienced an encounter with Him, and because of that I feel a deep desire to share the beauty and power of Who He is to everyone that I cross paths with.

So how does this Marketplace thing work and why is it so important?

You see, for many people, this is something they have never heard before. There are several spheres of influence in our societies, that shift cultures toward righteousness or to unrighteousness... *Business* happens to be one of them.

Let me share some statistics that show the immense impact of this cultural sphere:

- Small businesses constitute 90% of global business
- 70% of global employment
- and 55% of GDP of global development

The term **gross domestic product** describes the monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a specific time period.

According to statistics from the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), *in the United States, 90% of all US companies are small and medium businesses*; of this 90%, 86.3% of business owners make less than 100k a year.

What do these numbers show and why is this relevant to ministry?

It highlights two things...

- 1) *People are either a business owner or an employee*; therefore, millions spend a significant amount, if not *most* of their time in the marketplace.
- 2) *The marketplace is the lifeline of the economy* and the *heartbeat* of a nation.

We are *called* to disciple nations, according to Matthew 28:18–20:

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying...

All **authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, *I am with you always*, even to the end of the age.”

The marketplace has been redeemed by Jesus and now we must reclaim it. His victory on the cross and the power of His resurrection has made it possible for us to operate in that same authority.

What is the Marketplace?

Every place where people are engaged in business on a daily basis... In fact, this has not changed much since way back in biblical times.

Prime example... Jesus approached the disciples while they were conducting business in the marketplace:

A) Peter and Andrew were fishing. (Business) Matthew 4:18-19

B) Matthew was collecting taxes (Business/Government) Luke 5:27

C) Saul of Tarsus went from being a Pharisee to becoming the Apostle Paul; while at Ephesus he partnered with fellow tent makers Priscilla and Aquila (Business). Great signs and wonders were manifested while they worked and shared the Gospel with the people of the city. Acts 19:11

“God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.”

Please keep in mind that as a culture we have been conditioned that “church” is only a physical building we go to worship once or twice a week.

But **the church** is a group of people **with a mandate** to come together **as one**, as well as be **in agreement with God’s desire** that the nations be disciplined and fully restored to His original intent.

The **marketplace** is **where the church started**.

(The birthing of the Church, the day of Pentecost, happened while the city marketplace was active around it; and ethnic groups of many nations heard the glorifying of Jesus in their own language through the mouth of those in the upper room. The Kingdom of Heaven came to thousands that day, as Peter preached the Gospel in the midst of multitudes present while they conducted business and traded with each other).

This powerful revelation has been life-changing, not only for me, but for many other believers. Multitudes are in the middle of a mindset shift in becoming a “gate of Heaven” to those around them, as they worship God through the work of their hands, day after day.

My prayer is that you open your heart, dig deeper and ask the Lord of the harvest to reveal to you the place where your piece of the puzzle fits in the colossal endeavor that is expanding His Kingdom.

I will continue expanding on 'how' serving and sharing the good news of the Gospel of the Kingdom in the marketplace looks like and how we can function in it... so stay connected as we dig deeper into His revelation.

SCRIPTURES TO REFLECT

“And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’”

Matthew 4:18-19 NASB

“And after that He went out, and noticed a tax-gatherer named Levi, sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, ‘Follow Me’.

Luke 5:27 NASB

“And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,”

Acts 19:11 NASB

REFLECTION PROMPTS

- What do you hear in your heart when you read these scriptures?

- What changes need to take place in order to come into alignment scripture?

- In what ways can you apply the revelation you are receiving to your everyday life?

