



**50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON**  
**19<sup>th</sup> August – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**PRAYING FOR THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMY SECTOR**

**Isaiah 60: 5,6:**

*Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

*A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.*

**PRAYER GUIDE**

**Written by Dr. James Magara**

**WEEKLY FOCUS 2023**

Week 1:	20 <sup>th</sup> August – 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Family and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 2:	27 <sup>th</sup> August – 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Church and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 3:	3 <sup>rd</sup> September – 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Government and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 4:	10 <sup>th</sup> September – 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Education and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 5:	17 <sup>th</sup> September – 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Media Business and the Economy Sphere
Week 6:	24 <sup>th</sup> September – 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Celebration/Arts and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 7:	1 <sup>st</sup> October – 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Global Business/Economy

**THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2023/24 PRAYER SEASON ARE:**

1. To seek divine enablement for the Body of Christ to rise to its place in the Business/Economy Sphere.
2. To pray for the economies of Uganda and Africa to rise to their divine destinies.
3. To pray for the restructuring of the global economy to a more righteous and just one.
4. To seek divine enablement for the individual, family, and organizational fulfillment of divine destinies in our generation and the ones to come.

## WEEK TWO: CHURCH AND THE BUSINESS/ECONOMY SPHERE

26<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

**Luke 19:13**

*'Engage in business until I come.'*

**Luke 19:15**

*When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business.*

### **Main Prayer Focus of the Week:**

1. Examining attitudes and practice regarding money and wealth in the Body of Christ.
2. Confessing and repenting of sins of the Body of Christ regarding attitudes and practice regarding business, work, money, and wealth.
3. Making commitments to do things God's way.
4. Praying that biblical truths regarding business, work, money, and wealth will be taught and modeled extensively in the Body of Christ.

### **JESUS AND THE MARKET PLACE**

I have often asked congregations when they last heard a sermon in their churches on work, business, or economy. The responses have continually indicated that these are very rare topics in most of our churches and yet the scriptures have lot to say about them. A different response comes when asked when they last heard a sermon about giving, sowing financial seeds, and getting breakthroughs. The time for the restoration of a true understanding of the marketplace in the Body of Christ has come.

As stated in the guide last week, Jesus was born into a marketplace family - a family with a carpentry business. He was not born into a priestly family. He was born in a stable – where animals were 'parked and replenished for the night' – the equivalent of a modern fuel station. The angels sang to the shepherds in their place of work. His first visitors where not rabbis or priests, rather small business owners and employees. Growing up, he experienced all the struggles and challenges of being in, and eventually running a small family business. He spent 18 years of his life in the family carpentry business. He belonged more to the marketplace than to the temple.

When he visited his hometown of Nazareth soon after inaugurating his public ministry, they had difficulty acknowledging him because he was better known as a carpenter. They had engaged and enjoyed his professional services for close to 20 years. He had been involved in making a wide range of furniture. He had not done it as a hobby; he had to make a profit so that he could look after himself and later his mother. It appears that his foster father Joseph, by this time had died, in which case being the eldest, he would have been the main family fender with his brothers and sisters as junior partners. His daily routine in the carpentry must have included calculation of costs of goods and labor, interplay between supply and demand, competitive pricing, measurement of potential return on investment, procurement of equipment, accounts etc.

Jesus interacted with common marketplace people. Most of His parables were marketplace stories that show that he was thoroughly familiar with the marketplace. His disciples too were marketplace people. Andrew, Peter, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were fishermen (Matthew 4:18-22). The sons of Zebedee weren't just fishermen, but business owners, along with their father, for they employed others in the business. Thomas, Nathaniel and Philip may have also worked as fishermen, for they were all together and fishing when Jesus appeared to them in John 21:2-8, following his resurrection. Matthew, called Levi in Luke, worked as a tax collector for the Roman government. In that day, tax collectors were considerably wealthy because they earned a portion of what they collected, as noted in the story of Zacchaeus, another famous tax collector who followed Jesus. Simon may have been a politician or a revolutionary - a zealot. These were activists who engaged in politics and anarchy, attempting to overthrow the Roman government.

