

GAINING THE WISDOM OF GOD

LESSON 6: JAMES ON BUSINESS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

The pandemic is here! Fear and uncertainty is the rule of the day. No good news. People are dying right and left. Politics are polarized and shaky. There is no consistency or stability in government policy. Everything is offensive. People are hyper-sensitive to their rights and feelings. Seems that no matter what you say or do someone takes offense.

As a business leader you are trying to grow the company into another market in this ever-changing environment. There are some opportunities to do an acquisition and/or organic growth in this market through hiring a market leader in the area. What do you do?

1. Nothing – hold tight but risk existing market strength weakening and potential decline of business.
2. Do an acquisition as the price is falling but the market is also weakening.
3. Hire a market leader and capitalize for some time. No assurance that clients will even see him during this time of unrest.

- Q. What are the factors that make this decision risky?
- Q. What are our decision tendencies during stressful times?
- Q. What would you do?
- Q. What would the wisdom of the world say?
- Q. How do you think the wisdom that comes from heaven would change your decision process and overall strategy?

JAMES 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

- Q. What would the wisdom of the world say?
- Q. What is evidence of worldly wisdom and understanding?

- Q. Why are these two characteristics evident in a life that is controlled by worldly thinking? Gal 5:20
- Q. What evil practices are we capable of in the marketplace with selfish ambition and bitter envy controlling our heart and mind? v. 17-18
- Q. Contrast the difference between worldly wisdom and wisdom that comes from heaven? Give an example.
- Q. What is this wisdom that comes from Heaven?

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-16

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
 what no ear has heard,
 and what no human mind has conceived”—
 the things God has prepared for those who love him—

¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶ for,

“Who has known the mind of the Lord
 so as to instruct him?”
 But we have the mind of Christ.

- Q. What is the Gospel message?
- Q. Do you think that the Gospel message is wisdom for every decision we will ever make?
- Q. What does the Gospel message have to do with living out my faith in the marketplace?

List the key elements of the gospel message and explain how they pertain directly to the decisions we make each day. (partial list)

- We all sin and fall short of fellowship with God.
- We deserve death for our sin.
- God reveals our sin through His Law.
- All creation was made in and through Christ.
- Jesus gave up his throne.
- Jesus became fully a man.
- Jesus did not sin.
- Jesus was the second Adam.
- Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.
- Jesus died once for the sins of man.
- Jesus was completely obedient and submissive to the Father.
- Jesus came to serve not to be served.
- Jesus paid the price for my sin.
- Salvation is a free gift from God
- There is nothing I can do to earn my salvation.
- Salvation is only through belief in Jesus.
- We are viewed by God as justified and reconciled to Himself only by the blood of Christ.
- I have received eternal life with the Father because of His sacrifice.
- I have received a comforter who convicts me of my sin, transforms my heart and mind into the likeness of Christ.
- I will be compelled to live out my faith and serve those who Jesus serves because I am made to think and love as he did.
- I will live eternally with my Lord in heaven.
- He has prepared a place for me.

Q. How do each of these truths of the wisdom of God influence our daily interactions in the marketplace?

Q. What is the result of living in the wisdom of God?

Q. What is a harvest of righteousness? Isa. 32:17-20, Prov. 11:18, Hos 10:12, Phil. 1:9-11