

Case Study Part 3 - “People”

3.6 What does God require of Business Owners?

God has declared that all things, seen and unseen, belong to Him. There is nothing that exists which does not belong to Him, for He is the Creator of all things. That being so, what does God require of us in the stewardship of the businesses He has entrusted to us?

Job 12:7-10 “But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.” (ESV)

Genesis 2:15 “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” (ESV)

Genesis 1:26 “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (ESV)

Proverbs 22:2 “Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.” (NIV)

Case Study

Suppose you are starting a chemical company to manufacture and supply industrial coatings. The demand for the product is growing and you are struggling to meet the surging demand.

The work is dirty, unpleasant, and hazardous. If not careful, workers can develop long-term health problems. Workers shun such work, and you cannot hire enough workers for your production, causing you to fall behind on production and delivery schedules.

BAM Singapore - Case Study

Then, you came across some foreign labourers who are desperately poor and grateful for any work they can get. They are legally documented workers but were laid off and have not been able to find another job. They are all too willing to work, even accepting 20% less pay than local workers. They work hard and are not demanding about food or accommodation. With such diligent and reliable workers, your company's profits soar.

You are very pleased with your company's performance.

Later, during your morning devotion, you came across the following Scriptural passages: -

Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (NIV)

Amos 5:24 "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." (NIV)

Discussion

In light of the biblical illumination, discuss the following in the context of business: -

1. Humility: What does it mean to walk humbly before the Lord in our business?
2. Justice and righteousness: What are justice and righteousness in business, and how do they manifest in the marketplace?
3. What changes must you make in your business practices so that you truly "love your neighbours" and walk humbly before the Lord?

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>

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 \(NEA\)](#) 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>