

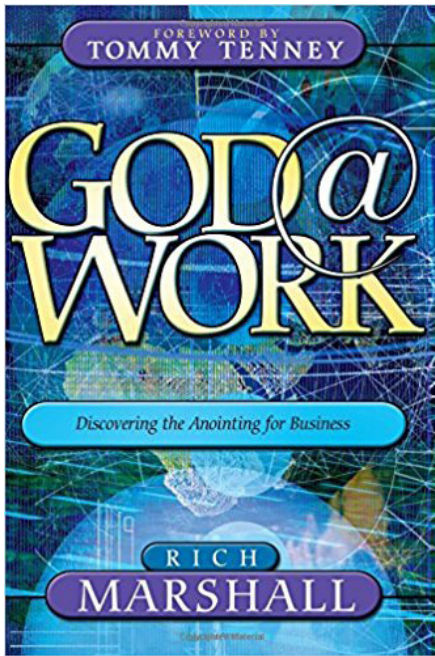
A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie with white anchor patterns is holding a white cup of coffee on a saucer. The cup has a thin gold band. He is sitting at a wooden table. The background is a textured wall.

BRINGING REVIVAL TO YOUR WORKPLACE



Rich Marshall

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...He has made us kings and priests... (Revelations 1:6 NKJV)

God is showing up in places we have never imagined. We thought He was just for Sunday church or mid-week study. But God is showing up in small businesses and on construction sites, in schools and in politics. He is in factories and at check-out counters, at nurses' stations and the stock exchange. God is showing up everywhere outside of where we expect Him to be.

So what does it mean?

This book is an awesome tool of discovery to learn not how we can cooperate with God's plan for the nations, outside of the Church.

Discover how He wants you to step into a realm of ministry and fulfillment you have never dreamed possible. Learn how your work is the powerful dynamic of God's purposes for your life.

This book is the beginning of new possibilities for those who are willing to see that God is bigger than they thought He was.

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A Life-Changing Revelation

And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?” (Mark 4:13)

It was Christmas Sunday, and every pastor knows that you are to preach a Christmas message on that day. But my heart was stirring with a message to “kings.” I had been preaching on the topic, “Kings and Priests,” for three or four weeks, and had thought for sure I would be finished before Christmas, but here it was, and I could not stop.

At the same time, Mark chapter 4 was running through my mind. It is in this chapter that we read about the parable of the sower. God began to speak to my spirit out of verse 13: “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?” Jesus was explaining His method of teaching. If you could understand this parable, then you could understand all the parables. If you could

not understand this one, you would miss out on what He was trying to teach. Jesus was not trying to teach farmers the principles of farming, rather He was using the farming principles to teach how He operates.

When you plant a seed, whether it is wheat or the Word, you can expect a harvest. Jesus had taught about the wheat seed, but then He moved to the seed of the Word. When you sow the Word, it too produces a crop. Jesus put it like this: “But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some a hundred” (Mk. 4:20). He was connecting the natural, sowing wheat seeds, with the spiritual, sowing the Word of God. What we see in the natural—the things around us, the everyday things—are lessons for us. When we begin to understand the workings of our God in the natural realm, our spiritual understanding increases.

Joseph, a Businessman

As I thought about this biblical principle, I considered my message for that Christmas Sunday. Reading in Luke chapter 1, I was struck by this idea: When God sent His Son to live on this earth, He chose to put Him in the home of a businessman. We understand that Mary is the mother of Jesus, and that God is His Father. But we also know that Joseph fulfilled the role of father on the earth. God entrusted His Son into the hands of Mary and Joseph, a carpenter—a businessman.

Later, when Wilma and I were having dinner with our friends Ray and Kay Llovio, I said, “Do you know that Jesus was born into the home of a businessman? And that if He were to be born today, God would likely put Him in the home of businessman, not the home of a pastor or missionary?” I was using the Mark 4:13 principle of understanding spiritual things in the light of natural things. I am convinced that God does nothing by mistake,

and that He wastes no opportunity. Therefore, it could be that Jesus was raised in the home of a businessman as a part of the plan and purpose of God. If God had sent His Son into this society to be born of a woman, I personally believe that He would have placed Him in the home of a business leader like He did with Mary and Joseph. Well, as soon as I said that, Kay responded, “And if John the Baptist were born today, he would be born into the home of a priest.” John the Baptist’s father was Zacharias, the priest.

