

Work as Worship

Series: Flourish

Pastor Jessica Evans | 21 March 2021

Today Ps. Jess shared a message on cooperating with God in our works and expressing love and trust in God as a means of worshipping Him.

- Do you feel the “Sunday Blues” because of your work?
- Where does your anxiety come from in your work?

Part One | God’s Original Design | Read Genesis 1:1-2:15

Ps. Jess said, *“because God created us, humans, in his image - Imago Dei - we are meant to reflect God, so we are meant to work, we are designed to work. Work is in God’s original design. And God designed it so that it would bring us that sense of joy and fulfilment. We are meant to look at our work and think ‘it’s good’, to experience satisfaction and find meaning through doing good work in partnership with God.”*

- Have you ever thought about the calling or purpose of your work? What are the things that come to your mind?
- How do you think you can partner with God in your work?

Ps. Jess said, *“what God has charged us to do through the products or services we produce and offer is that it contributes toward the flourishing of his creation and/or His people. What work we do matters; How we work, the way we do it matters - in the tasks we do, and how we treat others matters because it is meant to contribute to that flourishing.”*

- Where do you think the stress and dissatisfaction come from in our work?

Read Genesis 3:1-19, Ps. Jess said, *“It’s important to know **work itself is not the curse - it’s the curse that came from disobedience that caused work to be often difficult!**”*

Part Two | Kingdom of God

Ps. Jess encouraged us, *“God didn’t leave us in that state, in that mess. God’s intention all along is that His Kingdom would come. But Jesus didn’t leave us with a finished Kingdom – he didn’t come and fix everything and leave. But through his death and resurrection, Jesus invites us to bring about this Kingdom of God.”*

- In what way do you think you can contribute to bringing His Kingdom?
- Do you have any experience that you are able to bring your faith to your workspace or other people around you? Please share your experience.

Ps. Jess said, *“And one of the practical ways God invites us to bring that about is through whatever spheres of influence he places us in. Work is one of those significant spheres. That can only happen if we surrender ourselves and our work to God, if we don’t separate our work from God. God can then mould us and shape us, and then through us, through the work we do, through how we do our work.”*

- How can you practise surrendering yourself and your work to God?
- What challenges or difficulties are you facing in your work?
- In which area(s) do you expect God to mould and shape you?

Part Three | Work as Spiritual Formation

Ps. Jess said *“Work then is a significant context for communion with God, in that God is with us when we work, and work is a vehicle for growing in obedience in faith. Work is full of challenges and tests, just like in Adam and Eve’s work, they were tested with whether they will trust what God said to them, these challenges are opportunities for growth in our relationship with God and can contribute to our sanctification.”*

- Do you have experience with your faith being tested in your work?
- How did you meet God in your tests and find growth in that experience?

Ps. Jess said, ***“work actually becomes an essential component to our spiritual growth and formation. You may not have thoughts about work that way before, but it is true. Work is spiritual formation. It is our chance to find God’s presence, learn about our strengths and weakness, and find ourselves calling upon his guidance and power in us.”***

- Are you able to see work differently after listening to this message?
- What excites you about living out your faith in the workplace?

Ps. Jess said, *“Just like we saw from Genesis 1, he says the central purpose of work is to cooperate with God. Christians who work with this purpose in mind are expressing their love and trust in God, using all that God has given us, as a means of worshipping Him. Our faith is to be lived out in all areas of our lives - outside of these walls – especially in our work. So that each of us, as that single drop, can bring hope, love, renewal and transformation to our city.”*

Your Response & Spiritual Formation Toolkit

Visit <https://vinechurch.life/resources/toolkit/connect-faith-and-work> for some practical ways to start bringing influence to your work, and invite your group, your family, or your friends to do this together!