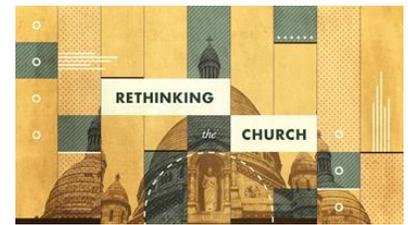


SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF WHAT YOU DO

### Matthew 6:7-13



**The Big Picture:** Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States. Working is essential and addressed by Scripture. This week we will look at how to get the most out of our work.

### Matthew 6:7-13

<sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup>"This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup>your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us today our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

### 1. God could give us our "daily bread" by a miraculous provision.

GOD COULD CREATE EACH OF US FROM DUST.

GOD COULD HEAL US WITH A ZAP WHENEVER WE ASK.

BUT, GOD DOES NOT.

### 2. Instead, God has chosen to work through human beings, who, in their different capacities and according to their diverse talents, serve each other. (THIS IS THE DEFINITION OF VOCATION.)

**VOCATIO** (LATIN: A CALL OR SUMMONS.) WORK OR OCCUPATION TO WHICH A PERSON IS DRAWN OR FOR WHICH HE/SHE IS SUITED, TRAINED OR QUALIFIED. YOU ARE SERVING GOD IN YOUR PLACE IN LIFE.

### 3. I am doing what God wants me to do when I am a child, parent, neighbor, worker, or boss.

**I Do Good Works Within My Vocation. My work is my calling where I serve God.**

#### Examples:

- God gives us the ability to read His word through the vocation of teachers.
- God protects us through vocations of police/fire and those in the legal system.
- God gives us beauty and meaning through the vocation of artists.
- God lets us travel through the vocation of auto workers, mechanics, road crews, and airlines.
- God keeps us clean through the vocation of garbage collectors, plumbers, soap companies, and Lysol.

#### Some Practical Results:

- I can live.
- I can develop the gifts that God has given me.
- I have meaningful relationships with others.
- I am given joy from making a difference.

### 4. How do you get the most out of your work?

#### 1. View yourself as a servant.

**John 13:5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**Matthew 20:26** Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.

#### 2. Realize you work for God.

#### 3. Jesus is the ultimate authority.

#### 4. View those around you as people of great worth.

# LifeGroup Worksheet

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

**1. Reflect**- *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled, or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

**2. Review** - LifeNotes on the opposite side.

**3. Read** - **Matthew 6:7-13** *carefully several times, both with your group and alone.*

**4. Engage and Explore** - *Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. Think about what your main "job" is. Stay at home mom or dad; teacher; barista; electrician or ? How is your work an answer to someone's prayer and request for daily bread?
- b. What does "daily bread" mean for you? What are some of your needs? How does God answer them?
- c. In what way does seeing God in your WORK (vocation) bring Him, literally, down to earth, making you see how close He really is to you, transfiguring your everyday life.
- d. What is the message to the disciples in this passage? What is the core message to you?

**5. Connect** - *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- a. Martin Luther says vocation is a "mask of God." He means God hides Himself in the workplace, the family, the Church, and the seemingly secular society. To speak of God being hidden is a way of describing His presence, as when a child hiding in the room is there, just not seen. To realize that the mundane activities that take up most of our lives—going to work, taking the kids to soccer practice, picking up a few things at the store, going to church—are hiding-places for God can be a revelation in itself.
- b. Discuss: The purpose of vocation is to love and serve one's neighbor. This is the test, the criterion, and the guide for how to live out each and every vocation anyone can be called to: **How does my calling serve my neighbor? Who are my neighbors in my particular vocation, and how can I serve them with the love of God?**
- c. What does God want from people in this passage? What does God want from you? How can you give God what he wants? And, how can your group help you and pray for you?

**6. Silent Meditation** - *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the Scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God's truth to your life. What is God saying and what will you do?*

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**7. Share**- *Key insights with your group from question #6.*

**8. Close in Prayer**- *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook*