

St Martins C3 – May 25, 2025

Work as Worship – God @ Work

Sermon Notes:

Calvin Redekop says, “Most of us spend almost 40% of our waking time at work. In contrast the average Christian spends less than 2% at church during their working years.” In this series we are showing God’s esteem for the 40%.

It is good for us to think about why we work; for the Christian, the key purpose of their work is to glorify God!

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 12:1

When we internally focus our efforts and energies at work on glorifying God, then something amazing happens. Work becomes worship. Worship is far more than the songs we sing. Anything that we do to bring glory to God and out of our grateful surrender to Him is worship. Here are three things that will transform work into worship.

1 – Attitude Adjustment

Instead of using our work to worship God, many of us worship our work. We turn it into an idol; we use it to replace God.

You might be believing the lie: ***You are what you accomplish.*** Part of who we are is what we do, but it should be only one part, not the whole. Your identity comes from your relationship with God. You are doing the best you can with what He has given you in the position He has placed you. You work to His glory, not to meet your own needs.

2 – Rest Regularly

Rest is worship because it is the ultimate act of trusting God. Many people don't rest because they believe if they don't get everything done, it will all fall apart. Yet when we rest, we trust that it is God who takes care of the world, not us.

Read Exodus 16:29; Ecclesiastes 4:5-6

We need rest. So, while we are to work hard, we need to make sure that every day we are taking breaks. Rest has proven to make workers more effective. Work hard while you are working, but leave it behind when you are not.

3 – Pray Purposefully

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Think about ways to involve prayer more purposefully in your work in the morning, during the day, and to end the day.

“Jesus, the work I do is for you, not for my ego. I work from my value not for my value. You have given the resources to bring you to the world. May it be for your glory, not my own. Thank you for the good work I was able to do, and I ask you to cover my shortcomings with your grace. Help me now to go and give my best self to my family.”

Read Colossians 3:23-24; 4:1

Our boss is Jesus. We are not trying to impress any human, with how wonderful we are as an employee or a boss. Instead, we look to an audience of one, our Saviour, Jesus. And this changes the way we work into worship.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

Working to the glory of God requires a change of attitude, rest and prayer.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

Share the joys and difficulties of your week of work?

What are the signs that work has become an idol in our lives?

What does it look for us to do our everyday work to the glory of God?

How would seeing work as worship change our workplaces?

What would change if we did our volunteering with the same attitude as our paid employment?

Why is rest an important part of worshipping God at work?

What are the pressures that prevent us from resting well?

What should our pattern of rest look like?

How can we involve rhythms of prayer in our work to ensure we are involving God in our work?

What would it look like for God to be part of our work this coming week? How can the group support you in your work?

Monday Devotion: Work as Worship

Read: Colossians 3:22-4:1; Ephesians 6:5-9

On Sunday we started with a question: “What is the purpose of your work?”

It seems like a simple question, but the answers reveal a lot. To make money? To be good stewards? To support your family? They are all good things, but they miss the key purpose of work. The purpose of work is to glorify God!

Your faith is being expressed through the way that you approach your tasks, through the fruit of the Spirit and the internal commitment to do your work for God. This is worship.

We should work for our employer as though we are working for the Lord. Yet often we find our perspective has been distorted by lesser things like our own success or the completion of daily tasks. We need a mindset change in the way we approach our jobs.

No one wakes up and says to their family, “I’m off to worship” as they head out for another day in the office. However, work is worship. May we glorify Him through the way we approach our jobs today.

Prayer Focus for Today:

- Pray that God would reveal how we can treat work as worship.

Tuesday Devotion: Work with Integrity

Read Philippians 1:27

If work is worship, then there will be elements that will be present in our workplace. In the next four days, we will explore four signs that you are treating work as worship.

Integrity is an essential element of work as worship. When our private lives are integrated, with consistent character in both areas, then we have integrity. The Kingdom paraphrase of Philippians 1 shows this well.

The one thing I would stress is this: your public behaviour must match up to the gospel of the King.

Philippians 1:27 (Kingdom New Testament)

God has changed our lives, and we publicly proclaim Him as Lord of all of our lives. If this is the case, then we will show it when we go to work. Yet nowhere will our integrity be more tested than in our workplaces.

We represent Jesus in the work we do. This means that when we say something, we do it. People can rely on us. Work hard be on time, meet deadlines and deal honestly – even above reproach – in your work.

Prayer Focus for Today:

- Ask God to reveal to you an area of your life where your public behaviour does not line up with your private beliefs. Ask for His help to make your behaviour consistent with your beliefs.

Wednesday Devotion: Celebrate Others

Read Ecclesiastes 4:4

One of the issues we have with our work, which we discussed in this week's sermon, was our tendency to treat our work as an idol. This happens when we look at our jobs (or any purposeful activity) as our source of meaning.

As Ecclesiastes says, most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbours. They believe the only way to know they are significant is if they are better than others. This leads to work becoming a place of competition, certainly not worship. As the writer says, this is pointless!

One of the ways to kick against the stream of advancement is to focus on the success of others. Our motivation should never be to get ahead of others, but to celebrate when they do well. I have had times where others have done well at something in my workplace, and I have felt that has made them the enemy. They succeeded and made me look worse as a result.

Instead, we should celebrate people on our team that do well, even when we don't. That's what it means to put others first. That's what it means to love, that's what it looks like when work is worship. What if you went to work today and looked for ways to make your workmates succeed, not just yourself?

Prayer Focus for Today:

- Pray for the people in your workplace, paying special attention to any you find difficult or in competition to you.

Thursday Devotion: Be Nice to Be Around

Read Philippians 2:14-15; 4:4; Titus 3:2; Romans 12:14-21

When I left school, I worked in a greenhouse. My boss was a Christian, but the majority of my workmates were not. My boss was a good boss, but he would occasionally lose his temper. One morning, he yelled so much that a first-day employee dropped his tools and walked off-site, never to be seen again. He only lasted 45 minutes.

Another time, my boss fell off a trolley and the only thing my non-Christian workmates were interested in was whether he had sworn. They were watching.

None of us are perfect, but it is important we try to live up to our calling and shine like stars through the kind of employees and bosses we are. This is linked with being a person of integrity, and the fruit of it is seen in our behaviour. Not to grumble and complain or try and get our own way, but to be the kind of workers people actually like to be around.

Scripture encourages us not to gossip and add fuel to fires but get on with the work we are doing. Forgive others and help them even when they don't deserve it. Talk with those who are struggling, care about more than just their work. Look out for the little guy. Listen well. Be joyful and have some fun with people you work with. When you are like God, you are worshipping God.

Prayer Focus for Today:

- Pray that God would help you to be a nice person to be around and a good boss or workmate.

Friday Devotion: Build Character Through Difficult Situations

Read James 1:2-3; Galatians 5:20-22

Work has a way of throwing difficult situations at us. A restructure of the company might see us displaced or out of work. Challenging colleagues make our environment hard to navigate – especially if you are a stay-at-home parent! There is a wear and tear of the effort and energy that is consistently required of us.

There is no wonder they call it the daily grind!

As difficult as work might be for us, it is also an opportunity for us to grow more like Christ. Let's be the people who allow God to build character in us through the troubles that work brings rather than running away from problems. This is the way of the cross, that we would embrace suffering and let God build his character in us.

There is a balance here. If a situation is abusive or destroying you, then look for a way to resolve the mistreatment. But also see it as a vehicle for the fruit of the Spirit that can grow and be shown in our lives. Submitting to what God wants to do in you is worship.

Prayer Focus for Today:

- Pray that God would reveal what He is working on in us at the moment through our workplace.