



Dominion in the Marketplace Series

KINGS
&
PRIESTS



“Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.” Deuteronomy 8:18

“And you have caused them to become a Kingdom of priests for our God. And they will reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:10

The Lord has made us both kings and priests in order to reign in the earth and majority of us will rule from the marketplace, rather than the pulpit. When we think of kings in the marketplace our minds may go to well known captains of industry, business tycoons etc. The reality we confront daily is that not every king in the marketplace is a believer, and unfortunately not every believer in the marketplace functions as a king, even though this is God’s desire.

This tells us there are things we must grasp to part of those that can be identified as God’s kings in the marketplace. This series we are exploring 10 things God looks for in how believers should function as kings in the marketplace. We trust the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of our understanding as He equips us to function as kings in the marketplace.

Day 1

Energy & Passion

“From the moment John stepped onto the scene until now, the realm of heaven’s kingdom is bursting forth, and passionate people have taken hold of its power.” Matthew 11:12 TPT

Two things that distinguish a king in the marketplace are energy and passion. Rarely do you find a successful person lacking in these areas. People may demonstrate these qualities differently based on their personalities, but they will always be evident at the core of what they do and how they do it.

“I know all that you do, and I know that you are neither frozen in apathy nor fervent with passion. How I wish you were either one or the other!...” Revelation 3:15-16 TPT

“Then those who feared the Lord spoke with each other, and the Lord listened to what they said...” Malachi 3:16

Jesus told the churches in Revelation 2-3 that He knew all that they did, both good and bad. Likewise He knows all we do today, not just in church matters but in all facets of life. He knows when our underlying objective for expansion in our businesses and careers are fuelled by a passion for His kingdom and when it’s fuelled by self. He’s aware of both the conversations we have verbally with others and internally in our inner thoughts. Nothing escapes His observation. As He observes us, we make it clear to Him if we can be trusted with the responsibility of representing Him as a king in the marketplace.

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,” Colossians 3:23

Diligence and willingness are required on our part in dealing with the affairs of God. This isn’t restricted to what happens in church but in every area we find ourselves, particularly in the marketplace. Our perspective should be that God is our primary employer and our place of work or enterprise is where we have been assigned by our employer to function. When we have this mindset, we’re better positioned to focus on serving the Lord passionately as He gives us ability to lift His name in our sphere.

Prayer: Lord help me understand that no matter what I do in the marketplace, my focus should always be on the truth that I’m doing it for You as Your representative

Day 2

Taking Responsibility

“of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;” I Chronicles 12:32

We often speak about the sons of Issachar in the context of their having understanding but another trait they demonstrated was responsibility. The Issacharites took time to seek understanding and apply it not just in their lives and tribe alone, but in all Israel. In the marketplace we also have a responsibility to seek understanding of how our “kingdom” - unit, office, organization, sector works and the wisdom for how this should be applied to move our area of responsibility forward. This way we shine God’s light and bring His kingdom to life in our spheres of influence.

“Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.” Proverbs 4:7

“You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name [as My representative] He may give to you.” John 15:16 AMP

Jesus Himself has given us an assignment in the marketplace. He has carefully and intentionally appointed and positioned us in areas we’re to take responsibility for as His representatives and as such He expects results. This means one of the things we must consistently should pray about is wisdom for our area of assigned responsibility and how we should carry His light in these areas. We should be the “go-to” people in our organisations for direction, solutions, wisdom on issue resolution etc because we have the power of the Holy Ghost at work in us.

Prayer: Lord please help me understand and align with Your assignment for me in the marketplace. Grant me wisdom, understanding and the equipment required for me to actively and consistently demonstrate responsibility for all You have assigned to me as Your representative. Let my role in the marketplace always bring the results You’re looking for.

Day 3

Prioritizing Others

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.” Philippians 2:3-4

One of the characteristics of a king in the marketplace is the willingness to look beyond one’s own needs alone. A good king understands that there are people he or she is responsible for and intentionally seeks to meet their needs. We are a royal priesthood which means we also perform the function of priests in the marketplace and one of our priestly functions is praying for those we are responsible for.

“And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.” James 4:3

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

As believers, if our prayers are focused on ourselves alone we are not fully performing our role as king and priest. This doesn’t mean we ignore the needs we have. God Himself told us that He knows we have needs and will supply them according to His riches. If we focus on just pleasing ourselves, we will have to take on the responsibility of providing for our needs. But if we stay focused on what matters to God, He takes on the responsibility for meeting our needs so we don’t get distracted from taking care of others. And God is better able to do this than we could ever be.

