



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

News of February 2021

Looking around us, we can't help but wonder what our real priorities in life are.
Did you know that we are influenced by the market?

What is the market?



A market comprises 5 main actors: customers, producers, distributors, influencers and regulators (legislators, public bodies).

A formal or virtual place where goods and services of various kinds are exchanged.

Have you ever noticed that this famous market has no soul?

It can be represented as the ogre that eats children.



You will answer that this is not true, and yet, I'm going to tell you a few stories to convince you of this, the first is the story of someone who had worked for 20 years of his life in the same company, recognised worldwide as an ethical company.

This person, at the age of 54, was fired overnight without a by your leave without explanation nor reason and, fearing he would not find work, two days later, this person threw himself under a train because his life no longer had any meaning, even though he had a disabled son and a companion who had been living with him for 9 years and who loved him.

If the famous market had a soul, it wouldn't have contributed to a person committing suicide. We can safely say that the market has no soul in this case.

Another colourful story between a son and his father:

Son: Dad, can I ask you something?

Father: Yes, of course, what is it?

Son: How much do you earn per hour dad?

Father: That's none of your business. Why do you want to know?

Son: I just want to know dad, please tell me.

Father: Well if you want to know so much, I earn 15 euros per hour.

Son: Thank you dad.

Son: Dad, can I borrow 10 euros?

The father got angry.

Father: If you ask me for this money for a stupid toy, you can go straight to your room! I don't work for that!

The little boy was disappointed, he went to his room and closed the door.

After an hour the man was a little calmer and started to think. Maybe he wanted to buy something he really needed. He went to his son's room and opened the door.

Father: Are you asleep?

Son: No dad, not yet.

Father: Sorry for my reaction, I exaggerated, I had a long day and I answered you too quickly. Here are the 10 euros you asked for.

The son stood up with a big smile on his face!

Son: thank you dad!

The son looked under his pillow and took out a pile of coins.

The Father saw this and wanted to get angry again. The son started counting the coins and looked up at his father.

Father: Why did you want more money?

Son: Because I didn't have enough, I have 15 euros now, can I buy an hour of your time?

I want you to come home in time tomorrow so we can eat together.

The father began to cry, he hugged his son and asked his forgiveness.

This is just a reminder to everyone who works hard in life.

Spend time with those who really matter, those who are close to your heart.

If you die tomorrow, the company where you worked can and will easily replace you in a few days.

But your family and friends will think of you for the rest of their lives.

There are many people on this earth who will have spent more time in their work/business than with their family, for what purpose?

You can laugh about it or cry about it, but for sure, to know what I am talking about, this story could be applied to wives who could ask for a picture of their husband to remember that they got married one day and to remember what their man looks like as he is away from home, always busy at work.

And what about all the adulterers, because the market has stolen husbands or wives to throw them into the arms of other partners in need of affection and thus destroy entire families. Or alcohol or drug problems, I've seen some myself, dynamic young executives who, to keep up in financial services or sales in jobs where the pressure is high, take cocktails during the day and in the evening smoke joints and get addicted.

Do you think that the day when business is going to get worse and worse, the market will allow them to slow down? on the contrary, just good for the scrap heap, no time for this kind of collaborators, collateral damage, next!

One day, I did some coaching with the deputy CEO in one of the biggest financial institutions in France. He asked me what I thought of a situation where he had been offered to take over the group's general management. I asked him if he was married, he told me he was 40 years old, was married and had four children.

I asked him if he would prefer to see his wife and children in twenty years united together, or if he thought that he would become obsessed with the group, yet still be

healthy if he had to work 12 or 14 hours a day and that if one day he didn't achieve his goals, the company would spare him?

He replied that the group wasn't going to give him a gift and that if he went on the road to ephemeral glory, probably he wouldn't have a family anymore.

He had to choose his family or his career.

Let me explain something else to you, a close friend of mine who was CEO, was fired after more than 10 years at the head of an international group running 40 factories with more than 3'000 employees, under the pretext that someone more qualified, according to the decision of the board of directors, was needed to lead the group. He was told that you shouldn't have a conscience in the management of a company and that you had to separate feelings with the reality of the market and that if you didn't do this, you would never be a good manager, you had to make a distinction.

It was explained to him that you have to dominate or be dominated.

Today, a company cannot function without human beings although this might be the case in the near future through cybernetic organism or other intelligent humanoid.

In any case, for the moment, fortunately we still need human beings in companies, so your skills, your knowledge, your commitment, your work, your networks, your experiences, your diplomas are useful for the company. On the other hand, you are going to have salaries, shares, social shares and other forms of remuneration.

There comes a critical moment, such as this time during these circumstances when objectives are no longer being achieved, when margins are shrinking like snow in the sun, when there are no more orders, and this is a difficult and crucial moment for every entrepreneur or boss, when a decision has to be made, and this is when the boss, if he has a conscience, will do everything possible to ensure that those he has to lay off find a job again or suffer as little damage as possible.

In the majority of cases, the instructions are given to the managers, by the bank that finances the loans or by consultancy firms specialising in restructuring, that they must restructure their company and that they must decide on the staff, and this is what is likely to happen. Unfortunately during this year 2021 in many cases, if not worse, this meant bankruptcy.

The tragedy is that the employees have given their all to ensure that the company in question survives by often working overtime or sacrificing themselves by cutting their wages.

