

# ***The Apostolic Kingdom***

Kingdom Community

Kingdom Power

Kingdom Order

Kingdom Economics

Kingdom Doctrine

# Kingdom Economics

## Outline

### I. The Role of Business in the Kingdom

#### A. Business minded Apostles

1. Peter- owned a fishing company
2. Andrew- owned a fishing company
3. James- ran the family business (fishing)
4. John- ran the family business (fishing)
5. Matthew- tax collector
6. Luke- Physician

#### B. Parables using business people

- |                           |                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Two houses:            | Building contractor, carpenters      |
| 2. Two debtors:           | Creditor, banker                     |
| 3. Rich man:              | Wealthy farmer                       |
| 4. Barren fig tree:       | Wealthy farmer                       |
| 5. Sower:                 | Farmer                               |
| 6. The net:               | Commercial fishermen                 |
| 7. Hidden treasure:       | Jeweler                              |
| 8. Pearl of great price:  | Investor, jeweler, real estate       |
| 9. Harvest:               | Contract harvesters                  |
| 10. Two debtors:          | Political ruler, government position |
| 11. The tower:            | Architect, real estate               |
| 12. King to war:          | Government, King, ruler              |
| 13. Lost coin:            | House wife                           |
| 14. Unjust steward:       | Corporate executive, businessman     |
| 15. Pharisees:            | Tax collector, politician            |
| 16. Slave duty:           | Hired hand                           |
| 17. Laborers in vineyard: | Winemaker                            |
| 18. Talents:              | Entrepreneur, business opportunity   |
| 19. Wicked vine groomer:  | Winemaker supervisor                 |
| 20. Watching slave:       | Security personnel                   |
| 21. Lost sheep:           | Rancher                              |

- a. Over 80% of parables use business operations to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.
  - 1. To relate true spirituality to humanity in their every day environment.
  - 2. To reveal Kingdom life principles in every work environment: a key to spreading the gospel.
  - 3. To teach character kingdom responsibility in daily living. Employee and employer relations are Kingdom dynamics.
  - 4. To ultimately show there is no schism between Heaven and earth, they are one.

### C. The Kingdom is as a Net

- A. Matt. 13:47 "...the Kingdom of Heaven is *like unto a net* that was cast into the sea (humanity) and gathered of every kind."

#### 1. Mark 1:16-20

- a. 16 "...He saw Simon and Andrew his brother *casting a net* into the sea..." ( to fling with sudden motion, deliberate)  
 17 "...Come after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." (I will teach you to use the spiritual net: The Kingdom)  
 18 " And straightway they *forsook their nets*, and followed Him." (They left their nets for a higher purpose)
- b. 19 "...He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship *mending their nets*."  
 (to completely, thoroughly repair, adjust, to make perfectly joined together, to restore...to become effective, useful, and purposeful)  
 20" And straightway He called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after Him." (they left their nets in the hands of the hired servants)

- 2. They were called with the net in their hands.
- 3. Their earthly business helped prepare and identify their true spiritual apostolic call and function.

## B. Apostles must be skilled with the net (Kingdom Dynamics)

1. Casters – those that are excited about the catch. They know how and where to cast the net to be most productive. These would be the prophetic, evangelistic Apostles.
2. Menders – those that know how the net works, and is made. They are skilled at mending, and making the net functional and useful. These are the pastoring, teaching, and governing Apostles.
3. Luke 5:1...it was the great catch that captured Simon's heart and caused him to repent. Because God provided what he could not catch in his own strength and he saw a more powerful net.

Likewise it was the same catch that captured the heart of John and James. But not for same reasons as Simon and Andrew. Not because of the miraculous catch. They were amazed at the net that was broken. In all of their master mending could not hold up to the power of God. So God could catch and bring in the boat what they could not mend in their own strength. They saw a more perfectly mended net.

4. If Jesus called Simon to be catchers of men. In other words they would now use a different net, but still use their motivation of casting.

Then by implication we must believe that James and John had the same call. In other words you will now be master menders of a spiritual kind, and use their motivation of mending.

## II. Marketplace Mentality

### A. Peter's Fishing enterprise

1. John 21:3 "...I go a fishing..."
  - a. When Peter left his fishing business we get the idea that he just forsook it. I am thinking that he turned the business over to others, and may have kept the residual income so that he could travel full time with Jesus.

- b. When he went fishing again speaks to me that he had a business to go back to. So it may not necessarily mean that he backslid, but maybe didn't know what else to do at the time? And there were other ships with him that was helping him.

## B. Paul's tent making business

1. Acts 18: 3 "And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers."
  - a. Paul took advantage of being in the marketplace. It was not just something to do until the offerings got better. It was an apostolic mandate to be actively involved in the business world.
  - b. The marketplace is where the apostolic church thrived. There are no miracles noted in the book of Acts inside of the synagogue. The majority was done in homes, or in the streets of the business world.
  - c. Acts 17:17 "Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him."
    1. It is my belief that the businesses he started he turned over to people as an apostolic act.

## C. The Pharisee's hypocrisy that is alive today

1. The Pharisees were primarily business owners. They developed a teaching style of worship that we have adapted to in the west. They read from the Prophets, and the Old Testament. Then a person was selected to give spiritual insight into the readings. But it was more importantly becoming a system by which they controlled the government by having power through enterprise.
2. They were hypocritical and elite in their approach to Christianity. While most were business people, their own private laws, reveals their attitude towards those who were not a part of them.
  - a. Mark 7:4 "And when they come from the market, except they was, they eat not..."

3. In other words they viewed the heathen businessmen as a lessor or unclean business. So the washing of the hands was a tradition that enforced the thought that not all business people were in their class.

