

Transformation in the marketplace

God's Message:

Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. (Isaiah 60:5-6)

Nothing can replace hard work. Fortune is something that happens when opportunity meets with readiness. (Thomas A. Edison)

The church is the light of the world, but marketplace is the heart of the city. To be able to conquer a city or a country, we need to conquer the marketplace. God's kingdom needs to be established there. They are the companies that need to experience God's power and presence. In order to renew a city, total transformation in the marketplace is needed and Christian businessmen have to play the key roles. The role is determined by the type of relationship between Christians and the marketplace. We must be Christians who have the commitment for the total transformation in the marketplace.

If we have a job, it means we are in the marketplace. Whatever our job is, God has a purpose to transform our marketplace through us. Therefore we have to reconcile with our job. Reconciliation happens when we give thanks to God for our job. After that, we speak blessings to our job. Give thanks to God for every situation that God allows to happen in our job. If we are an employee or a professional and we have leaders above us, we should give thanks and pray for them. Joseph, Esther and Daniel must reconcile and accept the situations which are not their choice. They did it, though, because they wanted God to be able to reveal His purposes to them.

We need to be in a system to start the transformation process. God puts us there to bring a renewal. We are the agent of transformation. When we accept this task, we create a trouble for the devil, because even the slightest light that we bring to the marketplace can drive out the darkness.

Church exists to bring the Kingdom of God to the earth. We know that this is true because in 2 occasions Jesus discussed about the church (Matthew 16:18). He showed us the fact that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. We know then that this is a kingdom that has been entrusted with power. Church can influence anything that happens around it.

The Kingdom of God is manifested in the place where ordinary people gather, as in Jesus' time. When the disciples moved inward to the areas of unbelievers, marketplace became the centre of church's activities – especially the sharing of Good News. Of course unbelievers do not gather at the church. They gather in the common place, plaza and the marketplace. Paul, like Peter, John,

Jacob and Phillip, changed the public forums to be places where God's power and God's presence were so real for those lost souls in that city.

The church is not limited by its building. The church is the men and women, businessmen and employees, parents and children who have been freed from the kingdom of darkness and now are brought to the Kingdom of Light. These people are the people who bring the kingdom with them to the marketplace. Churches in the New Testament era shake the gates of hell, the church always win, it never looks weak or lose the battle. The standard about what we need to do on earth is God's command in heaven. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). This command is never been cancelled. Until now, the church still has the power to pray to invite the Kingdom of heaven to come to the marketplace, so that God's will be done in our marketplace. Our job becomes a job which is blessed by God. It becomes a job that glorifies His name. This is what we call as transformation in the marketplace.

Essence:

If we have a job it means we are in the place called marketplace or business place. Whatever our job is, God has a purpose to transform our marketplace through us. Therefore we have to reconcile with our job. The way we reconcile with our job is by giving thanks for the job that God gives us.

Reflection:

Have we given thanks for our job? Are we doing our job with peace and joy?

Commitment:

I give thanks for our job, because it means that God has a purpose for me: to become an agent of transformation in my working place.

**Taken from the book of "Transformation Journey"
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