



Core Seminars – Engaging the World
Christians in the Workplace
Week 4

Course outline

The Story of Work

Week 1: A Biblical Theology of Work

Week 2: The Problem with Work

Our Work as the Redeemed

Week 3: A New Boss: How Jesus' Work Changes Our Work

Week 4: A New Goal: Success is Faithfulness

How We Work

Week 5: Motivation: Faithfulness Changes Why We Work

Week 6: Relationships: Imaging Christ in the Workplace

Week 7: Balance: Christians Are *Not* Balanced People

Week 8: Gender: Being Who You Are in the Workplace

Week 9: Ethics: Case Studies for the Modern Workplace

Week 10: Finding a Job: Putting First Things First

Week 11: Evangelism: Sharing Christ With Your Colleagues

Week 12: Work at different stages of life

Week 13: Panel Q&A

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Suggested reading

- *The Gospel at Work* (Traeger, Gilbert)
- *God at Work* (Veith)
- *The Call* (Guinness)

A New Goal: Success is Faithfulness

Introduction

- Stress-out Sam
- Wondering Willa
- Failed Felicia
- Successful Sean

What is Faithfulness?

Who you work for is more important than what you do.

When our primary motivation at work is to glorify Jesus, work becomes worship.

With work as worship, God evaluates our work based on what it says about him.

Faithfulness = acting in obedience to show off God's goodness.

Learn from the Faithless Servant

²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed. ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ (Matthew 25:24-30)

Why does the faithless servant go to hell?

This servant’s actions lied about his master.

The parable is a story about real faith: faith that trust in God’s goodness.

The reward for faithfulness? To enter into the joy of God’s goodness: the goodness our faithfulness proclaimed.

Faithfulness Versus Results

Examples of results: reputation, money, public good, career advancement.

These *can* all be good motives—but none of these things are ultimate.

Two problems with working for results:

1. We don’t know what’s truly valuable.
2. Results will all pass away.

Working for faithfulness means keeping our future “performance evaluation” by Jesus in mind. (Heb 4:13)

Practical Examples

- Stressed-out Sam
- Wondering Willa
- Failed Felicia
- Successful Sean

Becoming Deliberately Faithful

- Daily prayer to be faithful
- Talking about faithfulness
- Annual faithfulness review