

Celebrating Labor Day
Sept 3, 2006

I. Introduction

- A. What is your favorite day of the week? Monday?
- B. Do you say, "Monday I get to go to work?"
- C. Church is not a place you go to, it is a life style,
 - 1. We all have a job...housewife, student, occupation, etc.
 - 2. Your work is as important as anything else in your life

II. Being Salt and Light (Mt. 5:13-16)

- A. Most think of their job as a necessary evil.
- B. Years ago, I thought work was a hinderance to my ministry, now I realize that work = ministry. The call of God for you to leave this building and take the kingdom to the workplace is as important as Sunday pulpit ministry.
 - 1. *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*
Matthew 5:13-16, NIV.
 - a) We need the flavor of God in our workplace
 - b) We need the light of God in our world around.
- C. Importance of workplace.
 - 1. Of Jesus 52 parables, 45 had a workplace setting
 - 2. Of the 40 instances of divine intervention in the book of Acts 39 were in the marketplace!
- D. God wants His Kingdom taken to where you work
 - 1. Jesus spent most of his adult life as a carpenter
 - 2. He called 12 workers (not religious leaders) to build His church.
- E. **Billy Graham** - "The next great move of God will be through believers in the marketplace."
 - 1. How is this done?
 - a) Do I play Christian music loudly so others have to hear?
 - b) Do I use Christian terminology?
 - c) Do I take crosses, pictures of Jesus, bumper stickers, tracts on restroom mirrors, etc?

III. Psalm 78:70-72: 4 characteristics to influence people in the marketplace.

- A. **Calling** - without a calling all you have is a job, if all you have is a job, it is not very satisfying
 - 1. Calling - your understanding of God's Assignment
- B. **Servant** mentality - David served, the sheep, people, king, God
 - 1. He did not see others as stepping stones to success
 - 2. He used his calling to help others succeed
 - 3. service = how you see others
- C. **Character** = integrity of heart. = demonstrating who you are.
- D. **Skill** - David was talented, we should never settle for mediocrity.

IV. Calling vs. Career

- A. **Rom. 8:28** - If you walk in His calling... God will cause it to work for your good
- B. **Calling** = Jesus communicating to His disciples what to do. It is God's personal invitation to work on His agenda with the gifts and talents He has given for eternal purposes
 - 1. Many are messed up in their lives because they walk in their agenda
 - 2. Many have the agenda of \$, fame, notoriety, pleasure, etc.
 - 3. God's agenda may not include you being very wealthy (Some cannot handle it because Luke 16 says God will give you according to how you can handle what you already have.
 - 4. Money is not the main purpose of God's agenda, BUT influencing others for the kingdom.
 - a) It is His purpose, not your purpose (Rom. 8:28)
 - b) "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."
Matthew 10:39; 16:25, NIV.

C. A Calling is **NOT** finding yourself.

1. God calls you to lose your life first
 - a) (God moving me to business and telling me, “can you trust me with your life?”)
2. You need to do what God calls you to do, it might start out as insignificant.
3. It is not getting in touch with yourself, but getting in touch with God that counts
 - a) You can then live in the sweet spot (like tennis racket or golf ball)
 - b) If you are not in your calling, you will struggle with maintaining an anointing to work
4. Our first calling
 - a) Stop living for your self, live fore Jesus... this is salvation
5. Second calling: your work assignment that ties into the ultimate purpose of God
 - a) This is when you begin to fulfill the destiny for your life
 - b) This is when you walk in an anointing of God as you fulfill your purpose

D. Career

1. Defn: from two French words: *cart* and *circle*. *To push a cart in a cricle.*
2. This is what some do, go in circles, nothing is accomplished, no mission or purpose of God fulfilled in life.

V. What is success?

A. Many churches rate success by the size of church, offering, etc.

1. God sees a church as successful when OUTSIDE these walls we go and take the kingdom to the marketplace.
2. This gathering is to train you to do the work of your ministry
 - a) Tthe way we work is our act of worship
 - b) If you do your job for man, you will get caught up in greed, discord, strife, pettiness, complaining, backbiting, crassness.
3. When we arrive at work, school, etc., we need to say, “Lord, this is my act of WORSHIP to you. I am here to demonstrate the goodness, and anointing of God in this place. My work is for you, so others may see and hear the difference Jesus Christ has made in my life.

B. Php 3:12,13

1. I count everything (success, achievement) as loss except for knowing Christ.
 - a) many judge their future on the past and put a lid on their future
 - b) We all have things in our past we would rather NOT have.
 - (1) could be lack of education, training, sins, mistakes, etc.of the past
2. Jesus said that old things have passed away, behold al things are new.
 - a) Paul said to REACH FORWARD to what is ahead.

C. Many don't know how to reach forward to a vision

1. They like to sit on their houseboat (like in Amsterdam canal). They wait for success to come to them (like lottery players)
2. Some like sailboat-- when the wind is blowing, they take off in the direction of the wind, not destination, but out to enjoy life, with no particular destination.
3. Those who chart a course in life.
 - a) We must hear God, then plan and budget your life to a destination. You may need to go south and the wind blows north, but because you know the calling your pressforward = implies resistance... could be marriage issues, relationships, but don't settle for 2nd best! ... be the best... that's when the anointing f God gets all over you.... lives are changed.

VI. Conclusion

- A. Go to work and say, “Thank you for this job as a place to demonstrate my relationship with YOU.”
- B. We are called to pastor this AREA, not just this flock.
 1. Take tapes, cd's, messages of God's Word that will impact people's lives.
 2. Give them out for free,
- C. We have resources... YOU are a minister. You are a king and priest to your workplace.