This idea was surely going to make it into my Christmas message the next day. And so, on that Sunday morning, I was in my office praying over the message and making last-minute changes. As I prayed, I sensed the Lord speaking to me, “Do you know the impact of what you are about to say?” Well, I thought I did, but if God was asking me, obviously I did not. So I said, “No, Lord; please teach me.” What came to me at that moment has changed the way I see ministry. It became

for me a life-changing moment, a moment when the Lord intervened and changed my way of thinking so that I could never again pastor as I had in the past.

The Lord reminded me that what He does in the natural realm is intended to speak to us in the spiritual realm. “Yes, I put John the Baptist into the home of a priest, and I put My Son into the home of a businessman. Remember the purpose, my calling on John? He was to announce the arrival of My Son.”

I began to think about John the Baptist. Even though the Bible tells us that he was unique, different, maybe even a little strange by the standards of his day, he was able to draw huge crowds when he preached. Multitudes would come to hear this strange mountain man preach his message of repentance.

My mind went to that hillside, when the crowd had gathered to hear John preach. It was becoming a common sight, this powerful man preaching and the large crowds gather-

ing to hear his life-changing message. But he knew something, something that was very big, but he had not yet fully proclaimed it. He had hinted at his revelation throughout the opening verses of John chapter 1. He said things like, “I am not the Christ” (Jn. 1:20b), and “There stands One among you whom you do not know” (Jn. 1:26). What John knew to be the truth, and what he was getting ready to tell, was that Jesus was the Son of God.

On this—this day of destiny—he saw Jesus coming toward him, and it was different. He undoubtedly had been raised knowing Jesus, as we know his mother, Elizabeth, and Mary, Jesus’ mother, were related. But on this day, he did not greet him as a friend or relative. He did not call out to his friend, “Hello, Jesus!” In fact, he did not greet Jesus at all. Instead he directed his words to the crowd. He pointed his finger at Jesus and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (Jn. 1:29b)

At that moment John released the words for which he had been born, words that would change the course of history—for he pointed men to Jesus. John was a forerunner, an announcer. He was to proclaim that the answer was in Jesus.

The next day as John stood with two of his disciples, he again saw Jesus, and again he said, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (Jn. 1:36b) The Bible says, “The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus” (Jn. 1:37). This was John’s life message. And it changed the life of Andrew, Peter’s brother, that day. Andrew found his brother Peter, and on-and-on the message has gone. John fulfilled his destiny. He was not concerned about the big crowds, the popularity. He wanted to point men to Jesus.

Revival Through the Marketplace

What the Lord whispered into my spirit that day was this: “That is still the purpose for My priests. They are to announce the coming re-

vival. And as it was with My Son, born into the home of a king, a businessman, my purpose for the kings is to bring that revival in. I will use them, the business and professional people, CEOs and employees, to bring in the harvest.”

That hit me hard. For over a dozen years, Wilma and I have believed God for revival. The Bible tells us there is an endtime revival; we have no trouble believing that. The prophetic words had been consistent and regular, “Revival is coming, and you have a role to play in it.” We began our congregation as a church hungering for revival, praying for revival, believing God for revival. We have desired revival so strongly, that we have said from the beginning, “If revival comes to the church down the street, we will close our doors and join them.” We have said that because we have no desire to build a great church, or to develop a great ministry; we want to see and experience the work of God, and anything less is unsatisfactory.

