

Worldview for the Marketplace: AUDIO #11

LESSON AT A GLANCE

“The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries”

Threefold Cord: Stewardship Skills

MASTER PRINCIPLE #11

God pays for what He orders.

<p>Key scriptures:</p>	<p>Gen. 3:5, 6:19, 11:1-9; 1 Sam. 17:4-51; Psa. 19:13, 131:all; Prov. 1:1-7; Isa. 14:13; 1 Cor. 12:27; 2 Cor. 10:14-17; Eph. 4:12-16; Heb. 11:1; James 1:2-8; 2 Pet. 1:3, 2:10; Jude v.9; Rev. 22:2</p>
<p>Key concepts found in this lesson: <i>While God expects us to bring increase, we cannot do so in our own will or presumption.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While God is infinite, He has set limits and boundaries for man to discover and respect. 2. Faith functions when we see our general task and ministry in God and then begin to “fill in the space” (dominion). 3. Our faith is forged by learning to do our assignments God’s way, in God’s timing, through obstacles, limitations, and adaptations. 4. Faith is a “team sport” beginning with God and you, extending to you and those to whom you are assigned (jointed).
<p>How each of these four major teaching concepts generally applies to the marketplace ministries:</p>	
<p>Key business applications: <i>God honors growth that is done His way, in His timing, and facilitated by His will.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sound business practices demand that we stay within our resource base relationally, financially, technically, and executionally. 2. “Faith,” relative to growth and risk, as already stated, is tied to obedience, patience, and seeing God’s provision as the key to timing. 3. Trials, in some form, always accompany obedience-based growth; the issue is what are the lessons in the trials? 4. Expansion and growth require, almost always, consensus from the key leaders that is real, not “performance-based.”

Copyright © GoStrategic 2015

You are called to co-manage God’s creation in Christ.

Romans 8:17

Study • Train • Obey

"The Economics of Obedience and Boundaries"

I. MASTER PRINCIPLE #11:

God pays for what He orders (Psa. 19:13; 2 Pet. 1:13).

In this study we will deal with the critical issues of true growth, rather than presumption, and how to apply faith both personally and with those around us.

- A. All living healthy organizations experience growth.
 - 1. Lasting growth comes out of discovering and building with God's provision.
 - 2. Growth which is destined to disappear and damage us, and others, is the result of missing God's provision and creating our own provisions presumptuously.
- B. In our fallenness, man wants the power "to ascend" beyond limits and be a god (Gen. 3:5; Isa. 14:15).
 - 1. The Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9) and the above scriptures are exhibit "A" of man's quest to glorify himself and be transcendent.
 - 2. The "Tree of Life" (Rev. 22:2) is the source of God's provision, in Christ, for mankind, and that "tree" is rooted in our fear of acting independently of God, outside of His boundaries and provisions (Psa. 19:13).

II. While God is infinite, He has set limits and boundaries for man to discover and respect. (Psa. 131:all; 2 Cor. 10:14-17; 2 Pet. 2:10; Jude v.9)

- A. As we have just noted, where God guides, He provides.
 - 1. Our protection from presumption is living in the reality that God pays for what He orders.
 - 2. When opportunities arise, without provision, and we create our own provision through strife, debt, untested relationships or manipulation, we will live to regret it.
 - 3. Fiat money, personal, corporate and national debt, are all examples of man "playing God," unless they are expeditiously retired.
- B. Over-extending our relational investments or personal ministries and gifts, as the Apostle Paul notes, is another form of resisting God's limits and boundaries of safety for us (2 Cor. 10:14-17).
 - 1. Expansion, beyond God's borders for us, leads to personal and financial judgment.
 - 2. The more resources we have, the more careful we must be not to "make things happen" that God has not asked us to do!
- C. God's boundaries of safety are also set for our protection from both illegal speech (2 Pet. 2:10) and meddling in issues which do not apply to us (Psa. 131:all).
 - 1. God has set boundaries of speech, even against evil authorities (Jude v.9).
 - 2. Getting involved in problems and issues that don't belong to us (fall within our sphere) is a recipe for frustration, mis-spent time, and anxiety.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that whatever man can imagine, properly equipped, he can do.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, sound business practices demand that we stay within our resource base relationally, financially, technically, and executionally.

