

Week 38: Seeing Jesus in our Productivity

Scripture: Genesis 2:15, Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Nehemiah 6:15-16, Psalm 90:17, Proverbs 12:11, 14:23, John 15:1-17, Colossians 1:10-12

Devotional:

There is typically a good feeling that comes with getting something done. When we complete a task or have a productive day at work, we feel satisfied not only with the work done, but also with ourselves and what we've produced. Even when we're working a job we don't like, or completing a task we didn't particularly want, there still is this good, satisfactory feeling when we are able to be productive.

From a Christian perspective this makes good sense. God created us to be able to work, not just for the sake of work itself, but rather so that we might be productive and satisfied in our work. In Genesis 2 we are told God put man in Eden to work it and take care of it. God intends for us to work, but also for that work to have productive ends, such as the food we eat, or the cultivating of life for plants, animals or other people. The good feelings we have from producing things, come because God made us to be productive workers.

Scripture also points out that productive work, and the satisfaction that comes with it, is a reflection of God's own character. Think of the story of creation in Genesis. As God's magnificent work is described we are told several times that God sat back and said, "This is good." (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). He is satisfied with what his work has produced, and as the culmination of this he rests on the 7th day when his work is complete. God is a worker, and also takes satisfaction from what he produces and completes.


Another beautiful picture of this is given through Jesus Christ. As Jesus ministers, he often refers to what he is doing as the work his Father has sent him to do. This work is to cultivate life once again for humanity and all God's creation, and culminates as Jesus allows himself to be put to death on the cross. As Jesus gives up his life he cries out, "It

is finished.” (John 19:30) Even amidst the incredible suffering of these moments for our Lord, in that cry we can hear the satisfaction that he has faithfully completed the work he was given. And when Jesus is later raised to life and ascends to heaven, he sits down at the Father’s right hand – a fitting picture for one who has completed the task and produced life once more for creation.

God made us to be productive workers, and to take joy from the work we do. When those good, productive moments come in our work, we can have joy in knowing that this is how God intends us to work, and also from knowing that this is how God himself has worked, and continues to work, to give us life.

Song

“For the Fruit
of All Creation”



**“Whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord,
not for human masters.”**

Colossians 3:23

Activity

When you
finish a task
– great or small –
take time to
give God thanks
for this productivity.

Memory Verse:

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for human masters.

Questions to reflect on this week:

- How have I seen Jesus in the **B**ible?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **L**ove I show toward God/others?
- How have I seen Jesus in **E**arth he’s created?
- How have I seen Jesus in **P**rayer?
- How have I seen Jesus in the **O**thers he’s placed before me?

[**BLEPO**: means “to see” in Greek]

Seeing Jesus is believing in Him!



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