Equipping the Kingly Saints

My desire for revival was so strong that it motivated almost our entire ministry. Coupled with the many prophetic words that had been spoken, I thought maybe it would break out in our church—maybe even while I was preaching. But as the Lord gently prodded me that December morning, I remembered how Paul had spoken in Ephesians chapter 4 regarding the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry. I was shaken as I realized how little training we were doing to release the kings into ministry. We were talking about revival, praying for revival, but not preparing for revival. I had even taught a course in our school of ministry about the equipping of the saints. But I had not been equipping anyone for ministry in the marketplace.

In my years as a pastor, my staff has developed many equipping programs for our congregations. Almost all the programs were designed to equip the saints to work in our church. We

trained Sunday school teachers and youth workers, we trained ushers and worship leaders, we even trained in the field of evangelism so that members would be ready to help with the church outreach projects. We trained cell group leaders, and asked them to pastor their part of the flock. Again, it was a local church-based ministry. However, if we want to see the revival that is soon coming, we must move outside the walls of the local church.

Speaking directly to those readers who are businesspeople: Very little of our training and equipping was to send you forth into the marketplace. And for that I repent. If it were possible, I would get on my knees before you right now and ask for forgiveness on behalf of Christian leaders, who, like me, have failed to equip and release the saints for the work of ministry. I am happy to report that things are changing today. God is raising up the equip-pers, and God is sending forth an army of men and women into the marketplace with the power and anointing to bring revival. In the

last chapter of this book, we will talk about one strategy they are using all over the world.

Who Are the Kings?

Who are these business and professional people I have been speaking about? Some will ask, “Do you have to be the CEO of a company to be a king? Does this kingly calling and anointing have to do with position, status, money, and that sort of thing?” My answer is, “No.” You can be currently working for minimum wage at a temporary job and be a king. David was anointed as king long before he took his throne. God had looked on his heart and chosen him even while Saul was still on the throne. That is the case with many today. In some cases, no one else even knows what God has put in your heart. But you know. Like David, wait until the right moment, and He will release you into your kingly anointing and ministry.

So who are these “kings” that will lead us in the coming harvest? One is a taxi driver in

La Plata, Argentina. He was driving me to my speaking engagements in his city and we began to talk about seeing one's business as ministry. He said he desired this, so I prayed for him, and declared him a "king." "Your taxi is your ministry, and God wants to use you through it," I told him. I saw him again four months later and he excitedly told me, "I have had the opportunity to lead someone to Christ every day since you prayed for me. It really does work. My business is my ministry."

Yes, he is one of the kings, and so are you! CEO and manager, administrator and assistant, computer programmer and custodian. Politician and plumber, football player or interior designer, God is looking on your heart. He wants to use you in reaching your city for Himself. He wants to use you to spark a revival that will change and transform your city.

Pastors, missionaries, evangelists, teachers,

prophetic people, apostolic leaders—hear me well. We have an equipping task that must be completed in these last days. We must take up the mantle that has been given into our hands, and release the kings into ministry.

Ordaining the Kings

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business (Acts 6:3).

They were lined up expectantly that Sunday morning, dozens of ordination candidates, ready to submit their lives to the Lord as full-time ministers. They believed that God could use them to demonstrate the gospel of the Kingdom in a way that could bring in the endtime harvest. These were business and professional leaders who had discovered that “their businesses were their ministries” and they were committing them—all of them—to God. Seldom have I seen such a serious, radi-

cally committed, spiritually pumped group of people in my life.

As I looked at them, I recalled the recommendations, a required part of the ordination process, that had come from their work associates, many of whom were non-Christians. One person wrote of their associate: “He has restored the good name of Christianity in our workplace.” Another, who wrote of the mother and her two adult daughters who all work at the same company, said: “The word is out that things happen when you get on the McKain girls’ prayer list.” A man had written about his boss, a woman who ran a sales department for a high tech company in the Silicon Valley. He described it as “a high-pressure environment” and said she “would not allow him to tell half truths.” Her commitment to integrity in the marketplace had caused him to “start thinking about spiritual things.”

