

# *Mastering Monday*

## STUDY GUIDE

by *Richard T. Case*

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Would you like help making your experience of reading *Mastering Monday* more real, more relevant to your life and work? As you invest in the hard work of thinking deeply about important work-related questions, your Bible in hand, this study guide will become a valuable ally in your spiritual growth.

I am indebted to my dear friend Rich Case for developing these thought-provoking questions and associating them with applicable Scripture references.

—*John Beckett*

### CHAPTER 1: IN AND OUT OF THE FURNACE

1. What struggles have you experienced between the marketplace and ministry? What is your understanding about this?
2. In what ways do you try to manage your life by your own will?
3. What is the biblical definition of faith (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1–2, 6; 12:1–2; and see Hebrews 3:15–19 for an example of the opposite of faith)?
4. In what ways are you struggling with fully letting go and surrendering your will and life to God? Why?

### CHAPTER 2: INTEGRATING TWO WORLDS

1. What does the Bible say about calls and calling (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:6–8; Romans 8:28–29; Ephesians 1:16–21)?
2. What difficulty are you encountering in living out God's calling on your life?
3. What opportunities do you see in your life regarding how you might better align your calling with God's calling for you, or how you might realign your priorities to be in line with his calling?

### CHAPTER 3: OUR EARLIEST COMPANIONS

1. What role does the Bible play in your decision making in the workplace?
2. What is the Lord's desire for his Word to guide us (Psalms 119:105; Proverbs 4:1–5, 20–23; 2 Timothy 3:15–17; Hebrews 4:11–12)?

3. What are some of the biblical standards for ethics (Proverbs 11:3–6; Zechariah 8:16–17)?
4. What ethical issues have you experienced? How have you handled these?
5. Referencing the example of Moses (pp. 46–52), how do you rate yourself in the following areas (on a scale of 1–10)? Why high or low.
  - Building ethical character
  - Delegation
  - Developing exceptional skills
  - Building a team
  - Developing cultural continuity (getting your people on the same page)
  - Succession planning
6. How is God’s nature (character) intended to be carried out as you develop a warm, compassionate leadership style (Psalms 86: 15)?

#### CHAPTER 4: BIBLICAL WISDOM FOR TODAY

1. What does the Bible say about God revealing his truth through his Word (Mark 4:13–20; John 6:63, 68; 8:28–32, 36; 17:3; 1 Corinthians 2:9–16)?
2. How have you experienced the Word “leaping off the pages” to your soul? What have you done in response?
3. How would you rate yourself in the following areas of godly leadership (on a scale of 1–10)? Why high or low?
  - A heart after God (Acts 13:22).
  - Repentance and forgiveness after failure—forgetting the past and moving on (Romans 8:1–2; Philippians 3:12–16; 1 John 1:9).
  - Making decisions based on godly wisdom that you are receiving from your regular time in the Word. (Do you believe you can hear from the Lord and understand his will and instructions for your everyday life? See Proverbs 1:2–5, 20–23, 33.)
4. What does it mean for you to finish strong and be exceedingly fruitful? Are there adjustments you need to make in order to achieve this life goal (Matthew 7:15–20; John 15:1–17, 17:1–5)?

#### CHAPTER 5: WORLD-CLASS LEADERS

1. Reflecting on the exemplary lives of Daniel and Nehemiah, consider why it is important to be faithful in small things (Matthew 25:14–30).

How would you rate yourself in this (on a scale of 1–10)? Why high or low?

2. How have you carried out God's plan for you in the workplace (Proverbs 3:3–6; 16:7; 21:5)?
3. God's work will be opposed. How do you handle such opposition in your life and work?
4. Are you working to put God's plans ahead of your own agenda or plans? How do things change when you do this?

