Bless Your Marketplace

When I met Alice, a buffet restaurant server, she was quite frustrated with her work, especially with customers who kept wasting food and messing up the place. And when they tipped, they weren't generous at all. I encouraged her to pray for diners – even before they showed up.

Alice decided to start her shifts 15 minutes earlier, silently praying over each seat assigned to her. "In the name of Jesus, I bless the customer who will take this seat today. May the Lord provide food to nurture her body and fill her with joy and peace."

Several weeks later, Alice saw a marked difference in their behavior. Table manners improved, people became more courteous, and the atmosphere in the dining room started changing.

Blessing people at work is the first and most important step toward transforming your marketplace. When you commit to pray for others, you're saying that you desire change. You acknowledge what the Bible teaches: "*Bless and do not curse*" (Romans 12:14). You agree to make a difference "the Jesus way."

When Jesus sent His disciples to bless the surrounding areas, He told them exactly what to say: "*Peace to this house*" (Luke 10:1-9). These were not just courteous words, but a proclamation of God's providence, protection, and restoration. Where appropriate, say *"Peace be with you*." Otherwise, pray the words silently in your heart.

Bless through prayer.

Develop a prayer strategy for your marketplace. Bless people you work with and know by name. Refer to your **Reality Challenge**. Make a list and commit to pray for them regularly. This applies even when you're working from home.

- Friends and associates at work
  - _____
- People you find difficult to work with
  - _____
- Competitors
  - _____
- Customers (friendly or otherwise)
  - _____
- Stakeholders
  - _____

Bless people you *don't know* personally, but who are touched by your work, including:
- Coworkers and their families
- Customers and their families
- Competitors

- People in your community and city
- Leaders in your profession, business, and industry