

Work and Rest in the Kingdom—Genesis 2:1-8, 15; Genesis 3:17-19; Luke 6:1-5

- **Importance and Dignity of Work (Genesis 2:1-8, 15)**
 - **Work (all work) gets its goodness and dignity as a gift from God for worship!**
 - God puts work in the garden as an offering of worship to God by which his good purposes for the world are manifested.
 - Every other creation narrative, work is evil and punishment. **Pandora's box**—one of the evils out of the box was work. **Enuma Elish**—gods create the world and then created the humans because the gods saw the work necessary on the earth as evil and demeaning.
 - **Genesis**—God begins working (hands in the dirt) with joy; puts humans in blissful paradise and gives them work! Meaningful work is part of a perfect world/life.
 - **Jesus**—doesn't come as a Greek god would (aristocratic philosopher) or Roman god (General) but as a CARPENTER!
 - **Us**—ALL work is good and has dignity. Even the menial has dignity!
 - **Luther**—God feeds us and all things. How? Through the farmer. The lady milking the cow. The driver delivering goods to the store. Stockers putting it on shelves....these are the fingers of God at work to provide for us.
 - **Luther**—God makes our gates secure (our society safe). How? By laws, law enforcement, government, etc. They aren't necessary evils but means of work by which God is caring for his creation.
 - **Effects:**
 - **Destroys class-snobbery**—gospel lens disallows us to look down on anyone!
 - **Protect Us from Working Jobs We Hate** because we are addicted to status
 - **Pleasing God**—doing our work and doing it well is WORSHIP and pleasing to God.
 - **Sacred and Secular Jobs are able to please God!**
 - **Joseph**—a man who changed the known world and was HUGELY used of God in the entire narrative of redemption and he was NOT in ministry—he was a good manager and businessman.
- **Broken Purpose of Work (Genesis 3:17-19; 11: 4-5)**
 - Genesis also shows us how work is cursed by the Fall and then is evidenced in Babel.
 - **They worked to build the tower to make a name FOR THEMSELVES—worked to get power, identity, status—LOOK AT ME AND HOW GREAT I AM.**
 - Because I am good, successful, talented—Now I can be something.
 - If personal advancement is our ultimate goal, we will do our work at the expense of people and groups and FRAGMENTATION, not BUILDING happens. In Babel, culture separates!
 - **Ultimate Reason—why are you working? Status? Make a name? Get power?**
 - John Coletrane illustration—talks about conversion. Talks about going from making music for applause and praise. After conversion/spiritual awakening (1957), by God's grace, he caused me to want to make music so that people would be happy and to inspire them to lead a meaningful life. All praise to God. His conversion changed his REASON—make people happy and offer music as worship!
 - **Work becomes about WORSHIP and PEOPLE, not SELF and STATUS!**
 - If we attach our worth to our work—we will be paralyzed. Our work will have to be PERFECT (if not, we don't have a name). Or, if it's not perfect, it is trash! We all MUST have value apart from work or else we will try to work to try to save our soul!
- **Healing of Work (Luke 6:1-5)**
 - What does it mean that he is the Lord of rest?
 - **Gen 1—what does it mean that God rested b/c he doesn't get tired? He utters, "very good"—totally satisfied!**
 - Genesis Fall through all history up to Christ = humanity is out of the garden and out of paradise and is in exile, chaos and restlessness. (Augustine quote)

- **Sabbath rest** = the promise of the gospel. WE all experience restlessness and in the fullness of the gospel we ENTER REST—come to ME and I will give you REST!
- **Genesis Fall = work becomes exhaustion.** When work is the way you find value, there is a deep exhaustion that hits you that no number of vacations can satisfy!
 - We are all in exile and we are all restless, exhausted, and experiencing the thorns.
- **Redemption**—God sends his Son to earth as a worker (carpenter) and a wanderer (no place to lay his head) and He gets thorns pounded into his soul. He then cries, why have you forsaken me (cosmic restlessness, emptiness). Why? Because he is taking the curse and the thorns and the ultimate exile! The just penalty for our sin.
- **Consummation**—we receive the reward for all HIS WORK without working/earning.
 - Heb 4:9-10—So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.
 - Sabbath rest = resting from Work by resting in the work of Christ!
 - To become a Christian means that through Jesus, you can look at yourself and say, “absolutely satisfying..all the work to do is finished!”
 - To walk as a Christian is NOT, “I’m working hard to be like Jesus.” To be a Christian is “I rest completely on his finished work to save me!”
 - If you try to earn your salvation by living a good life = exhaustion
 - Earn salvation by getting status (I’m good at this/that) = exhaustion
- **True Sabbath found only in Jesus**
 - In Creation, God rests when he says, “it is finished!” In redemption, Jesus rests when he says, “It is finished!”
 - Jesus looks at us and says—I worked myself to death for you. I took the restlessness, thorns, homelessness! I worked to death so that you can REST! Here is your meaning in life, value, status.
 - When that becomes your basis of value, your work becomes about people you are serving, not about us, and there is deep joy!
- **How do we Sabbath?**
 - Every other thing we could do to get rest before doing this work of running to Jesus WILL NOT WORK—no sleep, vacations, etc.
 - Luke 6:6-11 —Jesus is saying that, in healing the man, he is doing exactly what should be done on the Sabbath—RESTORING the shriveled. That is what Sabbath points to—people shriveled by all types of things being restored by Jesus!
 - Most Christians believe—no rules, no discipline! Problem...that gets dangerous.
 - **Internal Disciplines**—1) embrace the liberation of Sabbath (Deut 15—I delivered you from slavery THEREFORE keep the Sabbath! Slaves didn't have a day off! No rest = a slave! This busyness/lack of ability to say no = slavery! Inside our hearts, we have to embrace the liberation of Sabbath! 2) Our Sabbath produces TRUST in God—I’m not the one who keeps the world running, bringing food to my family! I’m not God!
 - **External Disciplines**—1) Take more Sabbath time. 2) Balance Sabbath—rec, contemplate, reflect and some time to just do “nothing”. 3) Be accountable for it—have help to do this well. 4) Inject Sabbath time into work—fewer goals; get realistic; downshift; working like a devil and THEN resting won’t work—that takes a lifetime. 5) Community—got to get some people in fields similar to you and think through this!