

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Summer Wisdom: Wisdom for Work
Pastor Gabe
June 28, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What was/is the *best* or *worst* job you've ever had and why?

Reading: Proverbs 8:17-19, 10:22, 11:1, 26, 14:23-24, 22:29, 27:23-24, 28:19-22

Outline:

- I. Work is Good (14:23)
 - a. Even in difficult work, there is inherent profit; God worked at Creation, and it was good. Therefore, work itself is good.
 - b. Work exists to create beauty, cultivate abundance, and generate order.
Q: What is "mere talk?"
- II. Wisdom for Work (11:1,26, 22:9, 27:23, 28:19-22)
 - a. Strive to have integrity, hustle, and skill: be disciplined and humble, work hard with ambition, and seek to grow in your skills/intelligence.
 - b. We work not only for other people but for the Lord. Make sure your end-goals are not self-serving but faithful aspirations to do the best work you can for others.
Q: How do we distinguish between "our land" and "worthless pursuits?" (28:19)
- III. "A Better Bottom Line"
 - a. Our real goal is "holy ambition"-- to pursue service to God and others in our work.
 - b. Look to the example of Christ: His entire life was dedicated to saving and sanctifying us. Remember that as you work to serve and love those around you.
Q: How can you tell if your work is dedicated to serving God?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) In this season of your life, what would you consider your more difficult work?
- 2) Of integrity, hustle, and skill, which do you excel at? Which is an area for growth?
- 3) What are some of your ambitions? Are those ambitions self-serving or others-focused?
- 4) How can you work in "holy ambition" at your job?
- 5) How is God calling you to love others in your workplace this week?

Suggestions for further study:

- Ecclesiastes 3:9-13**Q: What does it mean that "eternity" is "in man's heart?"**
- Genesis 39:1-10, 41:37-49**Q: How do Joseph's actions/attitude exemplify wisdom in work?**
- Ephesians 6:5-9**Q: How can we work from the heart for God even if we dislike our job/boss?**

Closing Prayer: *Lord Jesus, we thank You that You set yourself apart. Thank You for Your holy ambition of going to the cross and laying down your life. As You accomplished Your work and declared, "it is finished," You set us free from the powers of sin, death, and the devil and enabled us to go about our work in this world. Thank you for that gift. We pray that we would be wise, and in light of Your gospel, live and work with integrity and humility. We pray that we work hard, care about serving others, and grow to be skillful with the gifts you have given us. Jesus, may all that be done in light of the grace you won for us at the cross and in light of Your ultimate work. It's in Your name we pray, Amen.*

