

# WHO YOU KNOW

## LESSON 15: RED LETTER BUSINESS

*The spiritual life is the life of Christ reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedient response to the Word of God.*

– DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS

### CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Jerry has worked very hard in the last 5 years to build his construction company. Now he has 50 employees and feels he is on the verge of a significant break-through if he can land some larger and more profitable clients. Jerry claims to be a Christian and he takes his family to church every week and is morally a good person. His church is very large and affluent, and Jerry often will network and gain clients there. He truly believes that by going to church and serving the poor that Jesus will bless his business to be successful. Jerry has already seen promise with this strategy to get ahead in that he has secured work from a major client due to the connection with his benevolent work. Jerry will find out what charities the potential client connects with and then give to that organization extensively. Then he does a little marketing campaign targeted at the potential client and closes the deal! Brilliant! Jerry has even had to hire staff to complete the work and he is on his way.

Now, this very client he has been working for decides not to pay him. This payment is critical for the business to survive after all the expenditures and charitable giving made thus far. He has already had to back away from the promises he has made to the charity his client likes. He has done everything he can think of including litigation to get paid and now he is on the brink of bankruptcy. This situation has brought him to his knees, and he has cried out to God but there is no answer. He feels alone and in despair.

- Q. How would you encourage Jerry?
- Q. Why does Jerry feel alone?
- Q. What are the flaws in Jerry's thinking?
- Q. Could this situation happen to a Christian in an intimate relationship with Jesus?

### MATTHEW 7:21-23

*<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

Some people like the idea of knowing Jesus but they don't want to submit their lives to Him. They want to associate with people who do know Him as these people make good clients and employees. Their motives are not pure because they do not have a relationship with the King. Their true motives chase after fulfilling their own desires by utilizing the benefits of an association with people who love the Lord! As Christians in business, we must check our fellowship with Jesus first, and then out of the overflow of this relationship will come good works for all.

- Q.** When would a person call out Lord, Lord in life?
- Q.** What is the fruit of the person who truly knows Jesus?
- Q.** What do you think is the person's view of God who "does good works" according to this passage?
- Q.** Why is doing things in the name of Jesus not enough to get to heaven?
- Q.** How do you know if you have fellowship with Jesus?
- Q.** How does fellowship with Jesus affect your desires, motives and character?