

SERMON OUTLINE

#REALKTALK 03

WORK THAT WORSHIPS: FINDING PURPOSE BEYOND THE PAYCHECK

EPHESIANS 6:5-8 | ELDER RAYMUND SANCHEZ

Work was part of God's design from the beginning. In Genesis 2:15, God placed man in the garden to work and keep it, showing that work was meant to be service in His presence. Yet today, work often feels empty. For those who are in Christ, work is restored as an act of worship, not merely earning.

In Ephesians 6:5-8, Paul addressed bondservants within the first-century setting and instructed them to live out their faith in their daily responsibilities. Rather than going against the established structure Paul focused on transforming the heart within it. He showed that the gospel reshapes how believers carry out ordinary tasks, placing their work under Christ's authority and as part of discipleship.

First, Paul described the manner

of our work. Work must be done with sincerity, integrity, and reverence before God. It is not merely outward obedience, but wholehearted devotion. Serving with fear and trembling and with a sincere heart points to careful, honest labor done as an offering to Christ. (Eph. 6:5)

Second, Paul corrected the motive of our work. Believers must reject eye-service and people-pleasing. Work is not driven by visibility or approval, but by doing God's will. True obedience remains consistent whether seen or unseen, flowing from a heart that belongs to Christ. (Eph. 6:6)

Third, Paul reoriented the mindset of our work. Work is to be rendered with goodwill, as service to the Lord and not to men. This perspective transforms attitude and effort. Even in difficult

situations, every task offered to Christ becomes an act of worship. (Eph. 6:7)

Fourth, Paul anchored the reward of our work. God sees and rewards every act of faithful service, regardless of status. This lifts work beyond human recognition. What is done sincerely for Christ carries eternal value because the Lord Himself remembers and rewards it. (Eph. 6:8)

From Genesis 2:15 to Ephesians 6:5-8, Scripture shows that work is designed as worship under God's authority. This sermon calls us to realign our work under Christ's lordship—serving with sincerity, rejecting people-pleasing, and resting in God's reward—so that our daily labor becomes a faithful offering to Him. ✨

WORK AS WORSHIP

REV. REVIN VASALLO

From the very beginning, God has made it clear that work is not a burden to escape, but a calling to embrace. In Genesis 2:15, God placed man in the garden "to work it and keep it." This was before sin entered the world, showing that work is not the result of the fall, but part of God's original design. And as we work, we must always remember Isaiah 43:7, which says that we were created for His glory.

To gain a deeper understanding of work, we will look at two familiar Bible stories that offer powerful insights: the account of the brothers Cain and Abel, and the story of the sisters Martha and Mary of Bethany.

In the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis 4, both men fulfilled their calling to work. Cain cultivated the ground, and Abel tended the flock. Both brought offerings to God. Yet, God accepted Abel's offering and rejected Cain's. The difference was not their occupation, but their devotion. Abel offered his work in faith, giving his best to God, while Cain's offering revealed a heart that was self-centered and not fully surrendered.

This shows us a crucial truth: **work is not automatically pleasing to God.**

You can fulfill your responsibilities and still not please God if your heart is not

right. Cain's anger, jealousy, and violence revealed that his work had become about himself. His identity was tied to his performance and proud heart. This is a warning for us today. When our work is driven by pride, recognition, or comparison, it leads not to worship, but to frustration and sin.

The story of Mary of Bethany and Martha in Luke 10 gives us another perspective. Martha was busy serving Jesus, doing something good and necessary. On the other hand, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Him. Martha worked hard, yet Jesus commended Mary, who chose the 'better portion' by sitting at His feet.

Martha's problem was not that she worked, but that her work had replaced her devotion. She was doing things for Jesus without first being with Jesus. Her service, though good, became a source of stress. Mary, on the other hand, understood that **relationship with God must come before all work.**

When we bring these passages together, we see a proper picture of God's design. We are called to work (Genesis 2:15), but we are also called to live for a higher purpose. The ultimate purpose of our lives, including our work, is not success, recognition, or even provision, but the glory of God (Isaiah 43:7).

This transforms how we see everything we do. Work is no longer just a task to complete. It becomes an act of worship. When we work with faith like Abel, and with devotion like Mary, our work becomes pleasing to God. But when we work like Cain, seeking our own glory, or like Martha, distracted and disconnected from Christ, our work loses its true meaning.

This is especially relevant today. We live in a world that glorifies busyness and measures worth by productivity. People are constantly striving, working, and even serving in ministry, yet many are anxious, distracted, and restless. Why? Because work has been separated from worship. We have forgotten that our calling is not just to work hard, but to work for God's glory.

Church, let us return to God's design: **work for His glory.** Do not let your labor define you or replace your relationship with Christ. Let your work flow from a heart faithful and devoted to Him.

Sit at Christ's feet like Mary before serving like Martha. Offer your best like Abel, in faith, not obligation. Whatever you do, in school, work, home, or ministry, do it as an offering to God.

When your heart is right and you work for His glory, work becomes worship. ✨

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