

EMPLOYMENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN

Most employees see employment as just a means to an end—to provide for their needs and to buy time until they can someday start a business of their own. Many of them also feel that employment is a form of slavery because they do all the hard work but their bosses are the ones who profit. There are some who would resign even if they have nowhere to go because they despise the idea of working only to make the company rich.

I have been on both sides of the fence. I have been an employee for close to 14 years before I left for Bukidnon to become a farmer and entrepreneur. I had the same sentiments just like what I mentioned above when I was working for different companies. So believe me when I say I know how an employee feels. But when I became an entrepreneur, I saw the benefits of being an employee and how it may be the best path to take if you want to become an entrepreneur someday.

When I was an employee, I was very daring because I knew if I committed a mistake it would be the company who would lose money. As long as I met my targets, the company would forgive me. But if I exceeded them, they would even reward me, in spite of the mistakes I had made. Though my bosses would scold me for my mistakes, most of these would be forgotten if I did not do them often. But when I became an entrepreneur, I became very careful because when I make a mistake I will lose my money and there will be no one to save me because the buck stops with me! This was when I realized the value of employment.

I realized that employment is an opportunity to learn how to do business while using someone else's money. As an employee, you get a chance to apply the knowledge you have acquired in school and get paid for doing so. If you make a wrong decision the company will still take care of you, and still pay your salary because it knows everyone will make mistakes. This is part of the risk of business. If you do well, the company will give you a reward on top of your salary.

Employment is like getting an education while being paid. This is far better than going to school because in school you have to pay for the education you get. Therefore, it is to the benefit of an employee to do his best in every responsibility he is given, because the abilities he will develop will remain with him even when he leaves. But if he decides not to excel, he would have wasted his time and lost his opportunity to learn from the great entrepreneurs before him.

Someone asked me, "When do I know that it is time to go on my own and start my own business?" I told him, "It is when you have made your boss successfully rich!" Why? Because this just means you have done well in the job you were paid to do, and have been faithful with the responsibilities that were entrusted to you. Jesus confirmed this idea in Luke 16:12 (NASB) when He said, "And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?"