

Coach House Church

BEACONS

WAGES

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I hope this finds you well, and not too hot in this sweltering heat.

Today I want to talk about wages and work. Now in the last few weeks I've been offered a full-time job by a few companies that would like me to join their team. It's been really nice to be thought of in that way. To think that someone needs my skills is, for me, a very uplifting thing. Now as part of going for a new job, there is normally a figure that the company is prepared to pay you. I'm a big advocate of giving people worth. Some people find their worth in money, some in hugs and others just simply being asked over for dinner. And this whole job thing got me thinking about the passage in Luke 10 in the bible...

Let me read it

"Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Don't take any money with you, nor a traveler's bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don't stop to greet anyone on the road.

5 "Whenever you enter someone's home, first say, 'May God's peace be on this house.'

6 If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. 7 Don't move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don't hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay.

8 "If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. 9 Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.'

(Lk 10:3-9)

Imagine if I gave you a task: I asked you to travel to an unknown place away from your home to live. But there was a catch. You couldn't bring anything – no money, no extra shoes or clothing, no food. Your payment was in the work you did – depending on whether those you worked for provided for your needs or not.

When they did provide, you could partake of the food and drink freely because you deserved those wages. If they did not provide, however, your basic needs may not be met. As you mull over this task, you may be starting to ask yourself a few questions about things you might come up against.

What if I get a disease? Who will care for me? What if the people that I am trying to work for reject me? Then what would I do? Where would I sleep? How would I eat? Where would I get money to survive?

Perhaps these were some of the things that Jesus' disciples thought of when He sent them out to preach the gospel. Although they were worthy of their wages, these workers relied on the people receiving them. In some cities, these workers may have been loved and accepted, while in others, hated and rejected—all depending on those they preached to. The workers of God in the Bible were sometimes full of food, and at other times hungry; they sometimes had more than enough, but at other times were in need.

As Christians we need to make sure we see we don't just work for wages but we work faithfully to fulfil the call of God on our lives. We should see the value of those that work in full time Christian work and use what we earn in a secular job to support that work.

Work is what consumes the majority of our weekly, waking hours. For many, it is what gives meaning to our lives. It either excites us or drains us. We even go to school and obtain degrees to specialise and do our work even better. Although some focus on specific venues of work, others find themselves at their work wondering how they ended up there. Have we ever stopped to think about our work from a proper biblical perspective?

Work was given as a gift of grace to us from God Himself. Throughout the Scriptures, work is spoken about as a gift. To better understand the gift of work, we first need to take a quick look at the word "grace." Though it has multiple meanings, in the context of a gift- something that is given to another; it also means "unmerited favour." The grace we are given from God is neither earned, nor purchased, nor deserved.

Our workplace is a place where we share our faith by living it out in front of our coworkers. We are to do the work well and with integrity so that we are "the light" to our workplace. We can show God's love to those we work with. God uses the gift of our work to care for ourselves, our families, the less fortunate, and the church. We should be sharing our faith in Christ with those around us.

Our work has an instrumental and intrinsic value. The instrumental value means that through our work, we have the opportunity to accomplish another deeper goal. We see this through a practical application of caring for ourselves and others. The work that we do has value to God as well. The intrinsic value is that the work is valuable to God. Through our occupation, we are accomplishing God's work in His creation. We are doing the work that God desires for us to do in order to fulfill the mandate to tend and care for His creation. Work is an intrinsically good thing because God ordained it. When we work with excellence, we are reflecting God, and serving Him through that work. All valid work is sacred to God and it is done in service to Him. Viewing work from both instrumental and intrinsic value can radically change how we perceive it. When we see our work as a gift from God, we begin to view it in its proper perspective: all of us are in full-time ministry because it is our service to the Lord. We serve Christ full-time. How we place value in our work and use the platform we have, is an opportunity to make Christ known.

This may be a new perspective for you on work. You are abundantly graced by God and your workplace is where you are called to serve. It is time to treat your job as a gift of grace from the Lord. We are called by Him to tend and care for His Creation. We are called to work and care for ourselves and others.

God refines you in your workplace. This is where you spend most of your time and effort, but it is where God also spends His time and effort with you. He is moulding and shaping you into the image of Christ.

You are worth your wages, but what if the wages were not money , but salvation for others?.....



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