

## Week 3 – Redeeming our Work

### Reflection

- What was Gods good intent for your current/most recent vocation?
- What about your vocation makes is hard to fulfill Gods intent?
- How can you participate in bringing your vocation as close to Gods intent as possible?

### Pray

### Review

- Course Theme: Working to The Glory<sup>6</sup> if God:
  - Col 3:17: "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
- Redemptive History (Creation, Fall, Redemption)
  - Creation
    - God created everything Good. He created mankind in His image to "fill the earth" in dependence on God, creation, and one another.
    - God cares about work inside and outside the church. Church equips us for work outside the church.
    - Christians find value in every vocation that serves Gods purpose.
  - Fall
    - The world is fallen because of sin and work is one of the primary ways we feel the fallenness of creation.
    - Any time we try to find true satisfaction in anything else besides God (in the creation and not the creator), it is idolatry.
- We will never find full satisfaction from our vocation. Because of the fall, work feels fruitless, pointless, and selfish.

### Introduction

- Big Question: "How do we look past the deep problems and realize God's purpose and plan"(Endeavor, p. 150).

- Four ways the gospel changes the way we work.
  1. an alternate story line for our work.
  2. a **new and rich conception of work as partnering with God.**
  3. a particularly sensitive new moral compass
  4. the gospel radically changes our **motives for work and fills us with a new and durable inner power.**
- Tying it back to the Fall
  - Work feels fruitless (the gospel gives you a new storyline)
  - Work feels pointless (The gospel gives you a new conception)
  - You feel selfish about work (The gospel gives you a new compass)
  - You look to idols present at work (The gospel gives you the God who fills all your desires)

## A New Storyline for Work

- Histrionicus histrionicus histrionicus.
- Definition of a Story: "
- Three Critical Aspects of a Story
  - 1. *How are things supposed to be?*
  - 2. *What is the main problem with things as they are?*
  - 3. *What is the solution and how can it be realized?*
- Activity in Groups:
  - Acts 3:13-26.
  - Acts 17:24-31
- More Reflection on Work:
  - What's the story line of our culture?
  - How does my particular profession retell this story?

- What parts of the story are basically in line with the gospel,
- What parts of the story are irresolvable without Christ?
- How can Christ complete the story in a different way?
- Examples of False Storylines and Real storylines
- Education (False)
  - Creation:
  - The problem is.
  - The solution
- Education (gospel)
  - God created education.
  - The problem:
  - The solution: In the pattern of God
- Key Takeaway: We should see our work the way the bible sees it:

## A New Conception of Work

- Read Isaiah 28:24-29
  - God Equips good work.
- Can non "Christian" be good? James 1:17
- Can "Christian" be bad? See James 1:26-27
- As Christians, we \_\_\_\_\_ and participate in **all** good things God sovereignly ordains,
- **Leading** Metrics vs. Lagging Metrics
- Define lagging metric.
- Define leading metric.
- Activity:

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*"We will learn to recognize the half-truths and resist the idols; and we will learn to recognize and celebrate the glimpses of justice, wisdom, truth, and beauty we find around us in all aspects of life. Ultimately, a grasp of the gospel and of biblical teaching on cultural engagement should lead Christians to be the most appreciative of the hands of God behind the work of our colleagues and neighbors." (Keller p. 197).*

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## A New Compass for Work

- Scripture: Matt 5:13-14
- Christians are:
  - animated by different virtues, Gal 5:22-24
  - lifted by a different view of humanity,

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*People become contacts who can help you; customers are eyeballs and wallets; employees are resources to execute a task. It's so easy to measure the worth of customers, employees, and even congregants in financial terms. From a strictly economic perspective, shareholders, management, employees, suppliers, customers, and community residents have unequal financial value, and it is difficult not to treat them unequally in some respects. But while economically speaking some are more valuable than others, theologically speaking all of us are made in the image of God and are therefore equal in importance. (218)*

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- guided by a different source of wisdom, Rom 12:1-3, James 1:5
- and perform for a different audience, Eph 6:5-9, 1 Pet 2:12

## A New Power for Work

- Matt 11:28-30 (5 mins)
  - The Work under the Work
  - The Rest under the Rest
- Activity: Identify your "Work under the work"

## Rest

- Deut 5:12-15
  - Deuteronomy 5 ties Sabbath to God's redemption.

- Sabbath is therefore a declaration of our \_\_\_\_\_.

### A New Liturgy for Work (10 mins)

- How does the structure of our workday and seasons at work impact our ability to be faithful to gods call for us at work?

### Key Takeaways

- A New Story:
- A New Conception:
- A New Compass:
- A New Power:

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*When you realize what he has done to rescue you, your pride and envy begin to disappear because you don't need to get your self-worth from being richer, cooler, more powerful, or more comfortable. Instead of working out of the false passion of acedia, which is born of selfishness, you are working out of true passion, which is born of selflessness. You are adopted into God's family, so you already have your affirmation. You are justified in God's sight, so you have nothing to prove. You have been saved through a dying sacrifice, so you are free to be a living one. Keller pp. 232-233*

*"When your heart comes to hope in Christ and the future world he has guaranteed—when you are carrying his easy yoke—you finally have the power to work with a free heart. You can accept gladly whatever level of success and accomplishment God gives you in your vocation, because he has called you to it. You can work with passion and rest, knowing that ultimately the deepest desires of your heart—including your specific aspirations for your earthly work—will be fulfilled when you reach your true country, the new heavens and new earth. So, in any time and place you can work with joy, satisfaction, and no regrets" Keller p. 241*

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