Serious questions arise for the employer if he is a Christian?

What are we to do with the values of the Kingdom in such situations?

Questions for employers :

Love your neighbour as yourself?

Be a servant of your neighbour?



Matthew 20 verses 26-27 Jesus called them and said to them:

"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles have dominion over them and that the great ones hold them in their power. This will not be the case among you, but if anyone wants to be great among you, let him be your servant; and if anyone wants to be first among you, let him be your slave. »

How many Christian employers, are ready to commit themselves during this very difficult period, to become these faithful servants and to put themselves on the same level as their collaborators and to survive with them or sink with them without looking for an excuse to justify their choices?

PS: If you come across an employer like in the video on LinkedIn, never let go of him, they are treasures that the world needs.

On LinkedIn Regularisé, Laye Fodé Traoré has resumed her work.

Questions for employees :

You know the parable of **Matthew 20 verses 1 to 16**:

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landlord who went out in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. He agreed with them for a wage of one silver coin a day and sent them into his vineyard. He went out around nine o'clock in the morning and saw others who were in the square, without work. He said to them, "Go also into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just. And they went their way. And he went out again about noon and about three o'clock in the afternoon, and did likewise. And he went out at last about five o'clock in the afternoon, and found others standing there [without work]. He said to them, 'Why do you stand here all day without working?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us. He said to them, 'Go also into my vineyard, [and you will receive what is right]'. When evening came, the master of the vineyard said to his steward: Call the labourers and pay them their wages, going from the last to the first. And the five o'clock in the afternoon came, and each one received a silver coin. When the first came in their turn, they thought they would receive more, but they also received a silver coin each. When they received it, they murmured against the owner, saying: These last ones only worked for an hour and you treated them like us, who put up with the

fatigue of the day and the heat! And he said to one of them, "My friend, I do you no harm. Didn't you agree with me for a salary of one silver coin? Take what is yours and go away. I want to give it to the latter as much as to you. Am I not allowed to do what I want with my property? Or do you take a dim view of my goodness? So the last will be first and the first will be last. Many are invited but few are chosen. »

Are you ready to go all the way with your employer in the adventure you have embarked on with him or her?

How?

By committing yourself, through your ideas, your initiatives, your courage, your motivation, your network.

My own motto, when I was still in management, was either we all live and win together or we all sink together.

I have never let anyone down in my professional career, except of course for serious misconduct, theft, misappropriation or abuse of others.

If your work is just economics, put yourself before God and ask him if your attitude is right?

You have things to give, even if they are insignificant. Try to broaden your horizons by understanding how you could make yourself useful to serve someone around you, through a word, an encouragement, a look or a gesture.

Human beings need 5 to 7 recognition signals a day, otherwise they are candidates for depression. It's up to you.

Why this explanation?

It's to tell you that your identity should not be in the work value, because if it is, when the moment of separation comes, it will be a drama for you. You will find it unfair, the fact that you have given so many years, energy and time for something that can give you nothing in return.

Become aware of this today and meditate on it, because sometimes work can become an idol.

Jesus exhorts us in **Matthew 6 verse 24**

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the first and love the second, or he will cling to the first and despise the second. You cannot serve God and money.

Often work is a compensator and in this case you will have just filled a gap in your life, and it's true that sometimes life doesn't spare us, and we find refuge in work and it becomes our identity.

John **14 verses 5/6** Thomas said to him:

"Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him:

"I am the way, the truth and the life. One only comes to the Father through me.

There is no other way, we cannot change what Jesus has told us, let us seek the way with all our heart, the way being Jesus. We only come to the Father through Him.

The same question runs through all our newsletters as a guiding thread.

“Where is the temple or is Christ becoming incarnate?”

In you (enthos)

“How to get there?”

Through interiority, through the ler lera, through meditation, through prayer...

“Is there another way?”

NO

Now from the perspective of the employer who has ethical and moral values and who has to make dramatic decisions during this period, and who is a person who loves his employees, he will do everything to ensure that everyone is spared. If you are an employee in such a company, take care of your employer because they are often people who prefer to sacrifice themselves for their employees rather than for their company, their employees are more important than their company. The risk, of course, for the boss is that he will end up burnt out or having a heart attack or committing suicide because the pressure is too much.

If you are an employee and you see warning signs in your employer then pray for him/her, talk to him/her to unload his/her burdens.

It is easier to carry a burden with several people than alone, in fact these kinds of businesses are like businesses of the kingdom of God.

Experience shows that the higher people are in the pyramid, the more lonely they when having to make decisions.

Could you imagine yourself receiving the trust of the employer who shares his heart with you? Could you imagine yourself becoming like Joseph, faithful stewards?

If you are such a employer, who loves his employees and is experiencing difficulties, do not hesitate to contact us, we will do everything in our power to help you, whether it be in marketing, sales, HR, finance, organisation or production, management, etc., a competent team is at your disposal to help you free of charge.

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Experience shows that the higher people are in the pyramid, the more lonely they are to make wise decisions. Could you imagine yourself receiving the trust of the boss who shares his heart with you? Could you imagine yourself becoming like Joseph, faithful stewards?

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If you are an employee, we are at your disposal to help you reorient yourself, accompany you, help you in your search for work through the ICCC network.



In case of family difficulties, we are at your disposal to support you in your organisation, planning.

An address: info@iccc.ch at your service.

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