

I've been struggling recently with how 'unspiritual' work can feel at times. I work part time and I am privileged to work flexible hours and be home with my children in the afternoon.

Through this Covid-19 crisis I've been working remotely and as a result I haven't had much interaction with my colleagues. I guess in a way I'd accepted that my work could have eternal value or a spiritual spin on it if I could model biblical principles at work. However, working remotely has meant that people haven't witnessed my 'God-honouring work ethic' or been blessed by my 'Christian kindness'. How can I be a witness in the workplace... if I'm not IN the workplace? On the other hand, doing endless dishes and laundry while your children are at home means that the cycle of mess is never ending. Doing household chores DOESN'T feel like worship to me! And so, I've found myself asking, "What's the point of it all?". Ministry at least - by its very definition - means that you are ministering! And church work - by virtue - is 'of God'. But what about my work? In isolation, where nobody sees?

In Matthew 4 Jesus calls his first disciples. Jesus literally called them to follow him, to down their tools-of-trade and to take up positions as full-time disciples. His disciples were easily identifiable because they were always **with him**. Today, when we are called by Jesus to be his disciples, it looks very different, doesn't it? Most believers are called into everyday jobs in the secular world. But if we are not called to surrender our jobs as disciples, how can this passage relate to us today? I believe that as Jesus' disciples today, we don't need to leave our work to follow him BUT we do need to **surrender our IDENTITY to follow him**.

Simon and Andrew were called to follow Jesus, to leave what they knew to take on a new identity and purpose. They were no longer to be **fishermen** but **fishers of men** – that was their new identity in Jesus. As believers we are not defined by our work, our title or our position. Our identity is IN CHRIST alone. James and John too were called away from mending their nets and to leave their father. They left the very mechanism that enabled their work - their source of provision. Our identity can't be in the work we do, in what we perceive as our provision or even in our family heritage. We need to align ourselves with the Word and to surrender our worldview. We need to test our heritage, our culture and upbringing against God's Word and to choose His truth where they don't align. Our identity is not foremost in our heritage or culture – but in Christ.

And so, I have this assurance... that even while my work and chores may feel 'unspiritual' at times, these acts DO NOT define who I am. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that we are a new creation. We are born again In Christ. The verse goes on to say that 'the old has passed away'. Father, show us what 'old' ways we are still holding on to, what worldview we are allowing to define us. Help us to **follow you, Jesus** and to know that our identity and purpose is in you alone and not in the seemingly 'unspiritual' work that we do. In Jesus' name.