Everyday Jesus – **wk 4 – Hard Day’s Night**

**Does Jesus invade our life – home, work, school, social life?**

**God and the rest of the week! Monday thru Saturday**

**Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (all things… even work & money?)**

**Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom (will) and his righteousness, (way) and all these things will be given to you as well. (Jesus will and way at work!)**

**The teapot – Worship is not music, a song, but what the Spirit is doing inside – we can make noise – but worship honors God most when it’s poured out. Today let’s pour it out.**

**Work: what comes to mind? When you think of living for Jesus at work what comes to mind? Merry Christmas, blessed day, witnessing…?**

**When it comes to work many see it as just a necessity. God’s only interest that we not cheat & tithe… it is more than that.**

**Believe it or not, the Bible has a lot to say about our work**

**Me, I’m a professional Christian… many see my job as easy…**

**Five Things to Understand To Walk Out Jesus Every Day At Work**

**No coincidence majority Jesus parables where in workplace context**

**1) Your work fulfills God’s purpose in creation**

**Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (God gave them an assignment “work and keep it.”)**

**The first mentioned in Gen 2 – Creation. The HBW word God uses is “*abad*,” shares the same root word as worship.**

**Adam worshipped God not just by living God’s word, praying or avoiding a few bad apples… but by the work God gave him.**

**This was before the fall and the curse that followed. Work is a blessing - not a punishment. It was part of the original design.**

**The word “work” literally means – “to develop” - God made Adam to be a gardener who “develops it” - not a park ranger who “guards it”**

**12 times in Genesis 1–2 God makes something – he then makes Adam and says – here… make something.**

**Like Adam – we are created to take the raw materials of the earth and develop them for God’s glory and human benefit.**

* **Contractors take raw materials and use them to create buildings**
* **Artists take raw materials, color and music and create art.**
* **Lawyers take principles of justice and laws to benefit society**

**As we do this, God himself is at work creating through us.**

**Psalm 147:13 “For God strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you. 14 He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat.”**

**Reformer Martin Luther asked, how exactly does God do those things?**

* **How does God strengthen the bars of the city? By city planners,**
* **architects; and politicians who pass good laws to protect & build**
* **How does he bless our children within our midst? Through the**
* **work of teachers, trainers, coaches, and pediatricians**
* **How does he make peace in our borders? By means of good law enforcers, police, patrol and a lawyers.**
* **How does he fill us with the finest of wheat? By farmers and**
* **factory workers and restaurant owners.**

**\*\* Our professions are God’s hands to care for the world!**

**He said this: “When we pray the Lord’s Prayer we ask God to ‘give us this day our daily bread.’ And he does give us our daily bread. He does it by means of the farmer who planted and harvested the grain, the baker who made the flour into bread, and the person who prepared our meal.” All these are in play when God answers our prayer for daily bread**

**In work we at times feel almost a divine satisfaction. Vocation comes from Latin word “voca,” = “to call.” Your job is part of God’s design to take care of people. “What I was made for”**

**\*\* Clarification: Gen 3- one of the curses of the fall was work became toilsome.**

**God cursed the ground and said that thorns & and thistles would frustrate our efforts. Means there is no such thing as the perfect job**

**Work often becomes a difficult act of survival. Gen 3:17-19**

**For many of you, your work is partially fulfilling, but it is also draining. For others you hate your job! The sad result of the fall. Many are not working fulfilling jobs. Every job will have thorns – stop searching for the perfect job it is not there.**

**So, what do you do if you are in that type of job?**

**• Do it faithfully as an act of worship… it is still helping someone - there can be a certain pleasure in knowing that.**

**• Consider that there might be a distinction between your job and the calling God has placed in you.**

**Acts 18:1-4 - The Apostle Paul’s was called to take Jesus to Europe – but he did this as a tent maker by trade. Making tents was part of the calling, but not the heart of it. (Some people do some things to provide for the main thing)**

**2) Your work should pursue the highest standards of excellence**

**You have a higher boss than your employer – and we work for a greater reward than our salary. You have a higher boss!**

**Colossians 3: 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. /**

**23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**

**How we work is a statement of worship and honor to God.**

**C. S. Lewis - valleys undiscovered by human eyes are still filled with beautiful flowers. For whom did God create that beauty, if no human eyes would ever see it? Some things are only for his own pleasure.**

**When we do our best – even when no one sees it – it pleases God. Like those flowers and wonders of nature.**

**Some say, “Well, my boss is terrible. He doesn’t reward us or notice it – he never gives recognition.” It’s hard! I know. But you’re not really doing it for him anyway - You’re doing it for God. That is real worship!**

**Ephesians 6: 5 Bondservants (slaves – not “Roots” –used to say the bible promotes slavery – but does not. Bond servants: some by choice (education) or by force (debt or conquered). Lasted a set number of years. Apply best to work - employees) be obedient to those who are your masters (bosses) according to the flesh, with fear and trembling (respect), in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, (not a kiss up) but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.**

**If work is done “unto God,” it should be done according to the highest standards of excellence: this is an offering to God!**

**Even when it seems your boss is the worst, least rewarding, least worthy - do your work unto God as a statement of God’s worthiness!**

**\*\*This should be one of the things that sets Christians apart from others in their work. God you are worth my very best!**

