



Work and Idolatry • Part 1

Lesson Three • Genesis 4:1-26; Luke 18:18-23

Working for the King Changes **EVERYTHING!**

In the beginning, God worked, we worked together under Him over creation, and it was ALL VERY GOOD!

After the Curse: How Does Our Depravity Distort Our View of Work?			
WORK	IDOLATRY	IDLENESS	IDEALISM
Attitude	Work Is <i>EVERYTHING!</i>	Work Is <i>NOTHING!</i>	<i>SOME</i> Work Is <i>EVERYTHING</i> , while <i>OTHER</i> Work Is <i>NOTHING!</i>
Motivating Motto	Live to Work: <i>Living for the Work!</i>	Work to Live: <i>Living for the Weekend or "Living the Dream" in Retirement!</i>	Greener Grass: <i>Looking for the Next Thing!</i> Vocational Ministry: <i>Longing for the Better Thing!</i>
Heart Distortion	Workaholic	Sluggard	Discontented Heart or Dualistic Worldview
Reminder	<i>Work makes a lousy God!</i>	<i>Work is not a four-letter word!!</i>	<i>Work is not your primary calling!</i>

Seven Ways the Gospel Redeems Our View of Work

1. Work was **given** by the creatively working God **before** the Fall to His people made in His image.
2. The nature of work is **good**, not evil.
3. After the Fall God cursed the **environment** and **effectiveness** of work but not work itself.
4. In Christ **delight**, **meaning**, and **purpose** are being restored to our work in spite of the curse on its environment and effectiveness.
5. Under the Lordship of Christ work is not only **commanded** but also **commended** for His followers.
6. Work—even work done vocationally for King Jesus—will never be **completely satisfying** or **totally fulfilling** this side of our final rest in the New Creation.
7. Believers will **joyfully**, **meaningfully**, and **purposefully** work with God the Father and His Son by His Spirit for all eternity even in the final rest of the New Creation.

Work, Worship, and Idolatry After the Curse – Genesis 4:1-5

1. All our work on this earth as earthlings (Dust People!) is **TIED** to the ground (dust!).
2. Our work is a **LOUSY** god that will *never fully deliver* on what it promises or what we *desire from it* and will eventually *make demands* that call for compromise to Christ.
3. Our work can **NEVER** give us what we really need or truly want **only King Jesus can!**

It's not by accident that Jesus went to the cross *with a crown of thorns* on His sweaty and bloody brow!

Jesus worked for His Father as a *lowly carpenter* and as a *crucified King!*
No work was *beneath Him* even though *He was above all work!*

Work and Idolatry

1. What Is an Idol?

*An idol is anything comes **BEFORE** or **BETWEEN** us and God in our hearts.
It's anything we value more than God or consider as more worthy than God.*

2. Two Truths About True Worship

- We are **MADE** to worship.
- Only God is **WORTHY** of our worship.

"And Jesus answered him , "It is written, ""You shall WORSHIP the Lord your God, and Him only shall you SERVE."" Luke 4:8

3. Idols Like the Rich Young Ruler

Luke 18:18-23

Jesus Asked the Rich Young Ruler to Surrender His Idols

- Surrender **TEMPORARY** security here on earth for eternal security forever in heaven.
- Surrender **PURSUING** your own purpose for a life following Christ on mission.

Work makes a lousy god but working for the King *changes everything!*