

Case Study Part 2 - "Profit"

2.1 Profit Only Business

What does God require of business owners?

- a) **James 4: 6** "... God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble". **7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you ...**10** Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you". (RSV)
- b) **1 Peter 5:5** "... God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you. **7** Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you." (RSV)
- c) **Proverbs 14:31** "Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God." (NIV)
- d) **Proverbs 21:3** "To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." (NIV)
- e) **Matthew 22:39** "...Love your neighbour as yourself." (NIV)

Case Study

Nathan started a chemical company to manufacture and supply industrial coatings. The demand for the product was surging, and he was struggling to meet the growing demand.

The work was dirty, unpleasant, and hazardous, and if unprotected, workers could develop long-term health issues. Local workers shunned the work, and he could not hire enough labour for his production, causing him to fall behind on production and delivery schedules. His buyers were threatening to move their orders to another, more dependable supplier.

Then, Nathan came upon some migrant workers who were desperately poor and grateful for any work they could get. And they were all too willing to accept even below the legal minimum wage and to live in the company's poor and unhygienic quarters. The food provided was often stale, but they worked hard for fear of losing their jobs. With surging sales and low production costs, the company's profits shot through the roof. Nathan became successful and was very proud of his business's prowess and success.

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Later, Nathan, in his Bible reading, came upon the words of **Micah 6:8** “**He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (ESV)**

God’s revelation to Nathan hit him like a thunder bolt. He thought running a business was about maximising profit (1P) and he was merely doing what every other businessman he knew were doing. Micah 6:8 tormented Nathan for weeks and he has no rest.

Discussion

1. Where did Nathan do wrong?
2. What remedies are available to him?
3. What does “walking” humbly before the Lord mean in business?
4. What one change in your business practice you resolve to make to demonstrate you “love your neighbours”?

Resources for Business Owners in Singapore (and as a reference for those overseas)

1. Improved standards for Migrant Workers Dormitories in Singapore by Ministry of Manpower (MOM) of Singapore to enhance living conditions and promote public health resilience

<https://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/2021/0917-improved-standards-for-new-migrant-worker-dormitories>

<https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/work-permit-for-foreign-worker/housing/setting-up-a-new-dormitory>

2. Medical Insurance Requirements for Migrant Workers by Ministry of Manpower (MOM) of Singapore

<https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/work-permit-for-foreign-worker/sector-specific-rules/medical-insurance>

3. Support Organization for workers’ health care in Singapore

<https://healthserve.org.sg>

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4. In Singapore, workplace safety regarding hazardous substances is governed by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Act and its related regulations. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) regulates exposure to chemicals at workplaces, and the [National Environment Agency \(NEA\)](https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/pollution-control/chemical-safety/hazardous-substances) manages hazardous substances from import to export.

<https://www.mom.gov.sg/workplace-safety-and-health/workplace-safety-and-health-act/hazardous-substances>

<https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/pollution-control/chemical-safety/hazardous-substances>