Busy about His Business Sermon for 6-05-16

We are all so busy. We were made to live productive lives, and so we work.

Types of labor we engage in

* Physical
* Mental
* Spiritual

**Our lives will either be spent furthering the work of God on the earth or the work of Satan.**

There are only two agendas to choose. God’s agenda for us or Satan’s.

**Whose work am I busy doing?**

**John 4:31-38**

**31**In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

**32**But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

**33**Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

**34**Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

What did Jesus mean by “His food”?

* Doing God’s work trumped Jesus’ temporary needs and gave Him strength.
  + Many times our flesh makes us feel like God’s work drains us instead of sustains us.
  + Many make it their chief work to supply their earthly and temporary needs.
  + **You will be invigorated and sustained by doing God’s work with God.**
* Jesus said that His sustenance was to *finish* the work of God. That means that He got life out of joining in on what God was doing.
  + Remember, it is God’s work. It’s not all on you. God started all of this labor and we have the wonderful choice of whether or not we participate with Him in His endeavors.
  + **God is working even in the middle of the darkest parts of the world and in the darkest parts of your life.**
    - Don’t worry about where to start, because He has already started to work in your life. Just join Him in the work.
  + **(1.) Get close to God, (2.) see what God is doing, and (3.) do what He is doing.**

I have typed categories of our lives on the worksheet you received.

Take a moment and write a word, a phrase, or a sentence beside a few of them. Write whatever comes to your mind for any of the subjects. Don’t brainstorm. Just write what comes to you immediately.

Just write something for the areas where something pops into your mind immediately.

* Relationships
* Challenges and opportunities in marriage.
* People you long to see saved.
* Improvements you see in your family.
* Challenges and opportunities at work.
* Educational opportunities or goals.
* Volunteer work.
* Family events.
* Family goals.
* Financial goals.
* Exciting things happening at TOP.
* Virtues you have been praying for and thinking of.
  + (i.e. patience, endurance, joy, humility, love, single-focus, etc.)

Now let us begin to pray that God would open our eyes to what He is doing in our lives.

Now you should start to see God’s movement somewhere in your life.

What is He doing? Are you working with Him or against Him?

**Work without complaining or fighting with each other and you will show the love of God to the world.**

* **Philippians 2:14-16**

**14**Do all things without complaining and disputing, **15**that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16**holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

**If you are working with the Lord, your labor will never be in vain; it matters for eternity.**

* **1 Corinthians 15:58**

**58**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**Matthew 22:34-40**

**34**But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. **35**Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question,* testing Him, and saying, **36**“Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

**37**Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38**This is *the* first and great commandment. **39**And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**John 4:31-38**

**31**In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

**32**But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”

**33**Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

**34**Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. **35**Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! **36**And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. **37**For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ **38**I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

What does “white for harvest” mean?

In that area where Jesus was, the wheat would have been ready to harvest; and it often had a bright gold, almost white, color in the sun.

As Jesus looked across the fields, the ripe wheat reminded Him of the souls in Samaria that were ready to believe in Him.

Jesus looked at the people in Samaria and saw people who were ready to believe in Him as their savior. Do you see souls ready to receive? Or do you see people as ready to reject you?

What does “sent you to reap” mean?

Sent on a defined mission by a superior. That defined mission is to gather the reward or fruit of the work that Jesus has already commenced among them.

Do we view unbelievers as rewards or as obligations?

What would life be like if that person was saved and acted like Jesus?

Would it benefit anyone if that person was saved?

What difference would it make?

**John 6:26-40**

**26**Jesus answered them and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. **27**Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”

**28**Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

**29**Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

**30**Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? **31**Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

**32**Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. **33**For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

**34**Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”

**35**And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. **36**But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. **37**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. **38**For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **39**This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. **40**And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Verse 27—*labor* for the food which the Son of Man gives you

The labor these men were doing was seeking. They were seeking Jesus so that He would give them temporary food. And Jesus admonished them to seek Him so that they could eat of eternal food. Meaning Him.

Our labor is to seek Jesus for Himself.

Believing in Jesus is a lot of work.

“Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God. Observe, not "works," but "work" - the one work which is the germ and the consummation of all the partial workings which are often made substitutes for it. There is "one work" which God would have man do. Jesus admits that there is something to do (ποιεῖν) - there is a labour, an effort of the will needed to do what God requires; and this is evident enough as soon as this great work is described, viz. That ye believe on him whom he (the Father) sent; or, **hath sent**. Ἵνα πιστεύητε, here preferred by the R.T. to πιστεύσητε (see [John 13:19](http://biblehub.com/john/13-19.htm)), marks the simple fact and continuous act of believing with the effort tending to such result; while the aorist would have pointed to one definite act of faith (see Westcott).. To "believe on him," to habitually entrust one's self to the power and grace of Christ, to make a full moral surrender of the soul to the Lord, includes in itself all other work, and is in itself the great work of God. "It is the Christian answer to the Jewish question" (Thoma). "Faith is the life of works, works the necessity of faith" (Westcott). "Faith is the highest kind of work, for by it man gives himself to God, and a free being can do nothing greater than give himself: St. James opposes work to a faith which would be nothing but intellectual belief. St. Paul opposes faith, active faith, to works of mere observance. The 'faith' of St. Paul is really the 'work' of St. James, according to this sovereign formula of Jesus, 'This is the work of God, that ye believe'" (Godet). Luther says, "To depend on God's Word, so that the heart is not terrified by sin and death, but trusts and believes in God, is a much severer and more difficult thing than the Carthusians or all orders of monks demand." Schleiermachcr says, "This is the most significant declaration, that all eternal life proceeds from nothing else than faith in Christ."—Pulpit Commentary

**Matthew 21:28-32**

**28**“But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ **29**He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. **30**Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I *go,* sir,’ but he did not go. **31**Which of the two did the will of *his* father?”

They said to Him, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. **32**For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it,* you did not afterward relent and believe him.

**Luke 2:46 and 49**

**46**Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

**49**And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”

**Mark 16:17-18**

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18**they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

**John 5:8-9 and 16-17**

**8**Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” **9**And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

**16**For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. **17**But Jesus answered them, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

Jesus and God are both busy in human lives working good things.

* Satan’s work is to kill, steal, and destroy.
* God is busy at work resurrecting people, giving life and healing, and restoring all brokenness.

**James 1**

**26**If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion *is* useless. **27**Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

**James 2**

**14**What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? **15**If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, **16**and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? **17**Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**18**But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **19**You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! **20**But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **21**Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? **22**Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? **23**And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. **24**You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

**25**Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way?

**26**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

We must be busy about:

* Men leading the family and women building the home
  + Discipling children
  + [check out this article of family vs ministry](http://www.boundless.org/advice/2014/should-a-husband-place-ministry-or-family-first)
* Evangelism
* Believing on Jesus
  + Believing
    - Be born again
    - Believe God for good things
    - Healing broken people
      * Casting out Demons
      * Speak in tongues
      * Destroy the works of Satan
      * Supernatural Intervention
      * Healing the Sick
  + Seeking Him above everything else
  + Mimicking His good works
* Getting together with believers and learning the Bible and asking questions.
* Good works that show our faith (out of James)
  + Bridling the tongue
  + Visiting the orphans and widows in their trial
  + Keeping oneself unspotted from the world
  + Feed and clothe those in need
  + Giving up everything in our devotion to God
  + Aiding ministers of God

**And all of this labor is in fact seeking and believing in Jesus.**