



4Ws

work
matters

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: BE EXTRA!

MARCH 27, 2022

WORSHIP

Great Things, How Great
Thou Art, Alive in You,
Unbroken Praise, 10,000
Reasons, Since Jesus
Came into My Heart

WELCOME

What was your dream
profession growing up?
Did you pursue that dream?
Why or why not?

WORD

MATTHEW 5:14-16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; ¹⁵ nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Who you work for is far more important – your job may be difficult, or boring, but once you understand you work for the King of kings, it changes everything! We must all remember that when we work, we must be M.A.D. – to be ready to make a difference! How? Remember B.E.E. – inspired by the amazing work honeybees do to produce honey for the world.

1. BE INTENTIONAL

Jesus tells us how to work and has given us a mission to be the light of the world (**Matthew 5:14**). Light’s purpose is to illuminate. In a world full of darkness, we must ask – “where is the light?”. When Jesus talks about the world, He pertains to our own sphere of influence. Dr. Bill Bright years ago identified the following spheres of society:

- Religion
- Family
- Education
- Workplace
- Politics and Government
- Media
- Entertainment
- Sports

We must be intentional in whatever sphere of influence is entrusted to us – **Matthew 28:19-20** reminds us of the Great Commission to MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations. We’ve got to impact the spheres of the world! How do we do this? **Matthew 5:14,16** reminds us to let our light shine, not for personal gain, but so that people can connect our behavior to the goodness and faithfulness of God!

2. EXCEL

Jesus continues in the same chapter, (**v.41**) and reminds us to go the extra mile. If we just do what everybody else is doing, how would we stand out? We must be EXTRA in our work performance and attitude. Jesus commanded tough things in **Luke 6:28**, and **vv. 31-32** – to love enemies, bless and pray for them, and treat others with respect. Only by the power of Jesus can we do all these things! You are the light of the world. It is sad when Christians do not apply this in their own communities. We are to be extra, but instead, we practice cancel culture. To make a difference, we should be EXTRA – extra kind, extra good. In **Luke 6:35**, Jesus emphasizes what we have learned so far in this series – our reward as children of God living out His values, will be given to us in full. All of us must excel for Jesus in the marketplace.

3. ENTRUST

Entrust our future to the Lord. We see these principles in the following examples:

RUTH – a widow, was told by her mother-in-law, Naomi, to go and look for herself a new husband. Ruth declares trust in the LORD, the God of Naomi, and committed to stay with her (**Ruth 1:15-17**). She did something “extra”. Ruth did not have to do that, but she did. And her going extra and trusting God had a great impact. In

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Ruth 2:10-12, she is complimented by Boaz, a successful businessman (and her future husband). Her good deeds were noticed by others, who wished for her to be rewarded by God.

Archbishop William Temple said, **“To choose a career on selfish grounds is probably the greatest single sin that any young person can commit... it is the deliberate withdrawal from allegiance to God of the greatest part of time and strength”**. Are you giving the best years of your life to God? Our hope is that none of us will regret not serving God in all the years we spend at work, school, and in whatever we do. Many times, our good works and good behavior are not recognized by the company we are part of. But let us simply entrust everything to God. What example do we have of this?

DANIEL – he was committed – a young man who went extra for the Lord, and he was favored because of his excellence, and the various kings (from Babylon to Medo-Persia empires) all had good words to say about him. **Daniel 6:1-3** describes him as “distinguished and as having extraordinary spirit”. He was appointed prime minister of the king for the quality of his performance. Out of envy, the other satraps (leaders) tried to pull him down, but they couldn’t (**Daniel 6:4**). They couldn’t find anything bad about Daniel. He was also extra faithful to the king and have not been negligent at work. His attitude and performance were unquestionable! The only “weakness” they found about him was his commitment to the LORD, and they worked their way to create accusations about him in relation to this. Daniel was an example of someone who shone his light in the culture around him through his political/government sphere of influence. And he did not cower in fear – he continued his excellence performance and also his commitment to God (**Daniel 6:10-11**).

Because of his faith in God alone, Daniel was sentenced to die in a lion’s den (**Daniel 6:17**). There will be times when God will allow us to be taken into situations like being in a “lion’s den”. There are times when our future seems finished, and we feel hopeless. But we do have an amazing God! When the king, unable to sleep got up early and rushed to the den, he found Daniel alive (**Daniel 6:20-22**)! This experience led to the king’s recognition of Daniel’s God as “the living God, enduring forever...” and commanded his vast empire to fear the God of Daniel (**Daniel 6:25-28**)!

If, like Daniel, we entrust our future to God, we can be sure about how He can turn our tough situations to be moments of victory, and for glory He alone deserves. Do you have stories to tell of how you have entrusted everything to God, and He changed your story at work or in school?

In our Sunday services, we were commissioned as God’s servants (**inspired by 1 Samuel 16, Numbers 27, Acts 13:2-3, Rom. 12:1**) – and were reminded of the example of Paul in **2 Thessalonians 3:7-9** – who worked hard while he was on a mission. We are all missionaries of God in the marketplace. May we dedicate our lives, our work, our performance, and our activities to GOD to shine our lights in this world.

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

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

1. Self-Check.

How do you find purpose in your day-to-day activities?

2. Setting It Right.

In what way can you go the extra mile in your spheres of influence?

3. Living It Out.

What is God calling you to do this week - whether at school, work, ministry, or with your family?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE
IN ACTION

Pray for those challenged to make a difference at work. Make time to send them an encouraging text or give them a phone call to remind them that the Lord sees their hard work and He will sustain them. Share the love of Christ through the gospel that will enable and strengthen and them be salt and light in their workplace.

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

- For God’s sovereignty to be on display over our upcoming national elections; godly, competent leaders to be voted into government posts at all levels.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

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

MEMORY VERSE

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