

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sacred Practices: Work

Genesis 2:1-3, 1:26, 2:15, 3:16-19, 11:2-4; Ecclesiastes 2:17, 2:23-24; Colossians 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:58

September 7 & 8, 2019

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon and take note of its truths about God, who we are as his people and what's required to follow him.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Have you thought of your work as a sacred practice before? Take time to consider your motivation to work? What gets (or got) you out of bed each morning to head to work?

2. Without getting too specific, what does the world (the culture) say to us about work? Have there been/are there times you've adopted the world's view on your work?

Work: God's Plan. (Design; Dignity)

1. What does the Bible say about our work compared to what the world says? What's the importance of work being a part of creation, even before the fall?

2. Adam said in his sermon that without meaningful work, we feel lost. God actually created us to long for work and to find joy in our work. What are the implications of this for our lives?

3. God gave dignity to all work that restores order and promotes excellence, no matter the social distinction, financial compensation or required training. Discuss some examples of this in society. (Think: service industry, craftsmen, technical trades, etc.) How do these lines of work restore order and promote excellence?

Work: Our Problem. (Thorns, Name)

1. What are some of the ways you feel the effects of the fall (thorns and thistles) in your work? Reflect on the words from the sermon that, "Work is not a curse, it's under a curse."

2. One of the effects of the fall is that we can be driven to cynicism in our work, not believing there is anything good or profitable in our work? What might be some examples of this?

3. Like those who built the Tower of Babel to increase the renown of their name (instead of God's), how do we use work to increase our own glory? How do you see the American value of work and production influencing you and others?

Work: His Work

1. Adam talked about how Jesus “endured the thorns” of our work. How did Adam describe this as true from the crucifixion story? (hint: Jesus wore it on his head)

2. One of the greatest effects of the fall is that we use work to find our identity. How does the truth that we have our heavenly Father’s approval without work, change our work?

3. Reflect on the amazing truth that as beloved sons and daughters, God just simply loves to watch us work. How does that change your everyday view and value on your work?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?