

Serving God in the Marketplace

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called."
1 Corinthians 7:20

As I work with men, I frequently hear the question, "How do people demonstrate a commitment to eternal values in the marketplace?" You live in constant tension, wondering as you make hard decisions whether you are being biblical in how you handle people. For this reason, many conscientious believers entertain the thought of leaving business for vocational Christian work, assuming that such tensions do not exist in that environment.

God, not circumstances, determines your calling. You are not in your vocation because you are more productive there for the cause of Christ than elsewhere. God evaluates you on the basis of faithfulness, not production; this is the thesis of the whole of Scripture, and is why a Down's Syndrome or autistic person is not handicapped in God's economy. Never seek to eliminate the tensions that exist in the Christian life under the guise of trying to be more productive for God.

The prophet Jonah did not wish to go to Nineveh to preach repentance, for he wanted to define what being productive for the cause of God looked like. Desiring to leave your vocation for a supposedly more friendly environment is not unlike Jonah wanting to flee Nineveh for Tarshish. You should be in your vocation because of your calling, and for no other reason.