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## Vocation, Calling, and Christ: What does Jesus have to do with the marketplace?

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*“The greatest waste in all of our earth, which cannot be recycled or reclaimed, is our waste of the time that God has given us each day.” Billy Graham*

I. Billy Graham said the greatest stewardship issue in America today is not the pocket \_\_\_\_\_, but the pocket \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

II. God calls everyone to love and serve God and to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ others.

Vocation isn't primarily about a \_\_\_\_\_ path, but about the \_\_\_\_\_ we offer as we work. In this way the reality is that every job is part of the calling to the Church.

Hebrew word “avodah”

*Avodah* means “work” or “service”. But, *Avodah* also means “\_\_\_\_\_.” The context would determine the meaning of the word.

In some verses, *avodah* means work:

- Moses, renewing the covenant with God, says, **“Six days you shall work (*avodah*).”** – Exodus 34:21
- **“Then man goes out to his work (*avodah*), to his labor until evening.”** – Psalm 104:23

In other verses, *avodah* means worship:

- **“This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship (*avodah*) me.”** – Exodus 8:1
- **“But as for me and my household, we will serve (*avodah*) the Lord.”** – Joshua 24:15

III. Work is really meant to be part of our \_\_\_\_\_!

From Creation we can see several truths:

- **Colossians 1:16-17** For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.
- **Ephesians 1:22-23** And He put everything under His feet and appointed Him as head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of the One who fills all things in every way.
- **Revelation 4:11** Our Lord and God, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because You have created all things, and because of Your will they exist and were created.

It means there is \_\_\_\_\_ we will ever see that has not at some point in time past found its way from God to you or me

**We get to play a role in the greatest story ever told: The Story of God's plan for the creation, maintenance, and destiny of the entire universe.**

**Genesis 1:26-27** <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

**4 facets of the Imago Dei (image of God) that set us apart from the rest of God’s creation.**

- Imago Dei means we **have the ability to rule and to lead**
- Imago Dei also means we **have the ability to relate to others**
- Imago Dei also means we **have the ability to be free and decide**
- Imago Dei means we **have the ability to be creative and create**

So why are we gifted and created in the Imago Dei?

**Genesis 1:28** God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.

**The danger is If we don't allow God to renew and restore us first, we'll be no good at these tasks. The Fall changed everything for humanity. One snapshot is seen at the Tower of Babel.**

**At the Tower of Babel, the labor they were engaged in was about themselves, not God, nor His kingdom. It was an object of their \_\_\_\_\_.**

**God's redemptive Story flows from there to us today!**

**After Easter, Christ gave a command to the early Church. In Matthew 28, we are told to make disciples and teach others to follow in His way.**

**What did Christ NOT ask His disciples to give up? \_\_\_\_\_...your work and my work is part of the mission that God has given us!**

**Pentecost restored our unity!**

**IV. God wants us, the Church (His people) to once again unite together in building together...but this time to build what we were designed for...the Kingdom of God...goodness for others, serving others, serving Him...living out our identity as people made in the IMAGO DEI.**

**V. If we are NOT a \_\_\_\_\_ of God and seeking to build His Kingdom through all the gifts God has given us, including \_\_\_\_\_, then we will be limited in our \_\_\_\_\_!**

**1) We will decide to \_\_\_\_\_ our work, our title, our power and prestige and all the stuff it gives us (Welcome to Babel once again)**

**2) We will become \_\_\_\_\_ and bitter about our work. We will reduce it to mere provision of money. (Welcome to Israel in servitude of Egypt once again)**

**"It might look like I'm merely sweeping the floor, sir, but that's just an appearance. In fact I'm helping make the best and the biggest film in the history of cinema."**

**The real question we must ask regardless of our job title is "Am I working in such a way that when people discover I am a Christian they would be compelled to know about Christ?"**