



SECTION I—LESSON #5

SUMMARY:

This lesson is designed to cast a vision for how your business and/or leadership in the marketplace is intended by God to fit within the move of His Spirit in this generation and in history.

MAIN LESSON IDEAS:

- In God’s created ecosystem, healthy units seek to integrate with other healthy units.
- Our purpose in God is to fulfill His ministry for us in life by building upon the past, preparing for eternity, and serving others in the process.
- The three phases of marketplace ministry—validation, evangelism, and Kingdom economics—will shape both the church and history.

How Your Marketplace Ministry Fits into the Big Picture

by Dennis Peacocke

“For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay.”

Acts 13:36

- I. God has called us to build and fit our private lives into the larger context in which we live.
 - A. Everything that is healthy, according to God’s general DNA code in the cosmos, seeks to integrate into larger units.
 1. The individual integrates his/her life into the family.
 2. The family integrates into the church, marketplace, and community.
 3. The local church integrates into a larger set of relationships and associations.
 4. The community integrates in a city; a city to a region/county; a county into a state; a state into a nation; a nation into common treaties.
 5. Internal integrity produces external integration.

6. That which doesn't integrate is isolated, cancerous, or potentially destructive to the surrounding ecosystem.
- B. God's universe is a unified system, not a fragmented "multiverse."
1. God, as a systematic builder, has created a reality that is a "seamless garment" (John 19:23) like unto the one Jesus wore.
 - a. This wonderful, obscure little reality is craftily hidden by the Holy Spirit just like the cosmic event of the planet's continental separation (Gen. 10:25).
 - b. This special tunic or robe (remember the movie, *The Robe*?) perfectly communicates that not only is God one and "seamless," but that His creation is as unified and interconnected as the particularity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Not only is the "Lord our God, one God" (Deut. 6:4), He is a craftsman who has woven all His creation together with one set of guiding principles for all things.
 - d. The scientists believed in a "unified theory of reality," lost that conviction in the twentieth century, and are rediscovering it as technology and computer math are verifying it once again.
 - e. God always has the "last laugh"! And I love it so!
 2. Because of Christ's seamless garment of reality, while all of human earth-life is generally delineated into what we call the five spheres or jurisdictions of government, in truth all these five jurisdictions have common axioms running across them.
 - a. In other words, the axioms of building a godly personal life apply equally to building godly families, churches, businesses, civil governments, and cultures.
 - b. The critical issue for us as believing disciples then is to learn to hear and see these generic axioms (Isa. 50:4; Matt. 13:11-17) and learn how to apply them in every jurisdiction or field of our lives.
 - c. The Business Leadership School is designed by Strategic Christian Services to help believers hear multi-jurisdictional truth and apply it across their lives. We will be using marketplace examples to help us do this.
- II. Ultimate, "big picture" integration obviously takes into account eternity past, current time, and eternity future.
- A. In eternity past, we see two major things that effect us all, both individually and as we inter-relate with one another.

1. Your salvation or inclusion into God's spiritual family occurred before the foundations of the world (Rev. 13:8).
 2. Your life and current ministry was ordained in God before you were born (Eph. 2:10). The issue is: Are you doing what God ordained you to do, and how do you know?
 3. Our relationship to time past is to be properly related to and building upon the ministries and truths God revealed to others in past generations as wise stewards of the Kingdom (Matt. 13:52). This is what the phrase "generational transfer" is all about!
- B. Our walk in current time is related to God's integrated plan for us in the following areas:
1. Our ministry unto the Lord.
 2. Our ministry to our family and its destiny (family business)
 3. Our ministry to the church and how it fits there.
 4. Our ministry to those with whom we work in our marketplace organization.
 5. Our ministry to the nation, both locally and nationally.
 6. Our ministry to God's work in our generation (Acts 13:36).
 7. All of this is in relation to developing our character, skill sets, and relational skills for eternity future.
 8. The earth is eternity's gym, and our lives are designed to be our training routine (Ground Hog Day with Bill Murray).
 9. The issue is: What have we built that will pass through into eternity (1 Cor. 3:11-15)? In life we are to let God rule through us and what He is building in us (Psa. 110:1-2).
- C. Relative to our marketplace ministries and the Kingdom of God, we should be thinking in three general areas.
1. The King: How do we bless and serve Him in all we do?
 2. His Realm: How do we bring His rule and reign into every sphere of human activity?
 3. His People: How do we help equip and build up His people through our gifts and ministry (Eph. 4:8:16)?

