


Seeing Your Work as a Ministry

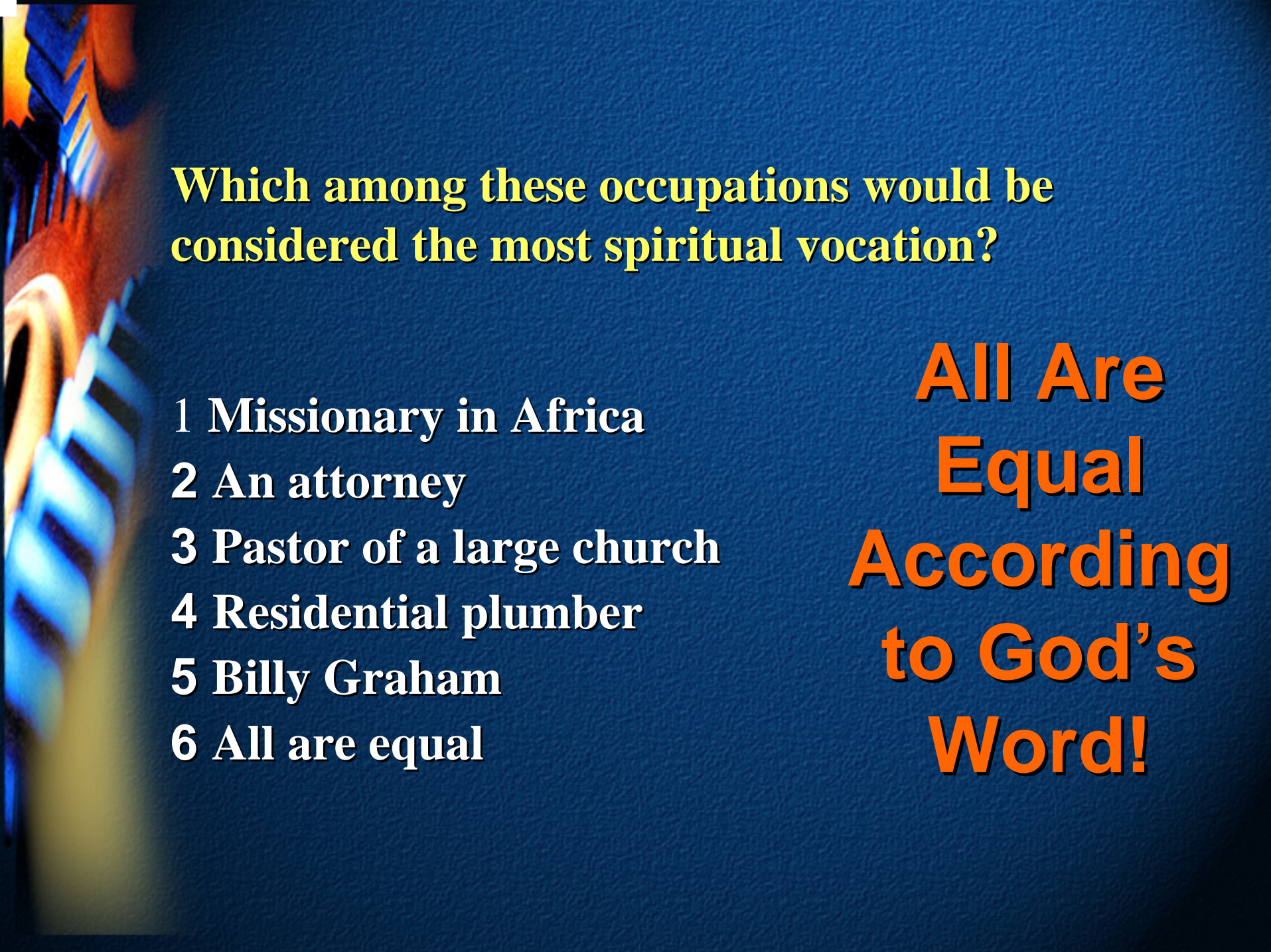
Seeing Our Work as A Calling from God





How Do You Define Success in Your Work?

Rock Hunter video clip



Which among these occupations would be considered the most spiritual vocation?

- 1 Missionary in Africa**
- 2 An attorney**
- 3 Pastor of a large church**
- 4 Residential plumber**
- 5 Billy Graham**
- 6 All are equal**

**All Are
Equal
According
to God's
Word!**

What the Word says about work

- **Whatever you do**, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that **you will receive an inheritance** from the Lord as a reward.