Seeing these candidates that morning, I realized they were not really a new breed. Rather,

they were a newly released group of ministers who fit into the categories of many individuals from the Old and New Testaments who had found God's call and lived it out in the context of their daily work. Here was a group of men and women who were ready to take on California's Silicon Valley. They were no longer content to just work; they were going to minister. The weapons of their warfare were intimacy with God, intercession, integrity, moral character, passion for the lost, and compassion for the hurting. They were committed to building relationships with those who needed Jesus, and they carried one additional powerful weapon in their hands—blessing. As Ed Silvoso often says, “In the celestial game of poker, a hand of blessing beats a hand of cursing every time.” And so here they were, without judgment or wrath, having completed a year of training, ready to commit their lives to serving as ministers in the marketplace. Later in this book, we will speak more of the training they received.

Blurting the Truth

The idea for the ordination had come about quite unexpectedly. What I had thought to be a couple of messages to business and professional leaders about making their business their ministry, had turned into an ongoing series of messages. In the middle of one of these, I was proclaiming, “You are in the ministry. The call of God is for all of us. God did not call just a select few. He has called you. Your business is your ministry.” My next words were totally unplanned, but I believe they were from God. “Since you are called of God into the ministry of business, we should ordain you. In fact, this year we will ordain the kings.”

As I realized later what I had said, I also realized I had no idea how to go about such a process. We had ordained a number of pastors and missionaries; I had a paradigm for that kind of ordination. But how do you ordain the business and professional person? And of

even greater importance, is it biblical? These questions ran through my mind without an answer. Still, I believed that God had prompted those words, and as I began to study again the biblical concept of ordination, I became even more convinced. Yes, God really does have a very special plan for the business and professional Christian, and it is quite appropriate from a biblical context to ordain, to set apart those that are answering that call.

Ordination in the Bible

Ordination is something that is quite common in the church today. In fact, in the United States, it is very helpful for those in priestly ministry when it comes tax time. And yet, when the Bible uses the word ordain, it can refer to a thing as often as to a person. For instance, we are told in Psalm 8:2 that the Lord has “ordained strength” out of the mouths of babes to silence the enemy and the avenger. Also we are told that feasts are ordained (see 1 Kings 12:32–33), and we read that Jeremiah

was ordained a prophet (see Jer. 1:5). Prophets, feasts, and strength—all ordained by God to fulfill His specially designed purpose.

In the New Testament we find that Jesus was ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead (see Acts 10:42; 17:31), and that God has ordained His special, hidden wisdom (see 1 Cor. 2:7). In First Corinthians 7:17, Paul used the word ordain to speak of a directive he was giving to all the churches.

The Greek word for ordain is often translated “appoint,” as we find in Acts 6:3. The apostles were having problems with the food program, so they set aside seven men to make sure that all were treated fairly. This story, along with the one about Saul and Barnabas in Acts 13:1–3, are two of the most commonly used to illustrate ordination today.

One night in worship, the Lord led me to Acts chapter 6, which shows a biblical way to ordain the kings.

Five Principles for Ordaining Kings

Who are these men? We must determine it from the text in Acts 6.

1. We know that they were not apostles.
2. It is obvious that they were members of the church, because the apostles said to “seek out from among you” (Acts 6:3).
3. It is likely, and I believe a very fair interpretation of the text, to say that they were businessmen in Jerusalem. The Thompson Chain Reference Bible refers to Stephen as “The Spirit-Filled Business Man.”

Why do I make this point? Because I believe it is important for us to see that these are not clergy types at all. They were men from the church, men who had their training in a field that had nothing to do with a priestly type of ministry. In addition to that, the apostles sought them out to assist in a business type of activity. The apostles recognized that their

own calling was in preaching and prayer. In the same manner, they recognized a calling on these men that was in the area of business; a gifting or anointing for business was evident in their lives.

These seven men are commonly called “deacons,” but that title is not evident in the text. I have heard for years the phrase, “the seven deacons,” but when I searched the Bible for evidence that these were “deacons,” I could not find it. I assume someone started calling them deacons because that title corresponded with the idea that all ministry must be local church-based. If they are deacons, then we have a place to fit them in our thinking. However, the term deacon is nowhere applied to them. Acts 21:8 refers to “...the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven....”