“But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant,” Matthew 20:26

In God’s economy, the highest level of leadership comes from service to others in the area(s) we’re called to serve. This is contrary to the world’s teaching that leaders are supposed to be served. Service doesn’t mean being subservient to others, rather it means taking a genuine interest in others and seeking for the best way to help them mature in the things of Christ.

Prayer: Lord show me the area You’ve called me to serve and help keep focus on this as I trust You to take care of all my needs.

Day 4

Guided by the Holy Spirit

'The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.'" Psalms 32:8-9

Believers are not meant to be disadvantaged in any way because of the presence of the Holy Spirit and one of the things that distinguishes a king appointed by God in the marketplace is the ability to function with the guidance the Holy Spirit provides. When the Holy Spirit is at work in the life of a believer, that person receives the ability to be guided by Him. This guidance is available to all believers, but we must understand how to tap into it.

'For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.' Job 33:14

'There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.' 1 Corinthians 14:10

The first thing we must understand is how the Lord speaks to us. The Bible tells us that God is always speaking, but unfortunately, we don't always recognize His voice. It's difficult to recognize the voice of someone with whom a personal relationship doesn't exist. And sometimes even if we hear the person speak, we may misunderstand or misinterpret what is being said because we have limited understanding of the way the person functions. God may be speaking but there are always many other voices speaking at the same time including self, society, the enemy and it's the one we pay attention to the most that we will yield to.

Being led by the Holy Spirit requires a willingness on our part to commit to spending time with Him and listening to what He says and how He speaks to us. As we do so we become more sensitive to His ways and are better able to align to His guidance, especially when He seems to be leading us in a direction that is unfamiliar and uncomfortable. As a king in the marketplace, being led by the Holy Spirit means always putting God's will and way ahead of our own and committing to total obedience to Him.

Prayer: Holy Spirit help me draw close to You and understand Your ways so I can be led by You, not just in the marketplace, but in all facets of my life

Day 5

Spiritually Powerful

“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.” Ephesians 3:16

The marketplace contains both spiritual and physical elements. The physical element is the one we engage with on a daily basis: the establishments, people, products, services, etc. Kings in this realm are recognized as people who wield influence in their area of specialty or authority as such Kings must carry power in the physical realm. But more importantly kings must carry power in the spiritual realm because that’s the foundation for everything that happens in the physical.

“..for no one buys their merchandise anymore... bodies and souls of men.” Revelation 18:11, 13

The most valuable commodity in the marketplace isn’t precious stones or minerals, but the souls of men. Everyone that functions in the marketplace is engaging not just with bodies but with our souls, daily pledging allegiance either to God or mammon. Even if people don’t verbalize this allegiance, our actions demonstrate who we are really trusting in for our future.

“Where the word of a king is, there is power...” Ecclesiastes 8:4

As we are strengthened by the Lord, we receive the power to stand for the things that matter to Him, functioning as His representatives. As we wield our influence effectively, we actively create or contribute to the creation of policies, structures etc that reflect God’s principles and glorify His name. This is one of the reasons God promotes His children: not just to have material things and meet our needs, though they are important.

“People from many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths...” Micah 4:2

God wants His children to carry power so the Holy Spirit becomes the dominant influence in our unit, department, organization, sector etc. As the Holy Spirit dominates the sphere, the nations come to the knowledge of His ways and yield to His power so the kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of our God.

Prayer: Lord strengthen me in my inner man so I have the power to fulfill Your assignment in the marketplace

Day 6

Socially Impactful

“...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” I John 3:8

Our careers/businesses are meant to be a platform for the expression of God’s kingdom and one of the areas we should express Him is in impacting society. This isn’t about trying to please God through works, but at provide an avenue for showing God’s love to those around us. Regardless of how limited we may think our field of influence is, there are people around us we can and should impact. As we do so, we manifest God’s character and destroy the works of the enemy.

“...Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.” Isaiah 58:6-7

“Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?” James 2:15-16

People are kept in different types of bondage with some being wrongly imprisoned. Others face different kinds of oppression due to unjust policies in organisations, sectors or society at large. There are those whose chains are in the form of illiteracy, addiction, illness, discrimination at various levels and much more.

