

# **Overcoming Obstacles to Workplace Ministry**

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# Overcoming Obstacles

- There will be many obstacles as you seek to lead others outside of the walls of the church building and programs.
- Let us just list twelve of these that you may face as a pastor, leader in the church, or leader in the workplace.



# Obstacle # 1

- *We have confused a person's position with his spirituality.* (Mark 12:38)
- Which is more a more “spiritual” occupation?
  - Pastor or sales person?
  - Missionary or on the factory line?
  - Christian school teacher
  - Pubic school teacher?



## Obstacle # 2

- *We have confused the platform with the real ministry.* (Matthew 23:6 – 12)
- The focus is continually on preaching, teaching, worship leaders, and visible ministries. People respect what we as leaders continually emphasize.



## Obstacle # 3

- We have confused the amount of time that we spend at the church building or involved in church programs with our level of spiritual commitment.
- Mark 7:5-8 - Traditions of men
- Matthew 5:8,9 – The Heart
- We are actually hurting families by overdoing church attendance.
- Average ‘burnout’ is 5 to 7 years!





# Obstacle # 4

- We have confused teaching with training.

“Telling is not teaching...

Listening is not learning...

We learn to do by doing.”



# Obstacle # 5

- We have confused size with significance.
- Facilities, Budgets, Programs  
.....VS.....
- Face to Face, Leaving a Legacy,  
Having a Vision, Personal Transformation,  
Serving a Community, Reviving a Nation

The MODEL of JESUS !!



# Obstacle # 6

- *We have expected us to come to us instead of us going to them. (Matthew 28)*
1. Moses to reach out to Pharaoh
  2. Paul to reach governors and kings
  3. Peter and John to touch common people
  4. Matthew & Zaccheus to reach politicians
  5. Barnabus & Lydia for business leaders





# Obstacle # 7

- We have confused our spiritual walk with Sunday church activities.
- Secular / Scared Divide..... Dualism
- Where is the “Church” on Tuesday afternoon? (Deuteronomy 6:6,7)



# Obstacle # 8

- We have focused on building the institution instead of the individual.
- Mark 7:8, *“You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”*
- **Harvest is plentiful!** Matthew 9:36 – 38  
Seize opportunities to help the hurting, share the Gospel, disciple the followers of Jesus, and equip leaders for the workplace, community, and nation.

# Obstacle # 9

- We have confused reputation with servant hood. (Mark 10:43 -45)
- “The Key is authenticity by participation, not professional credentials.” Sweet
- Are you as a leader serving others so that they can be effective where they are?



# Obstacle # 10

- We have focused on escaping the secular culture instead of invading it.
- Matthew 10:7,14; Mark 16:15, GO!
- Penetration vs. Segregation
- Christian Sub-Culture!



# Obstacle # 11

- We have focused on external change, not internal change.
- Matthew 23:27; Mark 7:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Jesus constantly focused on the heart and the inner man. We are to be transformed by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures to be used by Him in our sphere of environment.





# Obstacle # 12

- We have focused on individualism instead of teamwork.
- Giving up “control” is hard to do!
- Jesus equipped the twelve. The Holy Spirit gives various gifts and experiences and talents so that we have to depend on each other!



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