



## **SERIES: Balanced**

SERMON: Working

Pastor Brian Lusky

January 8, 2017

### **Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or inspired you?
2. Pastor Brian said there are 2,000 biblical passages about the use of money, and 2/3 of Jesus' parables refer to the use of money. What do these statistics tell us about how we can be wise in the area of money?
3. The sermon's big idea was: We honor God with our faithful work. Read together the sermon's key verse **Colossians 3:23** and discuss how the principle stated there applies to you as an employee or an employer.
4. Read together **Luke 16:10-11** and discuss the meaning of "unrighteous wealth" versus "true riches."
5. If the arena of "work" can be viewed on a continuum, what are the views of work on either end of the continuum? What is the ideal balanced view in the middle of the continuum?
6. Read together **Proverbs 26:14** and **Ecclesiastes 4:5**. Then discuss Pastor Brian's description of "pillow people."
7. Read **1 Timothy 5:8** and discuss what that verse says about a Christian's responsibility to support his/her family.
8. The sermon described two key perspectives that provide a balanced attitude toward work:
  - (a) Work isn't for our punishment – it's for our joy. What are some of the ways that work can provide our joy? [**Ephesians 4:28** reveals one way work can be our joy.]
  - (b) Work isn't for our boss – it's for our God. [**Genesis 2:2** tells us that "on the 7<sup>th</sup> day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day from all his work that he had done." Then in **verse 18**, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." What does this account tell us about how God regards work? As God's representatives on earth, how should we do our work?
  - (c) How does God rank working in the "marketplace" versus working as a stay-at-home mom? In what specific ways can we both honor God and grow in spiritual maturity in these situations?
9. If someone tells you that money is the root of all evil, how will you correct that misquote? (See **1 Timothy 6:10**.)
10. Read **Matthew 16:24-26** for how Jesus weighs the value of gaining the whole world against the cost of forfeiting one's soul.

**APPLICATION:** Ask God to give you wisdom in how you earn money and the way you work.