There could very well be hungry people around you that you can share a meal with, likewise those who can be supported by providing shelter. When it comes to clothing, most of us have at least one outfit we can give to someone who needs it. It’s not about trying to do everything for everyone, but understanding that we’re all called to do something consistently for as many as we can per time. Our goal isn’t to try and look good before others, but with the understanding that we are God’s representatives and are just doing what our Father would have us do.

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to the needs of those around me and help me partner with You to meet the needs of those You’ve called me to reach.

Day 7

Strategic Collaboration

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.” 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

One of the critical things kings understand and practice is the power of collaboration. God did not design us to be individualistic in our approach to kingdom expansion which is why throughout the Bible we see illustrations of kings reaching out to others either in times of trouble or times of growth. This serves to demonstrate the power of relationship as it’s highly unlikely that people will come to the aid of, or collaborate with someone they don’t know.

“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” 1 Corinthians 3:9

God Himself provides a template for collaboration through His invitation to us to be His co-workers in fulfilling His agenda. For us to work well with Him, there must be an underlying and ongoing relationship that keeps us connected to Him so we have clarity not just on the agenda but also the heart behind it. Likewise for us to collaborate effectively with others we must have clarity not just on their activities and achievements but more importantly their character.

“And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.” Mark 6:7

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” Proverbs 27:17

When Jesus started expanding His ministry He sent His disciples out in pairs because He understood the power of collaboration and partnership. This principle also applies in the marketplace, as such we have the guarantee that wherever we’re functioning, there are people pre-assigned for us to partner with. However because it’s God that brings the increase, we need Him to identify the ones He’s assigned to us and vice versa.

Prayer: Lord thank You for showing me that I don’t have to do it all alone. Help me discern the people You’ve connected me to and vice versa so we can fulfill Your agenda in the marketplace

Day 8

Purpose Driven

“So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.” 1 Corinthians 9:26

Kings in the marketplace function with divine purpose in mind and according to divine direction. The “daily grind” of work can make it easy to forget why God positioned us there in the first place, but having a purpose driven mindset ensures we are intentional in every action we take and stay focused on getting the desired results according to God’s standards. The Holy Spirit helps us achieve this through a combination of wisdom, revelation, understanding and exercising personal discipline. As we place a priority on the things of God, we are more open to paying the price to walk with Him.

Apostle Paul recognized the importance of these elements so much so that they clearly played a key part in much of what we call the Pauline prayers today. We also see the consistent interplay between God and us as we stay consistent in seeking His will. As with anything worth having, there’s discipline required on our part to be consistent both in the place of seeking God’s mind and executing what He reveals to us.

“I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:27

Personal discipline is non-negotiable for anyone willing to be led by the Holy Spirit. He’s not going to drag us along if we’re not willing to go where He leads us. But being led won’t always be comfortable or convenient which is where the discipline comes in. There must be a willingness on our part to lay aside our personal comfort and agenda, trusting that the Holy Spirit knows best. Precision in every step is a reality we can walk in as we grow in wisdom, revelation, understanding of who God is and who we are in Christ as well.

Prayer: Lord grant me the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Let the eyes of my understanding be opened so I may know who You are and what You have planned for me. Help me to value Your way above all else so I can pay the necessary price to walk in it

Day 9

Standing The Test of Time

'But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.' 1 John 2:27

Today let's explore two areas that distinguish kings in the marketplace: economic strength and commercial resilience. Economic strength doesn't speak to how much we have in our bank accounts, rather it speaks to how much of our economic resources have been committed to kingdom-related ventures. Commercial resilience speaks to our ability to walk with the Holy Spirit so we stay standing regardless of economic or political headwinds that may seek to disrupt our business or career.

'The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.' Haggai 2:8

God created all the economic resources of the earth and therefore He is the rightful owner of everything. One of the benefits of being the owner is that He can direct resources into the hands of His partners in kingdom expansion. What He's looking for isn't how much money we have, but how well we steward what He makes available to us. Meaning are we committed to our partnership even if our accounts are not yet buoyant? Because what we cannot do with little we will not do with much.

'This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow.' Isaiah 48:17

'But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon...Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.' Psalms 92:12,14

As we walk the path of faithful stewardship the Lord is invested in preserving our career/business and our relevance in our sectors so that our impact will continue to be made in His kingdom. We have the assurance that the Holy Spirit will guide us along the best pathway for our business to thrive and remain relevant regardless of the seasons.

Prayer: Lord, I commit to being a faithful steward of the resources You have given me. Teach me to profit in my career/business and guide me along the pathway that will keep me relevant and fruitful even in old age.

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