

INTRO

- As a child, what was the most interesting profession you wanted to have growing up?
- If you could go to university just for fun, what would you choose to learn?

READ

Luke 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:28

REFLECT & RESPOND

In this series we've been looking at some common characteristics of resilient disciples. As exiles in a Babylon to which we do not belong, resilience is shown in living faithfully to Christ and according to the values of his kingdom. This week we will look at the relationship between our discipleship in Christ and our work lives.

1. The place of work

One mark of resilience is seeing how our faith in Christ impacts every area of our lives. This is in contrast to how things are in Babylon, where life has many independent "boxes", including the "religion box." As disciples of Christ, however, our faith cannot be a box, because it's the faith in a story that changes, and subordinates, all other stories of our life. It is the very meaning behind all we do.

Qu: Why doesn't it make sense to contain our faith in Christ (and our obedience to him) in a "religion box", independent of other areas of life?

2. How we work

One of the very first things that faith in Christ changes in our work is how we do things. Just like John the Baptist told the soldiers and tax collectors, and like Paul admonished those who used to steal, we must now work with different values. That is, our work must be *honest*, despite how "things are done" in the workplace.

Qu: What are some challenges you have faced in trying to work honestly? Where can we find

obstacles for our obedience to Christ in the workplace?

3. Why we work

But since being Christ's disciples changes the very meaning of our work, it means we will also work with different goals and intentions. We will seek to bless others rather than amount wealth; we will care for God's creation rather than profit from it; we will provide for our families while not promoting luxury to the place of necessity; and we will do absolutely all to the glory of God.

Qu: Have you ever thought about the reason you work? What are you trying to accomplish?

Qu: Is caring for God's creation limited to environmental initiatives? In what other ways can we bring order and beauty to the world?

Qu: Have you ever struggled to know the difference between necessity and luxury? In what ways can material prosperity creep into our ambitions?

PRAY

- What encouraged/challenged you the most from this discussion?
- Spend time praying for one another and those you know who need to hear the good news of salvation.