

4. Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-23, which provides a perspective on living “under the sun.” Where do you see parts of this played out in the story of your life?

5. Where have you seen God present in your workplace?

6. What one thing are you choosing to do to commit to your calling this week and why?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Your Work Matters

“Combat the Curse”
Genesis 3:17-19, Genesis 4:1-16

“Work, whether paid or unpaid, includes all meaningful and moral activity apart from leisure and rest. Work is fundamentally about contribution, not compensation, adding value to others.” (Tom Nelson)

“The curse of work is not that we have to work, but that our work is so often frustrating, fruitless, and unfulfilling.” (Tim Keller)

Commit to your _____ to combat the curse.

1. Commit to your calling through _____.

Value _____ work.

“In truth, everyone’s work is a mixture of creation and repair, encouragement and frustration, success and failure, joy and sorrow. Roughly speaking, there is twice as much work to do now than there was in the garden. Work is not less important to God’s plan, but more.” (Theology of Work Commentary)

2. Commit to your calling through _____.

Avoid _____.

Only _____ can create contentment in your work.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



3. Commit to your calling through _____.

Bring God to _____.

"If we don't trust one another, then we aren't going to engage in open, constructive, ideological conflict. And we'll just continue to preserve a sense of artificial harmony."
(Patrick Lencioni)

"The biblical vision of work is not a utopia where everything is easy and enjoyable, but a world in which our work is redeemed, restored, and made meaningful." (Tim Keller)

In the places of service that most occupy our time today,

Do with it what you will, good Lord.

In the passions and desires we hope to fulfill through our vocations, in the talents and gifts we seek to express through our callings,

Do with it what you will, good Lord.

In the longing to be known by others through our work, in each opportunity to love others through our labors,

Do with it what you will, good Lord.

In the limits you have given us in each season of our lives, in the duties we must accomplish that seem too difficult to fulfill, in the failures, disappointments, or setbacks we grieve,

Do with it what you will, good Lord.

When we are wronged by co-laborers or those whom we serve, when our efforts seem meaningless or fruitless, when our toil seems dehumanizing or mundane,

Do with it what you will, good Lord.

When we discern more fully the shape of our vocation, when we take great delight in our daily work, in the successes, achievements, and advancements we celebrate,

Do with it what you will, good Lord.

When we cease from our labors to enjoy Sabbath rest,

Do with it what you will, good Lord.

Resources:

Work Matters; Tom Nelson

Every Good Endeavor; Tim Keller

www.theologyofwork.org

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What's one work story that stands out among the rest as just an epic bad day?
3. Read Genesis 4:1-16. What stands out to you from this curse in comparison to the curse in chapter 3?