



Work and Idolatry • Part 2

Lesson Four • 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. (Gen 1–2)
2. The nature of work is **good**, not evil. ("good," "very good" with complementarity of the Creator's very good design!)
3. After the Fall God cursed the **environment** and **effectiveness** of work but not work itself. (Gen 3)
4. In Christ **delight**, **meaning**, and **purpose** are being restored to our work in spite of the curse on its environment and effectiveness. (Gen 3:15)
5. Under the Lordship of Christ work is not only **commanded** but also **commended** for His followers. (Eph 6:5-9; Col 3:22–4:1)
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. (Gen 3:18; Rev 22:3)
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. (Rev 21:22–22:5)

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

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 that comes before or between God and 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 and 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 in heaven.
"One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven...." (v. 22a)
- Surrender **PURSUING** your own purpose for a life following Christ on mission.
"and come, follow Me." (v. 22b)

4. When Is My Job My Idol?

- When work is your **PRIMARY** source of satisfaction.
- When your work (or anything and anyone) is **PRIORITIZED** over pleasing God in all areas of your life.
- When your work is more about **PROMOTING** yourself than serving the Lord and others.
- When your work becomes about making a difference in this **PRESENT** world *only*.
- When you work to **PURSUE** living your dream rather than fulfilling God's mission as a Christ follower.

5. Why Does Work Make a Lousy God?

- It will **NEVER** give the satisfaction it promises or we really need.
- **THORNS** and thistles: *The curse is still in effect!*
- The **BONDAGE** of "What's next?"

6. How Do I Work for the King Instead of Me and My Idol?

- **REQUEST:** *Ask God to search your heart and reveal your idols. He will!*
- **REPENT:** *Turn from your heart idolatry whenever and wherever God reveals it.*
- **REPLACE:** *Stop working as if it all depends on you or is all about you. Start trusting in what God has already provided!*

What Do We Pursue at Work?		What God Has Already Provided!	
Provision	Where do I find my security?	His Promised Provision	<i>Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 1:3</i>
Position	Where do I find my status and identity?	His Inheritance as Heirs	<i>Romans 8:1, 15-17</i>
Purpose	Where do I seek my significance?	His Service on His Mission	<i>Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20</i>
People	Who do I look to for my motivation?	His Son with His Church	<i>Hebrews 12:1-2; 3:12-14</i>
Productivity	Where do I seek my satisfaction & success?	His Coming Kingdom	<i>Revelation 21:22-22:7</i>

- **REST:** Give Jesus His rightful place in your heart and life: *Worship Him above your work to enjoy Him forever!*

Work makes a lousy god but working for the King *changes everything* by providing us eternal satisfaction and abiding joy!