

From the Handbook for Business, the Bible

27: I will make rivers in the desert

In recent weeks, we have focused on issues impacting business owners - integrity, overwhelm, even to the thought of being held captive; and amongst all this we are to honour Jesus by loving our neighbours as ourselves. It's a tough gig!

The truth is, many are struggling with their role as Christ's ambassadors and also with their business missions, such that both seem to be as dry as a desert.

So, today, let's continue the focus on business owners and how they can keep it all in perspective by seeking a way through that desert.

To kick off this perspective, picture the vast universe - the closest star to earth is Alpha Centauri at 4.37 light years; the fastest rocket would take 77 years to get there! And that's just the first of billions of stars in the Milky Way galaxy; then there are billions more galaxies!

Now, in that vastness of space, hangs a tiny spec called earth on which there is an island called Australia and a city called Bendigo; and somewhere in there is your business! In the context of God's creation, just how big is that problem you're facing this morning?

That is some perspective! What Handbook principles apply?

We could talk for hours and still not cover them all; but for today I have 4 main principles:

First, understand that the solutions to all personal or business issues are in the Bible; finding them is like uncovering treasure or water in a thirsty desert as we find in today's scripture...

* **Isaiah 43:18-19**, "*Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing...I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert*"

...Dwelling on your past, paralysed by your present or fearful of your future will achieve nothing

Second, don't allow a minor problem to be blown out of all proportion and treated as a major threat to the business future; an example would be slow-paying customers...

...While chasing money is unpleasant, the best solution is to fix the business model: re-assess the target customer; disqualify some; create & offer premium packages that include payment terms.

Third, the Parable of the Talents establishes the principle of ownership versus stewardship; the truth is we own nothing, including the business you run as a CEO for Jesus - **Psalm 24:1**

...If everything we have is His, it must be managed for His glory, not ours! By extension, if He owns it all, He must also own your business problem; as a worthy steward, seek His solution.

Finally, there's a sobering truth about our humanity in **James 4:14-15**, "*...your life...is...a vapour that appears for a little while, then vanishes...while here, we are to do as the Lord wills*"

...Fellow vapours, consider the time we waste doing things our way, for our own benefit (creating deserts) while ignoring His way and our earthly assignment to share the gospel and win souls!

What counsel can we share as a summary of these sessions?

Do as the Lord wills...don't end up a slave to 'the system' or so stressed by life's issues you can't receive the Father's unconditional love, let alone reflecting it into your business & marketplace.

If your life has become a desert the Lord promises to make a river, exactly what you need!