Similarly, most Old Testament heroes were not ascetics but rather people deeply involved in the marketplace. Most of the prophets in the Old Testament were people in the marketplace, not dependent on Levitical resources. According to Jewish tradition, a rabbi had to master a trade and exercise it honestly to support himself so that he could teach for free. Physical labor was not to be ashamed of or considered inferior. The opposite was true: it was considered a shame for a father not to teach his son how to work with his hands. It was felt that whoever did not teach his son the Law and a trade would bring him up to be a fool and a thief. In the Hebrew mind, work is an expression of worship.

### **APOSTLE PAUL AND THE MARKET PLACE**

Apostle Paul is best known as a missionary, evangelist, and builder of the church. He is not often considered as a businessman, entrepreneur, tentmaker. He did this to support himself in the ministry. Like Jesus, he had to plan, set goals, find markets, deal with vendors, buy materials, establish prices, sell to customers, supervise employees, and pay taxes.

Throughout the scriptures the giants of faith were deeply involved in the marketplace with strong ties to what we now call "secular work". They tended sheep, built cities, wrote music and poetry, served kings, were kings, practiced medicine, caught fish, collected taxes, built products. They did this while serving God or preparing to serve Him. This a model that God is restoring to the Body of Christ.

### **THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS**

*Read Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-27.*

In these passages Jesus tells similar stories. In both accounts, a man who is preparing to leave on a journey entrusts his possessions to his servants. In Matthew's account, the man distributes his wealth among three servants based on their abilities. In the Luke account ten servants are recipients. These parable focuses on four major themes: resources, work, time, and profit. When work is applied to resources over time, God has provided that the result will be profit.

### **Resources**

The term "**talent**" means something very different today from what our Lord meant when He told these parables. In our day talent refers to abilities but in Jesus' day it was a measure of money – it was the largest measurement of money. It was a measurement of weight and therefore did not have a constant value. A talent of gold, for example, would be worth a whole lot more than a talent of bronze. A talent of gold was a lot of money. The approximate value of a talent of gold then was the

equivalent of 20 years' wages for a common laborer<sup>1</sup>. This means that even the man who got one talent received a lot of money.

## **Work**

Genesis 2:15 indicates that when God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He gave them work to do. The Lord God took the man and placed him in the orchard in Eden to care for and maintain it. Work existed before the fall of man and only became toilsome after the fall of man. From that point on work was different; there was a certain "futility" to work.

The first and second servants immediately got to work with his master's money. The third servant was lazy and only had excuses – he didn't do any work. He didn't even hand the money over to bankers to let them go to work with it. Our Lord's teaching in the parable of the talents is that God expects profit that is the product of our labors. He provides the resources and the ability, but we are expected to work hard with what He has given us, for the profit of the kingdom. In the parables, money was given to use, to work with, not just to give back. How many of us are simply giving back money that we have not used.

## **Profit**

The parables teach us that those who over time, work with what they are entrusted, to make a profit for their master, are rewarded for their faithfulness. Those who are unfaithful lose not only their reward, but also their stewardship. God expects to see a profit with the resources that He has entrusted to individuals, families, organizations, and nations. God is not harsh, nor does He require that we do the impossible (make a profit where He has not provided the means). Unlike Pharaoh in Moses' day, God does not require us to "make bricks" without providing both the clay and the straw. However, wherever He has gifted He does expect returns.

### **Luke 12:48**

*...For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.*

Just as a businessman expects to make a profit, and rejoices when his employees increase his wealth, so God expects a profit and rejoices in it. He has granted the time and the resources for men to make a profit for the kingdom of heaven, until He returns. These should be sobering thoughts for a country that prides itself in being "gifted by nature".

## **Sloth and Laziness**

The third slave is described as lazy, and thus useless, as opposed to being hardworking, and therefore useful. He does not "go to work" with his master's money, over a lengthy period, and thus make a profit. He does no work and thus is useless. The lazy, wicked slave in the parables is that person who refuses to go to work with the resources God has provided, to produce profit for the kingdom of heaven.

## **Reward**

Faithful saints are given even greater responsibilities, and even more work. But this work is

---

<sup>1</sup> William Hendriksen, *The Gospel of Matthew* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1973), p. 879.

joyful. Such labor is, to a large degree, entering the joy of our Master. If so, then what is the fruitful labor God has given to you as an individual? How about to your family, church, or community? What endowments has God given to our country? What is your/our unique contribution to the kingdom of God? What is it that He should find us doing when He returns?

