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Ephesians 6:5-9
Title: Worthy at Work
8/25/24

Group Leader Guide

Sermon Recap

In the message "Worthy at Work," Pastor Jason discusses aligning work with our identity in Christ, emphasizing love and respect in relationships. He also addresses the historical context of slavery, emphasizing God's work within culture for change. The message stresses serving with Christ-like character and impacting society through genuine care for people.

Discussion Questions

How can we apply the concept of working for Christ in our daily lives and jobs?

- In the sermon, Pastor Jason explains that our work should be done for Christ and in a manner that reflects His character.
- What are some specific ways you can show Christ's character in your workplace or school environment?

Why is it important to address the inward causes of societal issues, rather than just focusing on external symptoms?

- Pastor Jason discusses how Christians have historically responded to societal issues by addressing the needs of people, such as creating orphanages or establishing schools.
- How can we take personal responsibility for addressing societal issues deeper than just the presenting, outward appearance?

What do you think it means to serve in 'fear and trembling' in your work environment?

- In the message, we learned serving in 'fear and trembling' is a way of emphasizing an earnest desire to do a good job.
- How can you demonstrate this earnest desire to do a good job in your workplace or school environment?

How can godly leadership positively impact the people around you?

- Pastor Jason emphasizes the importance of masters treating their subordinates with kindness, fairness, and leading like the Lord.

- In what ways can you exemplify godly leadership in the various roles you find yourself in?

Based on Ephesians, can you see that these principles apply to all our relationships?

- In the sermon, Pastor Jason highlights that our relationships, including those at work, should be approached with the same principles of love, respect, and submission.
- What are some practical ways you can apply these principles to strengthen your relationships with colleagues, classmates, or supervisors?

Prayer Prompts

- • Ask God to help us work for Christ and like Christ in our workplaces.
- • Pray for godly wisdom and strength to align our daily activities with our spiritual identity.
- • Seek guidance to manage responsibilities with sincerity and diligence as though working for the Lord.

Teaching Notes:

Today we come to a place many of us spend...

...the most amount of time— the workplace.

The average number of hours is 100k and number of jobs is...12.

Big Idea: Your work is part of His work.

Slavery was not based on race & it was not for life.

God works within a culture to change a culture from within.

...God works upstream in hearts...

...to change the downstream of culture.

As a culture, we have become great at virtue signaling...

...without actually showing any great virtue.

5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

1. Work like Jesus is your boss.

7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

2. Work like God the Father is the owner.

What does God care about that actually works at work?

1. God cares about people.
2. God cares about quality.
3. God cares about your character.

9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

3. Oversee others knowing God oversees you.

People, products & processes are important, but not just to make a profit, but to for His pleasure.

Horace Shulze, founder of the Ritz Carlton and author of Excellence Wins, says,

“We are all ladies & gentlemen serving ladies & gentlemen.”

5 Day Devotional

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will explore how our walk with Christ impacts our daily lives,

especially in the workplace, and how we can work for Christ and like Christ in all that we do.

Day 1

Ephesians 6:5-9

Today, we focus on the theme of working for Christ and like Christ in our workplace. This passage reminds us that whether we are employees or employers, we are ultimately serving Christ in all that we do. Our work is not merely for human approval but for the glory of God.

Paul emphasizes that our service should be with "fear and trembling," with a sincere heart, as if we were serving Christ Himself. This means taking our responsibilities seriously and striving to do our best, not out of fear of punishment but out of love and devotion to our Lord. Our attitudes and actions at work should reflect our commitment to Christ, showcasing our integrity, diligence, and care for others.

- How can you remind yourself daily that your work is ultimately for Christ?
- In what ways can you improve your attitude towards your job to make it more Christ-like?
- What specific actions can you take to show more respect and care for your colleagues and customers?
- Pray for a heart that seeks to honor God in all your work.
- Ask God to help you see your job as an opportunity to serve Him and others.

Day 2

Colossians 3:23-24

Continuing with our theme of working for Christ, Paul's words to the Colossians remind us to work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men. This shift in perspective changes everything. When we understand our true audience is God, it elevates the purpose and value of our daily tasks.

Whether you're in a job you love or one that's challenging, this scripture encourages us to put our whole heart into our work because we are serving the Lord Christ. It also reassures us that God sees our efforts and will reward us. This heavenly focus brings joy and meaning to even the most mundane tasks.

- Reflect on a time when you found joy in doing a task for God's glory. What was different about that experience?

- How can you practice working heartily for the Lord in the least enjoyable aspects of your job?
- Who in your workplace could benefit from seeing your Christ-centered work ethic?
- Ask God to help you see your work through His eyes.
- Pray for the strength to perform your tasks with excellence, knowing they are for the Lord.

Day 3

Matthew 5:16

Jesus teaches us to let our light shine before others, so they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven. This principle applies not only to our personal lives but also to our professional lives. Our work can be a powerful testimony to the character and love of Christ.

When we approach our jobs with integrity, kindness, and diligence, we are reflecting Christ to those around us. Our actions can influence others and open doors for meaningful conversations about faith. Remember, your workplace is a mission field where God has placed you to make an impact.

- How can you be a light in your workplace this week?
- What specific actions will demonstrate Christ's love and character to your colleagues?
- How can your work ethic and attitude point others towards God?
- Pray for opportunities to share the love of Christ through your work.
- Ask God to help you be a positive influence and a beacon of His light in your workplace.

Day 4

Proverbs 16:3

This verse encourages us to commit our work to the Lord, and promises that our plans will be established. When we intentionally place our efforts and our ambitions in God's hands, we align our purpose with His will. This commitment brings clarity and direction to our professional lives.

Instead of relying solely on our strength and wisdom, this scripture invites us to partner with God in our work. His guidance ensures that our labor is not in vain and that our efforts contribute to His greater plan. Trusting in God's sovereignty brings peace and assurance, knowing that He is in control.

- What steps can you take to commit your work to the Lord daily?
- How can you seek God's guidance and wisdom in your professional decisions?

- Reflect on a time when committing your work to God brought positive outcomes. What did you learn from that experience?
- Pray for the ability to surrender your work and ambitions to God.
- Ask for His guidance and wisdom in all your professional endeavors.

Day 5

James 1:5

James reminds us that if any of us lacks wisdom, we should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault. As we continue to navigate our roles in the workplace, seeking God's wisdom becomes crucial. His divine insight helps us make righteous decisions and handle challenges with grace. God's wisdom is not just for spiritual matters but for every aspect of our lives, including our careers. By seeking His guidance, we are better equipped to handle conflicts, lead others, and perform our duties with excellence. Wisdom from above ensures that our work glorifies God and serves His purposes.

- In what areas of your work do you need God's wisdom the most?
- How can you make seeking God's wisdom a routine part of your professional life?
- Reflect on a challenge at work right now. How can God's wisdom help you navigate it?
- Pray for God's wisdom in your daily tasks and decisions.
- Ask God to help you apply His wisdom in your interactions and responsibilities at work.