In building Kingdom Enterprise we must not exclude those who don't believe like us or we will be no better than the Pharisees of their day.

### III. Apostolic Mandate

- A. Apostolic Distribution Acts 34-35 “ Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and *distribution* was made unto every man according as he had *need*.”

\*distribution – to give throughout a crowd, to impart to need (the same base meaning as when they gave the miraculous bread to the multitude)

\*need – an occasion for employment, business, demand, requirement (from the word meaning: to furnish what is needed to employ, or empower)

1. Eph. 4:12 “ For the perfecting of the saints, for the *work* of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

\*work – to work toil, to have an occupation in, business employment; to produce a product by hand, art, industry, or mind. To undertake the initiative to do something, enterprise.

2. The rich young ruler in Luke was called to not give to the poor but rather to distribute to them. He was called to the Apostleship but did not have a heart to see people empowered, to be totally restored. He was unwilling to share what he had, and empower others to grow rich just like him. And Jesus said to the disciples that this kind of rich man would hardly make it to heaven!

- B. Apostles empower for employment and enterprise

1. If you don't work you don't eat. I believe this is a true statement. But Paul only said this because in his churches you couldn't help

but have a job because the church provided the resources for people to own businesses etc. We can not condemn humanity for not being employed when we don't provide jobs for them.

2. The Apostolic church gathers and oversees resources.
3. They are consumed with restoring Adam to true identity. One way of doing that is to empower for employment.
  - a. Gen. 3:17 "...cursed is the ground for your sake..."
  - b. Adam lost his true call and identity. His function was to work in the garden that was a part of his identity. God cursed the ground not Adam! So that Adam would not find his identity in the earthy work, but still through the earthy work he could find his true identity. It is a mystery how this works
  - c. Matt.20: 1 Jesus gives us insight into the heart of the Apostolic Kingdom. He shows us that true Kingdom life will get the same pay, because we don't work for money. Only poverty minded people work for money. The Kingdom people work to get paid in identity.
4. They do not see heaven apart from earth. Heaven and earth co-exist as one. The Garden of Eden was such a place where heaven and earth were one. Man's transgression resulted in a dividing of heaven and earth. The Gnostics believe everything is spiritual, therefore anything earthy is of little or no value. Which is true in our Christian culture today. We place no value or need in organic connection to community, or employment, or owning things etc. because we at best have become Gnostics. This doctrine promotes apathy towards earthy things like relationship building, creating wealth, owning lands, and businesses; because all they care about is me and Jesus, and He is coming again.

#### **IV. A Word to the Wealthy**

- A. I Timothy 6:17-19 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;  
That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to *distribute*, willing to *communicate*;

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

\*distribute – willing to share in ones own good fortune, liberal, giving people access to your knowledge, understanding, position, and resource

\*communicate – to cause others to share in your possessions, desiring others to have the same success as you. Free in giving time, advice, and imparting the same avenue for success as you.

B. Luke 16:8-9 “...for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.  
And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”

1. The parable is saying to not hate the rich, especially not the wicked ones. Because they provide opportunity to have access into the eternal dwelling places. These places are only found in a restored identity of Christ. Jesus makes an emphasis upon what we do in regard to mammon, and how we treat it, will determine our spirituality. His parable continues and goes into three areas, which are indicators and tests for true spirituality.

a. *Faithful in the least.* This includes people, tasks, and jobs. The first test of spirituality is measured by how we treat and deal with the “least” in our lives.

b. *Faithful in unrighteous mammon.* This is not only money management, but resource development. We must watch what people do with their money it is connected to their heart. It is a vital test of leadership, and true spirituality.

c. *Faithful in another man’s work.* God will not bless anyone with their own work, until they have faithfully served another. This is the acid test of spirituality. Because more often then not we could probably do better than our mentor.

2. The key is faithfulness towards these things. The steps to maturity are the called, chosen, and the faithful. The called is when you and everyone else is excited about your call or destiny. The chosen stage is when every one is not so excited but you are and keep pressing on. The faithful stage is when people hate you for your call, and you even hardly believe yourself but keep going anyway; This is Faithfulness!

## V. Practical Application

### A. Become a resource center

1. Make friends with the business community.
2. Offer to pray for them daily, share their need in the community.
3. Develop an entrepreneur spirit by bringing the business leaders together on a regular basis, and allow them to share information to those who want to grow into enterprise.

### B. Develop and implement a business center for empowering people

1. Teach Kingdom economic classes, for the public as well.
2. Help those who want to go into business, with planning, and all the steps needed to make it happen.
3. Develop a corporation for lending to those who want the apostolic covering over their business.
  - a. This would include; helping develop a business plan, for marketing, researching need, advertising, etc...
  - b. Weekly calls from Corporation business counselor for updates on business for accountability and support.
  - c. Monthly updates on finance reports, problem solving, etc...
  - d. They would be under the apostolic cover for a minimum of a year, and then it would voluntary basis. But they are under the ultimate oversight for the life of the loan.
  - e. If the business dissolves or begins to fail, the Apostolic Center will assume responsibility to do what needs to be done, whether it means shutting down and liquidating, or selling, or getting someone else to own the business.

### C. In my research I found that most new businesses fail because of a lack of capital, planning, and support. There is no support system for independent business except in franchising, which the fee alone takes too much of the initial capital which takes a long time to recover. If we pursue Kingdom Economics then we have the opportunity give the new businessperson an advantage by offering these three missing things. The day is passed to see empowering someone for business a lessor call then anointing for preaching! We must be Apostolic and see heaven and earth as one. The church and world as one. The businesses we help will bring in much more in the way of revenue, than just merely planting other churches.

