

Rediscovering our Human Vocation

Summarizing our Series on work thus far:

Work is good; work is a pain in the butt; God is redeeming our work.

Questions you asked:

1. "How do I work as for the Lord when my job feels tedious/pointless/hard and boring at times?"
2. "How can I honor God in my work, especially working in a culture of relativism and injustice?"
3. "Does God care about what job I have?"

Paul's prayer for the Colossians

Paul's prayer arises from the overall Biblical story that can be stated something like this: "In Genesis humans are given a task, to bring God's order and governance to creation by caring for the world and one another. God gives us a vocation, a calling. With our turning away from God and God's call however, that vocation gets skewed, corrupted, cumbersome. The story of Jesus however is the story of how God has come to rescue us from this dominion of darkness to reconcile us to God and restore us to our true vocation."

God's Call on Your Life

If God has a calling, a vocation for you, to recover work for good, what might that look like for you? What does it mean collectively for us as a church in our efforts? What might need to shift in you for that to happen? What might need to shift in us in the work we do together?

Colossians 1:15-20 --The Wide Scope of God's Redemption of our Vocation

King, Priest and Prophet

Exodus 19:6 -- "And you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

Revelation 1:6 "He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to his God and Father."

a. Kings and Queens

The problems with our image of Kings and Queens / getting our image of kingship from Jesus.

One way to frame this kingly/queenly vocation is to think of it in fostering a healthy, just, and creative society.

Brother Lawrence: "We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed."

Here's one of the challenges in this sort of work. How do we take up this role of bring God's life-giving order to creation without clinging to power?

Charles Ringma: "Because the powerful often cling to their position and their status, they are seldom free enough to walk the narrow way of relinquishment. If they do cling to these, they will know little of the pain of others and of the power of the incarnation, where greatness was reduced to defencelessness in order to demonstrate the way of true power?"

b. Priests

1 Peter 2:4 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

Pam the banker and pastor

Our role of blessing others.

Jean Vanier: "I do not believe we can truly enter into our own inner pain and wounds and open our hearts to others unless we have had an experience of God, unless we have been touched by God. We must be touched by the Father in order to experience, as the prodigal son did, that no matter how wounded we may be, we are loved. And not only are we loved, but we too are called to heal and to liberate. This healing power in us will not come from our capacities and our riches, but in and through our poverty. We are called to discover that God can bring peace, compassion and love through our wounds."

c. Prophets

Jesus as prophet

How are you being called to take up this prophetic role in your work? in our society? in your job?

Psalms 72 "Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness... For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.³ He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight."

Rick Tobias: "When you are done your careers as governing leaders, you will be judged not so much by whether you increased the GDP, nor whether you were re-elected, nor by your speeches in parliament. You will be judged by God and deemed successful or a failure by whether you brought justice for the afflicted, whether you saved the needy from death."

How is God wanting to redeem your work? What needs to shift in you for you to take up your vocation in the world again?