

## A Sermon on Work

Scripture Text: James 2:14-26

We are required to work as Christians.

We are called to use our talents – see the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30.

### 1. The Call - Then

- a. Moses – Exodus 3
  - i. Called at the Burning Bush
  - ii. Told he would lead Israel – not an easy task to do and one that requires much courage.
  - iii. God had been preparing him for this moment for 80 years!
- b. Samuel – I Samuel 3:1-10
  - i. Called to serve the Lord
  - ii. “Here am I”
  - iii. Sometimes we don’t have good news to tell – v. 11-14
- c. Isaiah – Isaiah 6:1-8
  - i. He must be purged of his sins
  - ii. Note the confidence in his answer – v. 8!
  - iii. He didn’t know what he was going to do yet he was still willing to work!

### 2. The Call – Today

- a. James 2:17-26
  - i. Faith without works is dead
  - ii. Justified by works and faith – like a rowboat
  - iii. Faith only (v. 19) won’t get you anywhere – cf. Mt. 7:21-23
- b. Works today
  - i. Benevolence
  - ii. Edification
  - iii. Teaching
  - iv. Serving in worship
- c. Using our talents – Matthew 25:14-30
  - i. The first two men were rewarded for using their abilities
  - ii. The last man was punished because he hid his talents
  - iii. Talent
    1. 80 pounds / 36 kg, valued for weight of silver
    2. Worth about 6,000 denarii
    3. 1 denarius = usual payment for a day’s wage
    4. 6,000 days at roughly 250 working days a year equals 24 years of labor at no pay increase
  - iv. Are we using our talents for God or are we hiding them?

### 3. “Once Upon A Pew”

Once upon a pew I sat,  
And heard the preacher ask  
“We need someone to teach an adult class,  
Now who will take this task?”  
Then God sat down beside me there  
And said, “Son, that’s for you.”  
“But, Lord, to stand before a class  
Is one thing I can’t do.  
Now Brett or Don would be the men to call,  
There’s nothing they won’t do.  
I’d rather hear the lesson taught  
From here upon my pew.”

Once upon a pew I sat,  
And heard the preacher ask.  
“We need someone to teach a children’s class,  
Now who will take this task?”  
Then God sat down beside me there  
And said, “Daughter, that’s for you.”  
“But, Lord, to stand before a class,  
Is one thing I can’t do.  
Now Kelli or Cayla would be the ones to call,  
There’s nothing they won’t do.  
I’d rather hear the lesson taught  
From here upon my pew.”

Once upon a pew I sat,  
And heard the preacher ask,  
“We need someone to lead the songs,  
Now who will take this task?”  
Then God sat down beside me there  
And said, “Son, that’s for you.”  
“But Lord, to sing before a crowd,  
Is one thing I can’t do.  
Now Ernie or Phil will do the job,  
There’s nothing they won’t do.  
I’d rather hear the people singing  
From here upon my pew.”

Once upon a pew I sat,  
And heard the preacher ask,  
“We need someone to keep the door,  
Now who will take the task?”  
Then God sat down beside me there  
And said, “Son, that’s for you.”  
“Saying things to strangers, Lord,  
Is one thing I can’t do.  
Now Orville, he can talk to folks  
There’s nothing he won’t do.  
I’d rather someone come to me  
And greet me on my pew.”

As the years just seemed to pass me by  
I heard that voice no more  
Until one night I closed my eyes  
And woke on heaven’s shore.  
There were eight of us together there,  
To face eternity.  
God said, “I need just seven of you  
To do a job for me.”  
“O Lord,” I cried, “I’ll do the job,  
There’s nothing I won’t do.”  
But Jesus said, “I’m sorry friend,  
In heaven there is no pew.”

- a. How many times do we say, “Someone else will do this or that?”
- b. We are “someone” for another person!
- c. I would hate to make it to the Day of Judgment and have God ask why I didn’t do something that I thought someone else would do!

Don’t be left sitting on the pew – work as a Christian! (And for the Gospel Meeting is a great place to start!)

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