Col 3:23-24

God Is A Worker

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

Gen 2:2-3

“Work” in its different forms is mentioned more than 800 times in the Bible, more than all the words combined to express worship, music, praise, and singing.




He Desires to Establish Our Work

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us--yes, establish the work of our hands.

Ps 90:17

Given Dominion

- The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Gen 2:15



Our Perfect Work Environment Was Changed When Adam & Eve Sinned

"Cursed is the **ground** because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. Gen 3:17-18

Work Was Redeemed by the Blood of Christ.

- For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things , whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Col 1:19-20 (NIV)

We Are Called to be the Head, not the Tail

- **The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Deut 28:13-14**

The Lord's Prayer

“And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.”- Lk 11:1-4

It's all about His Kingdom On Earth!



Common Perceptions: Why Do You Work?

- **Money – needs and material acquisition**
- **Self-identity needs – known by what we do, versus Who we know**
- **To retire and live well – live for the “payoff”**
- **“It’s part of the curse”**

Why Jesus Worked

1) Do His Father's Work

John 14:10-11

“The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, **who is doing his work.**”

2) Bring Glory on Earth


John 17:3-4

“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”

Each of us has a work He has called us to do that is born out of a relationship with Jesus.

Why Does God Say We Work?

- 1. To meet human needs**
- 2. To reveal His power and glory**
- 3. To bring His Kingdom on earth. “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**
- 4. To have dominion over the earth with freedom and boundaries.**



Work Can Actually Be “Ministry”

diakonua -- "the office and work of a diakonos"
"service, ministry," is used (a) of domestic
duties

“Serving others”

Col. 3:23,24

Fail to See Work as a Ministry

Work “IS” Ministry

VS

Work “TO” Minister

“IS”
Ministry

- The work itself is ministry because it is *service* to others
- Work is worship
- Value in secular work
- meets human needs of society

“TO” Minister

- Platform to share Christ
- Means of giving \$ to Christian causes
- Use influence for societal transformation

Priesthood of all believers

Foundational teaching of the church

4 Attributes of the Workplace Witness God Is Raising Up Today

1. Excellence

“So distinguished himself”

Dan. 6:1

4. Signs & wonders

*“Apostles performed
many miraculous signs
and wonders”*

Acts 5:12

2. Ethics/Integrity

*“Truth in the inward
parts.” Ps 51:6*

3. Extravagant Love/Service

*“Whoever wants to become
great among you” Mt. 20:27*

Jesus & Paul modeled workplace ministry.

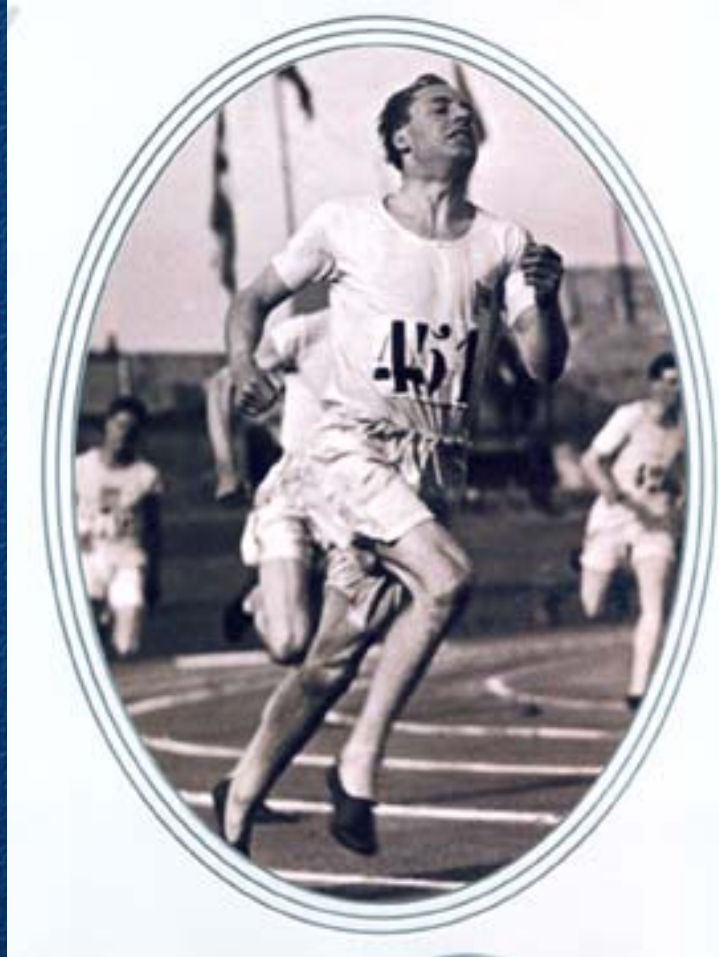
- **New Testament – Of 132 public appearance in NT, 122 in the marketplace**
- **Of 52 parables Jesus told, 45 had a workplace context. Of 40 miracles in the book of Acts, 39 were in the marketplace.**
- **Jesus spent his adult life as a carpenter until age 30 before he went into a preaching ministry in the workplace.**

