



CASE OF THE MONDAYS

TAKE YOUR JOB AND LOVE IT!

Part 1: The God Who Works for a Living

INTRODUCTION — In the beginning...was work!

Genesis 1:1-3

LOOK TO THE BOOK – Our Work Past, Present and Future

Genesis 1:26-31:2:15-23

Our work in the age to come:

Isaiah 2:4; 65:21-22; 1 Cor 6:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:12; Rev 5:10; 20:4-6

TAKE OUTS – I'll Have That to Go Please

TAKE OUT #1: Connect the Dots

We can experience meaning and purpose in our work today by recognizing that we were designed to take on humble and loving responsibility and care for one another as well as for the whole of creation. **Being agents of blessing through service in every context is what we were made for, and it is part of our whole life worship to God!**

Genesis 1:26-28; Mark 12:30-31 Romans 12:1

TAKE OUT #2: Practice makes Perfect!

God has given us the opportunity to demonstrate faithfulness and responsibility within the context of our working environments and personal relationships, no matter how mundane or difficult they may be. **Our faithfulness with what we have been given today is “real time” training for our responsibilities in the age to come.**

Mark 9:35; Luke 16:10-11

TAKE OUT #3: Cheque Please!

Since we were made to take on loving stewardship of God's creation, we must guard against the temptation to run away from the struggles, pain and inconveniences that come with work and relational responsibilities. **Christ-followers must be fully engaged with high ownership of our world, rather than possessing a “just passing through” mentality. Checking out is not an option!**

Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-10

TAKE OUT #4: My Right to Happiness

For Christ-followers, paid work that is energizing, fulfilling and that uses our natural talents and passions should be viewed as a precious privilege and sign of God's creation renewal rather than a God-given right and entitlement. **This gift should fuel our efforts to serve and care for those in need, as well as for the whole of creation.**

Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 7:20-22

CONCLUSION – When work feels like wasted effort

1 Corinthians 15:58

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. *NOTE** -- Many groups will not be meeting during the holidays, but you may want to work through the following questions as part of your own personal study time.
2. What was your most difficult or challenging work experience? What did you learn coming out of that experience that shaped your approach to work today?

Look to the Book...

3. Take some time to read the following passages that speak about the work that God has entrusted to humanity: **Genesis 1:26-31 and Genesis 2:15-23**. A) In what ways have we seen the authority that we have been given by God misused? B) Read the following passages, **Matthew 20:25-28; Mark 9:35; Philippians 2:1-8**. In light of these texts, how should we approach the leading role that God has given us in regards to care for one another as well as for the whole of creation?
4. Take time to review the consequences of humanity's rebellion in **Genesis 3:17-23**. What are some of the ways that we can see the echoes of “the Fall” in our work today? In other words, what are some of the struggles that we sometimes experience in our work contexts? B) Read the following texts: **Philippians 2:1-8, Revelation 21:3-5, Isaiah 2:4; 9:6-8**. In what ways does Jesus' work both now and in the future provide a reversal of the effects of “the Fall” in regards to our work? C) In ways can we as Christ-followers serve as examples of hope and anticipation of this future even though we still experience struggles and tension in our work places here and now?

So What?...

5. **RESOLUTIONS!** – A) Review the Take Outs in this week's message. Give some prayerful consideration of where you feel God may be challenging you to think or act differently in regards to your approach or practice in work during this coming year? Be as specific as you can. B) Consider journaling your resolution and sharing it with a trusted friend as an accountability throughout the year.

The Meeting House | Sunday, December 27, 2009 | Paul Morris

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching