

<b>SERIES</b>	<b>The Rest of the Week</b>
<b>BIBLE</b>	<b>Daniel 6; Matthew 5</b>
<b>TITLE/TOPIC</b>	<b>Work as Mission</b>
<b>OVERVIEW</b>	<p>What if what we call “the grind” is our place of ministry? What if what we think is simply “paying the bills” is actually full of God’s mission? Since work is part of God’s very good creation, those of us who have been redeemed can learn to engage our daily work as God’s glorious mission for us. As we resolve to live and work for Him, God will distinguish us and use us as witnesses to His power and grace. Every day work is also our mission for Jesus!</p>
<b>SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN</b>	<p><b>Daniel resolved to live righteously before His God as he worked excellently for his boss. (Daniel 1:8)</b>  1: 8 <u>But Daniel resolved</u> not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.</p> <p><b>Daniel distinguished himself as a servant of his God who worked with God’s power and wisdom. (Daniel 2:27; 5:11-12; 6:3)</b>  2: 27 Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries  5: 11 There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods.  6: 3 <u>Now Daniel so distinguished himself</u> among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.</p> <p><b>Daniel served God continually - even through persecution - and showed God’s power to unbelievers. (6:16, 20, 27-28)</b>  16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “<u>May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!</u>”  26 (King said...) “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. “For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. 27 He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”</p>

Daniel's life illustrates our identity as members of the Kingdom that Jesus spoke of:

Matthew 5: 13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Salt makes impact through contact. Light gives guidance. Our lives of good works will point people to Jesus and give glory to God.

Our work is our holy vocation.

Thoughts/Quotes from Martin Luther - emphasized priesthood of all believers, not just clergy. Every believer can glorify God in their daily work. Break down the thinking of "secular time" and "sacred time". All our time and all our activity is to be worship and pleasing to the Lord!

Thoughts/Quotes from Tim Keller - We do ministry for God when we work for people - milk the cow, bake the bread, complete the project for the glory of God.

Practice of the Presence of God - Brother Lawrence - "He told me that all consists in one hearty renunciation of everything which we are sensible does not lead to God; that we might accustom ourselves to a continual conversation with Him, with freedom and in simplicity. That we need only recognize God intimately present with us, to address ourselves to Him every moment, that we may beg His assistance for knowing His will in things doubtful, and for rightly performing those which we plainly see He requires of us, offering them to Him before we do them, and given Him thanks when we have done.

That in this conversation with God, we are also employed in praising, adoring, and loving Him incessantly, for His infinite goodness and perfection.

That we ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed. (Practice of the Presence of God, 12, 13, 14)

## GOSPEL

How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?

Just as our work need to be redeemed since sin has tainted God original design, FIRST our hearts need to be redeemed. Jesus mission is to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). Have you acknowledged your fallenness

	and sin, have you repented of trusting yourself, have you turned to Jesus as your LORD and redeemer. He will make you new so you can live and work in Him and for His glory.
<b>NEXTSTEPS</b>	Begin   Connect   Engage   Grow   Disciple Grow to view your everyday work as God's eternal mission for you. (Resolve) Engage in working as unto the Lord - not for people. (Distinguish, serve continually)