**Called to the Marketplace**

**(Col. 3:22-4:1; Phil. 2:12-16)**

**Pastor Dato’ Dr Daniel Ho**

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.  Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favouritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven. (Colossians 3:22- 4:1)

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain. (Phil 2: 12-16)

We all like to boast about our calling or those close to us.

One young boy said “My father is a doctor. He earns $10,000 in 2 hours.”

The other said “My dad is a lawyer. He makes $10,000 for a 1-hour case.”

The last said “My dad is a pastor. After 30 minutes of preaching, 6 people collect the money in bags.”

One mother boasted, “My son is a Catholic priest” People will greet him “Father””

“My son is an Anglican bishop. People greet him “Oh Bishop””

“My son just finished college. When he walks down the street, people say “Oh my God””

**BIG IDEA**

**We are called to the marketplace.**

# The Call of the Marketplace

This is the greatest mission field on earth. It is called the 9 to 5 window. That is where most of the people are. It is an opportunity for believers to shine for Christ. Billy Graham says, “I believe one of the next great moves of God is going to be through the believers in the workplace.” This is the place where we can have the greatest influence and impact. Neal Johnson says about the marketplace: “…. perhaps the only institution that touches, directly or indirectly, virtually every person on planet Earth. In one way or another, it is a pervasive part of every society, culture and people group. It is found in the midst of every religion and every political system in every historic era.”

# The call to the Workplace



## As a servant of the Lord (Colossians 3.22-24, Luke e 17:18)

“Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3: 22-24)

Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” (Luke17:18)

Whatever you do, do it for the glory of the Lord. Worship and work come from the same Greek word. Our work must be worship to God. During a meeting with parliament members in Malaysia, Pastor Daniel reminded them that Christians are more powerful than politicians. Christianity has the power to change the human heart. Malaysia has one of the countries with the death penalty for trafficking drugs but people are still not afraid of this. They were shocked and said that they would send pastor to prison. We must be ready to go to prison not because of our foolishness but for God and preach His word. Then the true “cell’ ministry is practiced. Regular cells are just a pseudo cell.

## As a steward of the Lord (Matthew 25: 14, 19-21)

Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.  The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ (Matthew 24:14,19-21)

Whatever we have on this earth is from God. We do not own anything. There was an owner of two resorts and a marina. When asked about his riches, he said that he does not own anything but was given the task to take care of it. When God asks to give 10%, He wants us to take care of the other 90% which He has provided. One rich Christian boasts to Pastor Daniel “I have enough money that I can sell everything and live a comfortable life in Australia.” God gives us wealth because he trusts us with the amount He has given us, regardless how small it is.

## As a standard bearer for the Lord (Philippians 2:14-15)

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky (Phil 2:14-15)

We need to do everything without complaining. A DUMC member was working in Khazanah. He was entrusted RM 70 million to invest in China. After 13 years the portfolio grew to RM 5.5 billion. This extraordinary grace is only from God given that China is a very volatile country to invest in. The way he ran his business was so exemplary that his office in China became a model for Khazanah operations worldwide. He attributes this to the humility and faithfulness. Now he is in Canada managing USD 150 billion.

## As a shepherd of the Lord (Acts 16: 14-15)

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.  When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us. (Acts 16:14-15)



We are shepherds in the workplace. Eric Liedtke, former CEO of Adidas read Rick Warrens ‘Purpose Driven Life’ and gave his life to Christ. He then arranged to meet Rick Warren and share his burden to Him. He was so inspired that he told Pastor Rick Warren that he wanted to leave Adidas and be a full time pastor. Pastor Rick asked him how many staffs are there and Eric answered 25,000. Pastor Rick replied that Eric is already a pastor in his workplace and God has already put him there.

# Challenge of the Marketplace

## As a compass (Matthew 5:16)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

There was a worker who made a serious mistake in a company. When inquired by the boss, the supervisor took responsibility for the worker. She was surprised and was shocked why he would do such a thing. She later learned that he was a Christian and went to church. She accepted Christ because her supervisor set the example by taking responsibility and a witness for the Lord.

Sherron Watkins was one of the whistle-blowers for Enron. At the height of Enron making USD 70 billion, she approached the bosses and shared her findings. He bosses asked her to keep quiet and she eventually left Enron. When asked to testify, she was brave and all he paperwork was in order. After the Enron CEO was imprisoned, she appeared in the cover of Time Magazine for being one of the people brave enough to testify against Enron.

## As companions (Acts 17:11)

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17:11)

We must continuously learn, grow and improve as Christians. Pastor Daniel is overjoyed when people continue their MBA or go for courses so that they become better employees at their workplaces and better Christians.

## As comrades (Ephesians 6:12)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12)

We are soldiers in Christ. There will be many spiritual battles ahead. Many religions are scared when they hear demonic forces haunting their offices but we Christians need to be brave and stand in Christ. We must not consult demonic forces. Pastor Daniel has cast away numerous demons in Bangsar and Bukit Antarabangsa.

## As communicators (Philippians 2:6, Philemon 1 :6)

as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain. (Philippians 2;16)

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. (Philemon 1:6)

We must always be sharing Christ in our workplaces. During the PJN3 Camp, Pastor Daniel brought the marketing manager and a staff to the Lord. People’s hearts are hungry. They are waiting for the right person to share the gospel. We must always be sharing.

Sermon summary by Abbey Thangiah