4. As already shared in our introductory lesson one, the goal becomes moving and maturing from the private-centered "A" side of life to the change agent "B" side of life.

III. At this time in history, the marketplace ministry is gaining renewed focus and energy throughout the world.

A. This movement, I believe, will have three distinct, but inter-related aspects. The first one is the validation phase.

1. The validation phase has to do with the church discovering the ministry of all believers within the Kingdom of God, and marketplace ministries being recognized as equally valid to all other God-ordained ministries.

2. Among the relevant issues, here are these:

- a. Deut. 8:18 – The power to create wealth (obedience)

- b. Mal. 4:4-6 – The necessity of removing the curse (generational transfer)

- c. Gal. 4:1-4 – The necessity of mature sonship (discipleship)

B. The church is slowly awakening to the message of the Kingdom of God.

1. John 3:3, 5, 12 – "Being born again":

- a. Verse 3 – Is about seeing the Kingdom.

- b. Verse 5 – Is about moving and working in the Kingdom.

- c. Verse 12 – Is about "earthly things."

2. Bringing an end to religious dualism. Some examples of this false thinking –

- a. Platonism: "forms" / escape from fallen "matter"

- b. Work is for the lower class (thought is the highest form of living; contemplation)

- c. Western Greco-Roman Christianity

- Aquinas and resurrection of classical Greek thought, 13th century not all bad

- d. The ecclesiastical call is "spiritual"; all else is part of the "support system" (cash cows v. elders, preachers, deacons, etc.).

- e. Class warfare in the church.

- C. When you begin to see the Kingdom of God (Christ and Paul's focus) you see the emergence of "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
 - D. This all requires major change by the church pastors, bishops, and leaders, and all of God's people.
 - E. The second phase is about evangelism (Matt. 4:19).
 - 1. Feeding the fish with what they are feeding on:
 - a. Economics/economics/economics: Housing, jobs, education, medical care, moving up.
 - b. Evangelism programs vs. being a witness.
 - c. A faith and life-style people want (spouse, kids, neighbors, co-workers).
 - F. The third phase is about systemic Christian economics and capital creation.
 - 1. Banking and currency systems
 - 2. Business ethics
 - 3. Macro-economic domestic and foreign policy
 - 4. Capital creation and jobs
 - 5. Taxation policy
 - 6. Etc., etc., etc.
- IV. Beyond all this, we see the gradual development of some of the following:
- A. "Elders in the gates" multi-jurisdictional community councils
 - 1. We worked for years in the 1980s around the U.S. and beyond, to plant the seeds of "City Action Councils."
 - 2. City Action Councils are church leaders, business leaders, and civic leaders coming together to cooperatively solve community problems undergirded by strategic prayer groups. The "City Action Councils" series is available for purchase on the www.gostrategic.org website.
 - B. We see growing national and international networking and association building taking place.

Leading People and Building Organizations God's Way

1. Networking will be helpful in many ways – sharing opportunities, encouragement, joint ventures, teaching, equipping services, and ministries.
2. Business associations offer opportunities for Christian-based economic trading circles (third world); financial and job cooperatives; Christian law courts (1 Cor. 6:1-5) to settle disputes among members; special training by certified trainers and business consultants.
 - You are living in the beginning of a global spiritual reformation.
 - It's an end-run! They won't expect it.
 - Train well for your part on the Kingdom marketplace team.
 - The world will be impacted by Kingdom economics!