

From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

6: The marketplace is like a den of thieves

Let's set the scene for today and the next couple of sessions with a history question...

Do you remember the first thing Jesus did after riding a donkey into Jerusalem at the start of crucifixion week? He stormed into the temple, casting out the moneychangers [who were doing business & ripping off their customers], declaring...

"My house is the house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves" - Luke 19:46

By replacing **temple** with **marketplace**, I contend, little has changed. The markets we operate in, are the modern version of that same den of thieves Jesus came up against!

The truth is, most business owners have been caught in the cross-fire; in time, if not already, there will be a price to pay for participating in a system they simply do not understand.

That's a big call, how has this happened?

Yes, indeed! We know that commerce is crucial in advancing God's kingdom. We also know that the business rules we're meant to follow are all in the His Handbook, the Bible.

But the god of this world (2 Corin 4:4) also knows; his dual mission is to blind the minds of people so they can't see or hear the truth; then he can rob, kill & destroy them - John 10:10

He infiltrated the marketplace centuries ago, with a very clever plan...

First, he set up a model of ownership & control, outlined in **Revelation 18** whereby his 'merchants of the earth' run the whole show, including the financial system, big business, government, media, education, religion, sport, entertainment, the lot!

Second, he convinced participants in business to play by his rules, that is, to conform to this world; e.g., the # 1 rule and reason for being in business is to love and make money rather than to serve and make life better for others.

Third, he plants seeds of doubt & confusion in those who seek God's truth in life & business; thus, the mainstream labels His Bible as 'hate speech' or a collection of stories disproven by science; or Bible-believers are Christian fundamentalists, deserving the world's scorn.

How does this worldly model manifest in the marketplace?

Such a business model will always lack the most important Spiritual fruit, that is, genuine unconditional, selfless **love**, and all that flows from it: serving, caring, humility, etc

Paul summed it up perfectly in **2 Timothy 3:2**, "...in the last days, perilous times shall come. Men shall be lovers of their own selves, lovers of money, boasters, proud....."

...This is the marketplace to a T - loving \$\$, using people; should be loving people, using \$\$
...Scammers & charlatans everywhere rorting, defrauding, deceiving & cheating customers
...The system also encourages and supports a massive black or cash-in-hand economy.

And here we are, in amongst all this, trying to do the right thing in our businesses, serving the Son, honouring the Father...but facing enormous pressure not to!

The Bottom line: Our Handbook sessions are designed to help you, business owner, succeed without being trapped in a den of thieves; being free means you can tap into a host of opportunities, many of which we will share in coming weeks.