So while they were not deacons, they did qualify for a setting aside, or appointment to a special ministry. What I began to see were the

qualifications for ordination into the ministry of business and the professions. Acts chapter 6 lists five criteria for ordination. These are:

1. “Seek out from among you.” It is necessary that we ordain those that we have a spiritual authority over, those within our own body.
2. “Of good reputation.” Since this is for ordination in the marketplace, the reputation must extend to the workplace as well as the Christian community.
3. “Full of the Holy Spirit.” Not just baby believers; and not carnal.
4. “Full of wisdom.” Not having made multiple mistakes in the life of business.
5. “Full of faith.” Not people who doubt God, nor who vacillate back and forth in their faith.

Application for Ordination

From those biblical criteria for ordination, I developed an application for ordination into the marketplace ministry. Each of the candidates had to submit three recommendations attesting to his or her “good reputation”—especially in the context of the marketplace. Second, they were to state their involvement in our local congregation, including their commitment to tithing. The Bible speaks clearly about the tithe, and we did not want to ordain those that were not faithful to this principle. The other three points were to be covered within the applicant’s written testimony. The first section was to cover the experience of the filling of the Spirit and how this affected their ministry in the marketplace. The second would be regarding the insight God had given them concerning how they might be used to fulfill the coming marketplace revival. The last section would cover their faith in God’s power to bring about this revival.

The Ordination Ceremony

On a December Sunday of that year, they stood before us, ready to be ordained. We had prepared very prayerfully for this day. On the platform of the sanctuary, we had placed a throne. Around it we poured kernels of corn, symbolic of the harvest, and placed purple bags filled with corn. These were symbolic of each candidate's individual portion of the harvest. At the end of the service, each one would go to the throne, kneel down to receive the ordination from the Lord, and have their hands filled with commissioning from the Lord.

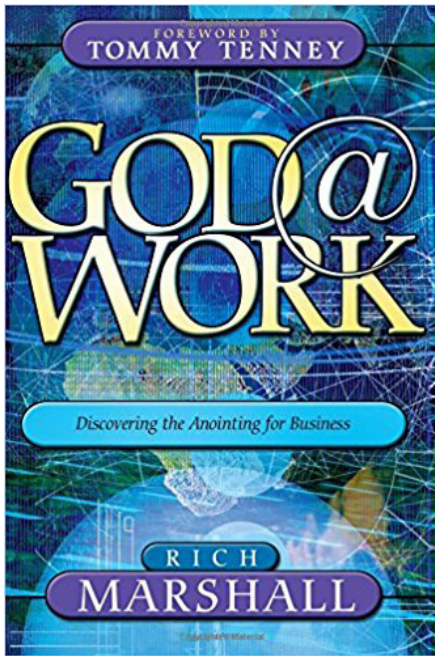
Based on the model of King David, we would also give three anointings this morning. The first, like David's anointing by Samuel, would be a recognition of the call of God. It would be administered by a medical doctor and his wife who serve the Lord in Asia. They anointed the candidates' hands with oil. The pastors administered the second anointing, like

David's anointing over the house of Judah, by anointing their heads with oil. The final anointing was at the throne, and would correspond to David's anointing over Israel. It was the actual launch into the ministry.

As these men and women knelt at the throne to receive from the Lord, we sensed something was about to break forth in the heavenly realms. This was—is—a new day, a day when ministry is to be done by the entire Body of Christ. It is a day in which ministry is moved out of the church building and into the marketplace. The nameless, faceless crowd, like the 70 sent out by Jesus in Luke chapter 10, are coming. They are being released.

You, too, can take part in bringing in this great harvest of souls. The call of God is for you.

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About Rich Marshall

An international speaker and trainer, rich brings over 40 years of in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in pastoring, preaching, church planting, specialized business consulting, corporate training, coaching/mentoring, and strategic planning, within both the private sector as well as the non-profit sector. Co-founded by Rich and Wilma Marshall, ROI is an inspirational and equipping ministry to the business and church community.