

Bible Summary

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23, 4:1-8

Work is a four-letter word

After toiling and building in chapter 2, Solomon reflects and deconstructs work. He decides work is full of pain, sorrow, frustration, and leads to a lonely existence motivated purely by envy. Most of us can agree that we have been disappointed by our work. We want significance, recognition, and contribution but rarely find work to meet those expectations. What do we do? Jesus gives us insight to this enigma in Luke 10:38-42.

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 2:18-23, 4:1-8; Genesis 2:7-24; Luke 10:38-42; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 1:3-14

Bible Questions & Application

(These are meant to aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** listed question.)

1. How did Sunday's teaching challenge your thinking?
2. Was work part of the curse? (Genesis 2 and 3)
3. Do you generally find fulfillment or lack of fulfillment in your work?
4. Do you think God wants us to enjoy and excel at our work? Why or why not?
5. Matt said that work can be a thief. (Eccl. 4:8) Has your work ever been so consuming that it has taken away from other areas of your life?
6. Discuss Martha's approach to work. (Luke 10:38-42)
 - a. Why do you think Jesus rebuked Martha? V.41, 42
7. When we overwork we lose of what matters to gain what does not.
 - a. What are some common reasons we overwork?
 - b. Can work be an act of worship/love?
 - c. How do we strike the right balance?
8. What's your view of retirement?
 - a. Is there a Biblical perspective on retirement?
9. What happens when you let the Gospel define your value instead of letting work define you?