**Dry cleaners (alone) - in warehouse (alone) doing my best when no one there. Warhouse manager (alone) I never cut corners. Today I work alone most of the day. God was shaping me. How much company time are you mis-using (until the boss walks in)? Time to work differently. Make God look good!**

**BTW - STUDENTS: Your grades are a statement about the Glory of God. We are not all A students – but as a Christian – we give our best as unto the Lord – God will honor that!**

**3) Your work should reflect the highest standards of ethics**

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, worked in British govt - practical joke on 12 politicians. Sent anonymous telegram to the 12 that said, “Flee at once. All is discovered.” Checked back in 6 hrs - all 12 were making plans to leave.**

**Lack of integrity is nothing new, but work that God loves is seeks the highest standards of ethics, because it reflects God’s integrity**

**Proverbs 11:1 The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him. (ESV - A** **false balance is an abomination to the LORD…)**

**“False balance” = fudging mileage reports, padded business expenses, cheating time cards, calling in sick when you’re not, taking office supplies, unreported income - they are detestable**

**To worship God in your work means having standards higher than**

**even the world! It means going beyond even the world’s standards.**

**Psalm 15:1 Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? (Who gets to hang out with God?) 2 The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; 3 whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the Lord; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; 5 who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. (work and life integrity)**

**4) Your work should make blessing others it’s bottom line.**

**To follow Jesus means that you think about your life the way Jesus thought about his: as an offering to serve others.**

**2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (Jesus leveraged his assets and his position - to bless us)**

**That’s what we do when we follow Jesus - leverage our position, strength, & influence to bless & serve others.**

**Luke 14:12 Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”**

**What does that look like? Being generous with your resources to help others - Being forgiving & gracious to co-workers / Boss – It may just be your attitude that brings a great atmosphere – and great service**

**For you who own businesses: It means you think beyond personal profit and ask – how can I genuinely help people? How can I enrich people’s lives? - Might mean you give away personal profit to help others with no reward – investing in kingdom work.**

**Knowing that ultimately good profitable business has the power to benefit and help the poor.**

**5) Your work should seek to advance the mission of Jesus**

**Christians don’t have jobs – They have a ministry assignment**

**Work done by disciples of Jesus should be done with a view toward the Great Commission. (go and make disciples)**

**There is a great wave of mission work waiting for you - at work You work with people that may never come to Livingway – but every day they show up next to you.**

**1 Peter 3:15 In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect…**

**Meaning we are to live and work in such a way that people ask questions - and when they do, we are ready to answer.**

**Doing excellent work as unto God, having a compassionate generous attitude, hard work, with integrity, reflecting God’s glory – You’ll stand out. \* Working at a restaurant – at Texans – what is with you?**

**Globally - worshipful work can take you places you never dreamed.**

**Some of the poorest countries are some of the most unreached people.**

**They may be closed to the gospel but they are open to work. God can take you and use your skills and abilities to advance the kingdom.**

**Maybe God made you good at that skill so you could take it to places where he is not known.**

**\* Do what you do well for the glory of God; and do it somewhere strategic for the mission of God.**

**We are not all called to be pastors… but you do have a calling. That office, that city, neighborhood – is your place of mission**

**Proverbs 22:29 Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.**

**If you do it well, for God’s glory He will give you a platform to bring others to know and worship Him**

**A word of warning: WORSHIP GOD, NOT YOUR WORK**

**When Adam & Eve fell our relationship to work changed. Instead of it being for God’s glory, it became for our glory. (see Gen 11 tower of Babel)**

**As a result, many search for worth in their job. And often depend on the security of a job to take care of them instead of God. Worship of work = becomes our identity and our security – leads to greed, stinginess, and lacks generosity.**

**Psalm 127:1** **Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.**

**Captive to weariness, thinking that working more & harder will bring rest, getting more and having more will bring security.**

**Only when God is your God can you be released from captivity**

**Work is not our God; Jesus is to be God - The one you can depend on. He’s the one who has taken care of your ultimate problem, sin.**

**Matthew 6 is all about work & toil, worry & concern about money and not having enough… Jesus says this in the middle of it. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

**True worshipers of God are not defined by a job or look to it for security – they look to Jesus and work with Him in mind!**

**Work is where we will spend 85% of our week! It matters to God! Work is nothing to give your life to; Jesus is the only one to give your life to.**

**Whether you are an: Artists, Musician, Creative, Advertiser, in Marketing, Film, Television, Web or Print Design / \* Entrepreneurs, Business Owners / \* Medical, Healthcare, Pharmaceutical, BioTech, or in some facet of science / \* Education, Athletics, Coaching / \* Government, state, local, federal, military / \* Law, Finance, Accounting, Tax / \* Social Services, or Non‐profit sector / \* Real Estate, Construction, Architecture, Transportation / \* a trade - Plumbers, Electricians, Painters, Mechanics, Carpenters / \* Service industry, Retail, Food Service, Hair Stylist, Chefs / \* Business, Technology, Consulting, Professional Services, Engineering, Manufacturing – and Others – these are acts of worship!**

**Word is designed to be worship when we fulfill God’s purpose – when we do it for the benefit of others (pour it out) For the glory of God! You become God’s hands – as He is working through you!**