III. Faith functions when we see our general task and ministry in God, and then begin to “fill in the space” (dominion) (Prov. 1:1-7; Heb. 11:1).

- A. “Faith” is not following our own will, using God’s name, of course. Faith is seeing God’s will for something and partnering behind Him to make it happen (Heb. 11:1).
 - 1. The risk in faith is in putting God’s name on our own will.
 - 2. Obedience, as we have noted before, is doing God’s will, God’s way, in God’s timing.
- B. “Dominion” or rulership, comes out of us as a result of the wealth of skills and wisdom God allows us to build (Prov. 1:1-7).
 - 1. Man does not obediently rule through the resources of material riches; he rules through skill (wisdom) and discipline (instruction).
 - 2. “Riches” cannot pass through death, but death has no hold on wealth.
- C. Borders and walls are the support structures around where we are called to live and rule.
 - 1. A house without walls or a roof is an unprotected shell, not a house.
 - 2. Borders keep me in, but they keep my enemies out as well!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that spiritual “faith” is subjective hope; real faith is courage and tenacity applied to a task.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, faith, relative to growth and risk, is tied to obedience, patience, and seeing God’s provision as the key to timing.

IV. Our faith is forged by learning to do our assignments God’s way, in God’s timing, through obstacles, limitations, and adaptations (James 1:2-8).

- A. Learning to walk within God’s borders and provisions is a major part of our journey here on earth. When we fail, meet roadblocks or obstacles, here are the issues:
 - 1. “Lord, what are You saying to me in all of this, and what do You want me to learn?”
 - 2. “Is this trial due to self, Satan, or You, and how do You want me to respond?”
- B. In this journey, God uses pressures to help us see new levels of reality and new paradigms that will take us to the next level of spiritual effectiveness.
 - 1. Current paradigms sometimes become obstacles to our next level of growth; pressure and trials often force us to abandon them and embrace new ones.
 - 2. When we see the new paradigms God’s Spirit wants us to see, it is often amazing how quickly obstacles are resolved!

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that “I did it my way” is the sound of personal security and self-actualization, both of which are required to succeed.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, trials, in some form, always accompany obedience-based growth; the issue is what are the lessons in the trials? True success is secured when doing our assignments God’s way, in God’s timing.

V. Faith is a “team sport” beginning with God and you, and extending to those to whom you are assigned (jointed) (Gen. 6:19; 1 Sam. 17:4-51; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12-16).

- A. The concept of God’s borders or limits also applies to the issue of with whom God wants us to build and with whom He does not want us to build, for whatever reasons.
 - 1. As Ephesians 4:12-16 points out, spiritual authority is given to us to help us define and clarify those to whom God has joined us for common labor.
 - 2. It is common vision and common purposes that God uses to bond people together in a common response to His “sound” (Gen. 6:19).
- B. Shalom, or “peace,” in Hebrew means more than we commonly understand.
 - 1. It means having the power to make proper agreements with the right people.
 - 2. It also means having the ability to resolve successfully your issues and conflicts with those whom God has called you to labor.
- C. Building organizations, or family, requires a common commitment to the agreements of your “community.”
 - 1. Christ is building a church, not a loose-knit group of individuals (1 Cor. 12:27).
 - 2. Community requires “citizenship,” that is, the common ascent to transcendent values which members agree to abide by and mutually reinforce.
- D. Seeing things God’s way allows us to go beyond the limits which have stopped others as David models so clearly (1 Sam. 17:4-51).
 - 1. David, unlike his brethren, didn’t care how tall Goliath was.
 - 2. As a prophetic voice, and because he had practiced stewardship by protecting the sheep with his sling, he demonstrated that the battle is the Lord’s, and that faith overcomes fear.

Worldly Deceptions	We are told falsely that teamwork is critical, but assignments and their “teams” come and go.
Key Business Applications	The truth is, expansion and growth require, almost always, consensus from the key leaders that is real, not “performance-based.”