## CHAPTER 6: A NEW COVENANT

1. How does the Bible portray the kingdom of God (Matthew 18:1–5; Mark 1:14–20; Romans 14:17)?
2. Why is our understanding of the kingdom of God so important?
3. How do you rate yourself in applying the following kingdom characteristics in your life (on a scale of 1–10)? Why high or low?
  - Intimate relationship with God (Philippians 3: 10)
  - Intimate relationship with others (John 15: 9–17)
  - Need for salvation (Romans 1: 16–17)
  - Need for redemption (Galatians 3: 10–14, 4: 1–7)
  - Restoration (Isaiah 61: 1–4)

What is the difference between salvation, redemption and restoration?

4. Who have you known in your work circle who evidences God's kingdom at work in their lives?

## CHAPTER 7: LESSONS FROM THE EDGE OF CIVILIZATION

1. There is much we can learn from God's judgments on Babylon. In what ways have you experienced or witnessed the following in your own life?
  - spiritual abandonment: operating in the natural without awareness or discernment of the spiritual world and spiritual activities around you (Romans 8:5–8)
  - excess: pursuing money and material things just to have them and keep up with others who have them (Proverbs 13:7, 1 Timothy 6:9–10)
  - corruption: lack of honesty and integrity; not honoring agreements or doing everything with utmost excellence (Proverbs 6:16–19)
  - pride: pursuing, even demanding, your own way or working to get your own way, apart from others' desires and feelings (Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, 18:12, 19:23)

- devaluing people: following and operating with an overriding focus on numbers, financials, business obligations or tasks; not respecting other's opinions, needs or contributions; not considering the impact your decisions have on others (Philippians 2:1–11)
- abusing influence: using your position and authority for personal gain or undue advantage; stretching the normal business limits for personal perks (Romans 16:17–19; 1 Timothy 6:17–19)
- rejecting God's servants: not being willing to receive counsel or listen to those around you—those whom God may be using to help you reconsider your actions and redirect you toward God's will and ways (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; Matthew 23:37–38)

## CHAPTER 8: MOVING BEYOND PRINCIPLES

1. How do you currently understand the biblical view of these five themes: purpose, values, people, stewardship and serving?

## CHAPTER 9: THE POWER OF PURPOSE

1. How would you describe your purpose based upon your understanding of God's working in your life (Ephesians 2:4–10; Philippians 1:6)? in your workplace? in your non-workplace life? How clear are you regarding how these purposes of God factor into your day-to-day decisions? Describe.
2. What issues or problems are you facing that are challenging the larger purposes for your life?
3. How do you see God working through some of these issues or problems (John 5:17–23, 30)?

## CHAPTER 10: VALUES

1. How are core values woven throughout the Bible (see examples in Psalms 111–112)?
2. What are your core values in your workplace? in your life as a leader?
3. In what ways are your core values distinctive? How do they help you operate day in and day out?

## CHAPTER 11: PEOPLE FIRST

1. How would you describe God's heart toward people (Psalms 103:1–15; John 10:10)?
2. How does your experience align or not align with God's heart toward people?
3. How are you managing through the normal conflicts that typically arise between business operations and people—such as people versus profit and outsourcing?

4. What are your guiding principles in regard to valuing people? What difficulties are you experiencing in carrying these out in your everyday activities?

## CHAPTER 12: STEWARDSHIP

1. How do we understand the biblical idea of stewardship (Luke 19:11–27)?
2. How would you evaluate yourself in these areas of stewardship (on a scale of 1–10)? Why high or low?
  - Family
  - Time
  - Influence
  - Knowledge
  - Resources
  - Abilities
  - Relationship with God
  - Relationship with others
  - Work
  - Spiritual atmosphere around us
3. How are you a steward in these areas?
  - Perseverance
  - Generosity
  - Guardianship
  - Success

## CHAPTER 13: SERVING

1. How does the Bible give us insight into true serving (John 13:1–17; 1 Corinthians 13)?
2. Why does the Lord call us to serve?
3. What is the importance and value of transparency in your role as servant–leader?
4. How do you bring your faith and the Word into your workplace in a way that brings honor and glory to God and fulfills his real purposes for you at work?