

THE NARROW GATE

LESSON 13: RED LETTER BUSINESS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

George feels called to build a broadcast media company from the ground up. He feels he has been given a vision that can influence many for the Kingdom of Heaven through this company. Although the media is of secular nature, he is building the company through much prayer, time in the word, and thoughtfulness about how to honor God through this endeavor. He has already been able to influence his business partners and others as he's spoken to, interviews he's given, and advertisers he's pitched. This is all very exciting to him.

Revenue for his broadcast company comes from advertising. He and his staff are constantly looking for organizations to advertise on his network. George has been contacted by a local casino wanting to go all in on his network! This would be a huge opportunity to get his fledgling company "over the hump" and onto more solid footing. But George has a check in his spirit about this big account. He has some deep-rooted convictions about gambling in part from some negative experiences in his extended family. He is struggling with the doubts in his mind. Could this client be a part of God's plan to launch the business He's given him, or is George just rationalizing?

- Q. How would you counsel George in this decision?
- Q. What questions or considerations do you think George should be asking in this decision?
- Q. How have you made similar decisions?
- Q. What scriptures come to your mind that would help in this situation?

MATTHEW 7:13-14

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

There's a road that leads to destruction, and one that leads to life. While the road to destruction might not mean business failure, scripture is clear that it's still the disobedient path and not honoring to God. At the same time, not every obvious choice is the wrong choice. So how do you distinguish between the narrow road and the wide road? The truth is, in business even the wide road can be hard. The answer is simple, it's just not easy: filtering every decision you make by the Word of God. This means taking the necessary time to bring each employee relationship, client interaction, and financial decision to Jesus Himself. He's *the* gate. He's *the* way. Remember, the end never justifies the means. In other words, a God-honoring outcome will never be achieved through actions that take advantage

of others or put them in harm's way (spiritually speaking). Often, you will know that you are on the narrow road because it comes at a cost! Are you ready for this blessing?

- Q.** What is the narrow gate?
- Q.** What makes the road narrow?
- Q.** What are the costs/rewards of taking the narrow road?
- Q.** What are some challenges that today's faith-based businesses might encounter?
- Q.** What temptations might we face in business?
- Q.** How have you been able to stay on the narrow road?
- Q.** How can seeking His kingdom and His righteousness help us in business?
- Q.** What questions should we use to filter each business decision?