

Today's Message: "Trading Best Part 5: Work"

Three Myths About Work:

1. The Myth of Necessary Evil.

Work is Meaningful; Toil is Meaningless (see Genesis 2:15, 3:17)

*<sup>10</sup>I denied myself nothing my eyes **desired**; I refused my heart no **pleasure**. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. <sup>11</sup>Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to **achieve**, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun... <sup>22</sup>What does a man get for all the toil and **anxious striving** with which he labors under the sun? <sup>23</sup>All his days his work is **pain and grief**; even at night his **mind does not rest**. This too is **meaningless**. (Eccl 2:10-11; 22-23,)*

"Habel" = empty, vain, unfulfilled, purposeless, or breath. (see Dt. 32:21)

*"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day." (Exodus 20:8-11)*

2. The Myth of the Monk.

We are ALL spiritually called to a vocation.

*"Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him... Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ" (1 Cor. 7:20-22)*

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### 3. The Myth of the Promotion.

Be ambitious about faithfulness to your vocation

*“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” (1 Thess. 4:11-12)*

*“And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person’s envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and a chasing after the wind.” (Eccl. 4:4,6)*

*“**Come to me**, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Take my yoke upon you**, and **learn from me** for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest **for your souls**. For my **yoke** is easy, and my **burden** is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

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#### Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. The sermon talked about the difference between work and toil.
  - Can you summarize the differences between them?
  - Can you think of any examples of how work becomes toil, maybe even specifically related to your field/vocation?
2. What do we mean when we say that work is meaningful? Do you feel like what you do (or what you are preparing to do) for work is meaningful? Why or why not?
3. What is the myth of the monk all about? When have you bought into this myth? Can you think of any practical ways that you are spiritually called to your vocation?
4. What is the myth of the promotion all about? What would it look like for you to promote God’s Kingdom instead of yourself and your career?
5. Is there anything that you want to change about how you approach work or even what you do while at work? Any practical items that have come up during the sermon or the discussion that you want to be sure to address? Take some time to share about these and pray for each other.

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