### **God's provision**

#### **Genesis 2:8-14**

*<sup>8</sup>The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. <sup>9</sup>And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

*<sup>10</sup>Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.*

In the Garden of Eden God provided for all that man would ever need. There were trees, water, gold and other minerals, food. The Garden of Eden was modeled as a perpetual source of provisions requiring only to be worked upon to produce abundant yields to Adam. If man did not work it, it would not yield. The extent of its yield was dependent on the scope of working invested.

In summary, God provides resources, He expects us to work with the resources he provides, He expects profit from what He has endowed us with, and there is a reward for faithfulness but loss for unfaithfulness. The people of God must lead the way in stewarding earth's resources and then teach these ways to those who do not know God.

### **PRAY:**

- For balanced teaching in the Body of Christ about work, wealth, possessions, and poverty.
- That God will raise leaders that will model the biblical teachings on work, wealth, and business.
- For a new attitude in the Body of Christ towards work, money, and wealth that is in line with the teaching of Scripture.
- For the increased manifestation of Kingdom Resource stewards in our day – men and women that God will trust enough to entrust with His resources for the advancement of His Kingdom in the country and the nations.
- For the manifestation of the Josephs and Daniels.
- Abundant provision for all Kingdom of God business initiatives in the nation.
- Rise of Christian businesses that positively impact the national economy.

## **SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER**

### **2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-15**

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. Do not regard him as an enemy but warn him as a brother.

### **COLOSSIANS 3:23**

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

### **PROVERBS 16:3**

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

### **ECCLESIASTES 3:12-13**

I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

### **GENESIS 2:15**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

### **1 CORINTHIANS 10:31**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

### **PSALM 90:17**

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

### **ECCLESIASTES 5:18-20**

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot.

Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

### **PROVERBS 18:9**

Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

**PROVERBS 14:23**

In all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.

**EPHESIANS 4:28**

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

**COLOSSIANS 3:17**

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**PROVERBS 12:24**

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

**PSALM 128:2**

You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

**PROVERBS 31: 13.14**

She seeks wool and flax and works with willing hands.  
She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar.

**PROVERBS 31:18,19**

She perceives that **her merchandise is profitable**. Her lamp does not go out at night.  
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

**PROVERBS 31:21-25**

She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.  
She **makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant**.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

**Deuteronomy 8:11-19**

*“Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.*

## **AFRICA AWAKE!**

***A prophetic word given by Chad Taylor on February 1, 2000***

Africa awake to your destiny! For in you is a prophetic seed that is about to break the ground of persecution. From you is coming a tree of righteousness and soundness. Its leaves will be for a shelter for the nations of the earth. For in you is a prophetic seed, an apostolic seed; in you is a cornerstone to My last days Church, a pillar in My temple and a living stone.

Africa awake to your destiny! For in the days to come you will see changes that topple the magistrates and the hierarchy that permits the death of My children. You will see it and be glad, you will say in your hearts, "The Lord is gracious and has not forgotten us!" The world will report of it and know that the Lord is in you. The seats of authority will turn, they will turn like water before the face of the Lord.

Africa awake to your destiny! For your children shall sing a new song! Your children will see a song of Jubilee! I will break now the curses that have brought drought and famine. Through your children's prayers I will break the chains that hang on your nations neck. I will loose you from this heavy burden and give you rest. I will unlock the gates of bronze, and I will give you the treasures out of darkness says the Lord.

Africa awake to your destiny! For from you will come a company, a troop, a brigade, they will march with a blazing message of My love! They will march to the steps of destiny and they will bring a Word of the Lord to the uttermost parts of the earth. From you O Africa will come My generals, and My commanders. From you will come a company of prophets that the earth has yet to see! You will prophesy to the winds of the earth and they will carry the life of My word to the nations.

Africa awaken to your destiny! This is your hour of liberation! This is your year of jubilee! Africa! Awaken to your destiny! You will speak My word in this season. You will set in motion these end time events. You will set My house in order. For the seed of prophecy is springing up even now in you, it will shortly bud and bear fruit. It will shortly cast its shadow upon the whole earth, and many shall hear of it and be glad.

Africa awaken to your destiny! This is your year of jubilee!