“Avodah”

=

Work & Worship

Eric Liddel



“When I run I feel His pleasure.”

Eric Liddel, Olympic champion sprinter

Obstacles to Viewing Work Biblically

- Sacred/Secular divide
- 90% have not been trained to apply Biblical faith in their work life.
- 47% say preaching is irrelevant to daily life
- 80% dissatisfied with their jobs
- Hierarchy in vocation

**There is an unspoken
hierarchy of spiritual calling.**

Pastor

Missionary

Evangelist

Church Worker

Vocational Ministry Worker

Stay-at-home mom

Plumber

CEO/Executive

Sum of the Earth.....

Lawyer!

~~**Ad Agency Executive**~~

Failure to See Work as a Calling.

- 60-70% of our daily lives are spent at work.
- “Our surveys reveal that 90-97% of Christians have never heard a sermon relating biblical principles to their work life.” Doug Sherman, author, *Your Work Matters to God*.
- “Church leadership has spent lots of its energy equipping us to do their ministry, instead of our ministry in the workplace.” - Dr. Myles Munroe

Sacred vs Secular

Catholic Distortion

- 312 A.D. during Catholic Era
- Elevated the spiritual at the expense of the secular.
- This led to the term “full time Christian service.”
- A spiritual form of dualism. (A world that consists of two fundamental entities – spiritual and secular.)
- God has never separated the spiritual from the secular.

Protestant Distortion

- **Year: 1650 – A secular form of dualism – elevation of the secular at the expense of the spiritual. It severs the secular from the spiritual altogether and reduces vocation to an alternative word for work.**
- **This is why even most Christians see work and the spiritual two separate worlds.**
 - **Source: The Call, Os Guinness**

Greek Influence Vs Hebraic

- Greeks acquired wisdom by reason and analysis.
- Hebrews acquired wisdom by obedience.
Ps. 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
- The early church understood that knowledge was not what changed the world, it was the power of God working through people.



**God's Call Upon People's Lives Was
in the Context of their Work Lives
and Not a Separate Calling.**

God's Call to Moses

“Then the LORD Said to Him, ‘What Is That in Your Hand?’

‘A Staff,’ He replied” (Exodus 4:2).

- *“But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it”*

(Exodus 4:17).



Bezalel

Bezalel was the first man described in the bible as a man **filled with the Spirit of God**. Then Moses said to the Israelites, "See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has **filled him with the Spirit of God**, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...

He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers--all of them master craftsmen and designers. -- Ex 35:31-35



Work truly is **Worship** to God. Both terms in the Old Testament come from the same Hebrew word, **avodah**.



If you are in the workplace your mission field is as great as any mission field in the world.

Arthur Guinness

- Irish businessman at turn of the century
- Sought God about problem of alcoholism in Ireland “Make a drink good for them”
- Guinness Beer - Heavy iron content
- Barnardo’s children’s home
- Hudson Taylor
- Built a college to train missionaries
- Brought changes to legal system in England based on biblical principles





Prayer

- Give our lives –and work lives to the Lord
- Discover God's purpose for our lives

Discussion Time

- Describe some ways society implies those in secular vocations are less spiritual than those in “vocational ministry.”
 - “I’m in full-time ministry.”
 - “Commissioning of overseas or vocational ministry jobs.” Lack of commissions other vocations.
 - Viewing workplace believers solely for funding ministry versus valuing our gifts.