



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“48 Days: Work For Him”

Ps James Lowe - September 13, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What was the worst job you ever had? Why?
- What was the best job you ever had? Why?
- What would your dream job be? Why?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

Bethel will be special hosting prayer services at the church beginning September 14 until October 4. Daily prayer meetings will be held at 6am and noon. The purpose is to help each of us connect with God in a deep and fresh way, in order that each of us and all of us as a church may be able to move forward into the greater things that God has for us.

Colossians 3:22-25 ESV *“Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.”*

Each person's ultimate boss is God himself. Each of us is accountable to him for all we do, including our jobs and vocations. While we naturally desire the approval and praise of our earthly bosses, this is not the most important ambition we should have. It is possible to please our earthly bosses, and yet meet with God's disapproval concerning our vocational stewardship. On the other hand, our earthly bosses may not be pleased with us, and yet God may be very pleased. We must always put God first without failing to also honor our bosses and work with excellence.

Jesus provides us with an excellent example that we should follow. At the age of twelve he already grasped his messianic identity and mission. Yet he was patient and worked as a carpenter in a relatively poor family for another 18 years. Being sinless, we know that he worked throughout those years with diligence and a good attitude. He lived and worked in constant awareness of God the Father. After those 18 years God spoke from heaven at Jesus' baptism and said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11 ESV). The Father's praise included Jesus' many years of hard work.

Furthermore, we must remember and prioritize God's missional work of seeking and saving the lost. God calls and commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, and teach them to obey everything Jesus has commanded. Each of us is called to engage in some important way in God's great work of redemption.

Acts 1:1-11 ESV *“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to*

them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Jesus spent the majority of his post-resurrection interaction with his disciples preparing them for the work of preaching the Gospel and making disciples of all nations. He instructed them, gave them commands, and gave them promises. Much of what he said to them applies to us as well. We too need to experience his presence. We too must obey his commands and learn from his instructions. We too must carry forward his mission. We too need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to carry out his task of being his witnesses throughout the earth. This is central to God's great work of redemption.

Let us faithfully and diligently apply ourselves to doing God's work of evangelism and discipleship, and work as unto the Lord in our jobs and vocations.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Why does God care about the quality and character of our work?
- How are you practically engaged in the Lord's work of redemption? How could you improve?
- How can the Lord's work of redemption intersect with vocational work?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that God will convict and encourage us to work for his glory and honor.
- Pray that God will instruct, lead, and empower us to carry out his work of evangelism and discipleship.
- Pray that God will show us how to bring his work of redemption into our jobs.