

“WORKING FOR GOD”

If God was your boss, would anything change in your work? He is!! One of the powerful dimensions of discipleship is work.

I. REVELATION OF WORK

A. Interesting to see what the Bible has to say about work

1. Apparently it is important to God
 - a. *It tells us of Adam's work: Garden/naming animals/protecting the garden*
 - b. *It tells us of Jesus work: Known as a carpenter Legend of yokes – my yokes fit well*
2. Note how many men were called by God – at their jobs!
 - a. *Elisha/plowing*
 - b. *Nehemiah/cupbearer*
 - c. *Joseph/house/prison*
 - d. *Andrew/Peter/James/John/fishing*
 - e. *Matthew/tax collecting*
3. Work is a revelation of character
 - a. You see what kind of man they are/what their heart is like – by how they work/don't work!
 1. *Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Zig Ziglar*

B. The reason why it is so important: Ministry is hard work

1. *1 Timothy 3:1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.*
 - a. Common word Paul uses about ministry: Labor/laborers/fellow-laborers
 1. *Sermons/Sunday schools/studies/bookkeeping/planning/advertising/counseling*
 2. *Always on call/available*
2. Lazy men don't do well in the ministry
 - a. They wind up wasting time/money – frustrating those that are depending on them
 1. Sometimes wives rat on them: No outreach/prayer
 2. Wind up resenting those who are blessed

II. AREAS OF REVELATION IN WORK

A. Hard work *V7 serve wholeheartedly...*

1. The ability to work hard – give maximum effort

B. Unsupervised work *V6 not with eyeservice... Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you...*

1. A great test of character is how you work when no one is looking
 - a. Many parables: A master who left workers to work - and was absent from the scene
2. Pastoring is largely unsupervised: *Who would know if you're not working?*

C. Unrewarded work

1. Our scrip deals with slavery *V5 servants/slaves...*
 - a. *They were treated badly at times*
 - b. *They weren't getting much reward from their work*
2. This is a test of character: God actually arranges this sometimes *Work for jerks/with jerks*
 - a. *Does your work change? Do you develop a bad attitude about work?*

D. Self-initiated work

1. Basic character is someone who can do what they are told/while someone is looking
2. But success in ministry comes from initiative; Self-motivation
 - a. A man who is looking for areas of need – doing extra
 1. *Matthew 5:41 If someone forces you to go with him one mile, go with him two miles.*
 - a. *Jonathan: Let's go see what God will do*
 - b. *David: I'll do what needs doing*
 - c. *Lepers: Toward enemy*
 3. Common denominator of successful ministries; Button-pushers; Trying/attacking!
 - a. *That is something that needs to be at work in us now!*

III. THE WORKER'S REWARD

A. Our scrip shows a powerful truth about all work:

1. You don't actually work for someone else – you work for God

a. Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

B. God obviously watches workers – to reward & promote them

1. Your future is closely connected to your work/your attitude towards work
 - a. Rachel/camels: Watching work to choose a bride for the wealthy son
 - b. Ruth/gleaning in the heat: Rewarding/marrying the wealthy owner – line of Christ!
 1. Ministry
 2. Blessing
 3. Workers that will help you one day

c. Eph 6:7-8 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

2. Based on this principle: **What is your future going to look like?**