

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

The Lord Reigns, Great in Power, Love so Great, Praise the Name of Jesus

WELCOME

Success at Work Is. How do you define success at your work?

WORD

MATTHEW 25:21

²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'"

SUCCESS FACTORS ON WORK

We all want to succeed in our work whether we are professionals, laborers, casuals, part time, full time, freelance, or even homemakers. But only with the right view of work can we experience true success. A wrong view of work will only create problems and complaints. A wrong perspective and a wrong attitude about work can even rob us of being all God wants us to be and doing all God wants us to do. Work is not a curse, and neither is it evil nor is it necessarily secular. There is more to work than what meets the eye.

There are three truths that can change our perspective about work. **First, God worked from day one.** It was He who invented work (**Genesis 1:1**). Not too long after, God blessed man with work (**v.15**). He created us in His image therefore we get restless whenever we are not productive in what we are capable of doing. **Second, God keeps working even today** (**John 5:17**). God rested on the seventh day not because he was tired but because he simply completed his work. **Third, God cares about our work.** God gives each of us talents according to our ability. Some are five talent people, some are two, and others are capable of but one talent. The difference in the number of talents entrusted to us does not matter because all of it comes with an equal calling from God.

We can learn principles from the Parable of the Talents (**Matthew 25: 14–30**) that can help us succeed at W-O-R-K.

WILLINGNESS TO TAKE RISKS

Inevitably at work, we need to be willing to take risks. It does not mean being reckless but taking a reasonable and calculated strategic risk. In the parable, the slaves who received five and two talents immediately went into trade and each earned 100% gain. Trading involves

action, market testing, negotiation and strategizing. But all of these involve risks for no one knows the ultimate outcome. However, what is within our control are the appropriate risks that we are willing to take. In Christian language, taking risks translate to taking a step of faith, at times a leap of faith.

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." - John A. Shedd

OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY

We are all subject to authority. This is not about blind obedience or being a "Yes Man." Doing things that are immoral or illegal just because the boss says so obviously does not glorify God. Obedience is an attitude that subordinates ourselves to the vision, goal, position and directive of those above us. Ultimately our submission to authority is unto God (**Romans 13:1**).

In the parable, the slaves knew what their master wanted them to do and they were aware that they will settle their accounts with him when he returns. Even without a job description, those in authority over us are counting on us. So, we need to know what they want us to do. Are we being a blessing to those who have authority over us like the servant of Abraham in **Genesis 24:12**? If we want our subordinates to follow us, we first need to model to them how we submit to the authorities above us.

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This includes character traits such as integrity, transparency, diligence and urgency all rolled into one. In the parable, the first two slaves immediately responded to the responsibility that has been entrusted to them by their Master. But the third slave

WORD (cont'd)

with one talent did the opposite. He did nothing productive and did only what was safe and convenient for him. This showed that he did not care at all about his master's assets. Later on, he gave excuses for not making the talent grow to the point of blaming his master for his own shortcomings.

The first two slaves knew that the Master had entrusted to them talents which they are to faithfully handle. For their faithfulness, the master called them "good and faithful servants." He further said that since they have been entrusted with a few things, they will have the privilege of being entrusted with more.

In the end, what matters is not so much the end result (in which there are no guarantees). That is merely secondary. What is truly important is our faithfulness and stewardship that we will do our best

until the end. But if we are unfaithful with the few, be prepared to lose even the little that we got. Use it or lose it.

KNOWING WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

God's command is that in whatever we do, do it heartily as you are doing it for Him (**Colossians 3:23–24**) Doing things heartily comes from the entirety of our being – our soul. Being precedes doing. If we are working not for men but for the Lord because He alone is worthy and we want to honor him, all the glory goes to the Lord. Our earthly authorities may disappoint us, but remember we are doing what we are doing for God who is the ultimate rewarder. God will not disappoint us, He is always present to bless and encourage us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Well done.** What is the master's commendation in **Matthew 25:21**? What was the result of it?
2. **Work and Ministry.** In what ways can your work become your ministry at the same time?
3. **Success Factors.** Which among the four success factors are you inclined to improve on? How will you apply it?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Succeed in the Workplace

What will you do differently this week in order to succeed in your work as a ministry? List down the opportunities you find and write your specific course of action for each.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends