

## NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 5/18/2020-5/22/2020

The following content is based on the message on 5/17/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

### MONDAY // WORK IS FOUNDATIONAL

**Read Matthew 28:16-20.** This text is called the Great Commission. It describes when Jesus commissioned His followers to go into all the world and make more disciples. He was commissioning every Christian to participate as well. However, this wasn't the first commission that God gave to all of His people. The first Great Commission was given before the sin entered the world. **Read Genesis 1:27-28.** God created man and woman and then commissioned them to take care of the earth by having dominion over it and subduing it. Remember, this is before sin entered the world. It tells us that work is a foundational part of being human. God calls us into work. Work doesn't have to mean that we receive a paycheck as a job. We are all called into work in many different ways.

#### Work is foundational to being human.

- *How has work proven to be an ingrained part of what you are designed to do?*
- *Reflect on some areas in your life where you are called to work, but don't receive a paycheck (i.e., maintaining your house or yard, volunteering at a nonprofit or being a stay-at-home parent). How has God called you to steward those areas of your life?*

### TUESDAY // WORK AS PRESERVING AND ILLUMINATING

**Read Matthew 5:13-16.** Jesus uses the two concepts of salt and light to describe the Christian's role in the world. In the first century, salt was widely used as a preservative for food. When He says that Christians are salt and light, Jesus is saying that they are preserving culture and illuminating hope as His followers. If Christians take this idea of salt and light into their commission to work, then we can view our work as ministry. Tim Keller says, "Work is the gracious expression of creative energy in the service of God and others."

#### Work is ministry.

- *In what specific ways does the actual work of your vocation preserve culture for the good of humanity? If you can't verbalize anything, then ask God to show you how your work can preserve culture.*
- *How are you able to serve others through your work?*

### WEDNESDAY // WORK UNTO THE LORD

**Read Colossians 3:22-4:1.** The word "vocation" comes from the Latin word meaning "to call." Your vocation is based upon a theological premise of a divine call. In other words, as a Christian, God is calling you into work as service to Him and others. Even if

you are in a temporary job or you don't get paid for your work, God is calling you to work for Him and for others. There is no secular/sacred divide in life. Everything we do has a spiritual element, which means that all work has a spiritual element (even if that may seem more difficult to find in some jobs). Your work is a spiritual act of worship to God.

#### Work is all for God.

- *Regardless of how long you plan to be in your job, how can you view your current vocation as a calling from God?*
- *How should framing work as an act of worship change the way you do your work?*

### THURSDAY // WORK COMES FROM GOD

**Read Deuteronomy 8:11-20.** The temptation for people is to believe that they are responsible for their success. Deuteronomy tells us otherwise. Everything we have is actually a gift from God. God is the one who sets the stage for us to be successful. Understanding this, frees us up from feeling like we only have value when we achieve more success. That is a never-ending cycle that leads to disappointment and exhaustion. We do not have to earn a more successful title in order to have value in our work or as a person. All work comes from God and we need to be grateful for the ways He has called us into work—even if it is work that doesn't earn a paycheck.

#### Work is all from God.

- *Reflect on a time when you fell into the temptation to believe that your value as a person was dependent upon your success. Why is it so easy to fall into that trap?*
- *Make a list of specific things that God has called you to cultivate and subdue. Then thank God for those things.*

### FRIDAY // WORK IS NOT YOUR IDENTITY

**Read Ephesians 6:5-9.** As we explored yesterday, earning a more successful title doesn't make someone more valuable. This is because our identity is not found in our work or achievements. Our identity is found in God alone—meaning that our work is for God and from God. The motivation for why we work shouldn't be to look better than others. That sort of thinking places us in the chair as the judge, yet the True Judge doesn't do even that. God doesn't find our value in our achievements. At the end of our passage today, the apostle Paul made this point clear when he said that "there is no partiality" with God.

#### Our work is important but it isn't who we are!

- *Say, "My work is important but it isn't who I am." How does your mind react to you saying that? Why do you think you internally responded that way?*
- *The Christian's identity is given to him or her. It is not earned. How does knowing that free you up to pursue excellence in your work?*