

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Faith & Work ⑩

INTRODUCTION | The way to do work: The kingdom of God and business culture

From today's scripture passage I'd like to look at how the kingdom of God impacts business culture. First, Truthfulness, transparency, and integrity are very important things. Second, I want us to be challenged to connect our faith lives with our work lives. Let's look at how we can do this by focusing on dealing our root motivations. We can look to clearly see how scriptures main message allows us to make the best use of our work situations.third let's think about how the attitude and posture with which we undertake work.

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 58:1-14

58 “Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. 2 Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God. 3 ‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. 4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. 5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? 6 “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? 8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, 10 if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. 11 And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. 12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in. 13 “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; 14 then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

QUESTIONS |

- 1: (verses 3-4) in this scripture passage we see the connection between faith and work. What kinds of problems spring up? Why do these happen?
- 2: Why is it important for faith and work to be done with sincerity? According to the gospel why is it important that inner and outer lives, our interactions with everyone everywhere must approach with sincerity and dignity?
- 3: (verses 6-8) What important things does the scripture teach as it approaches the subject of our faith being in unison with our work? Are the perspectives and opinions of those at our work places and those who interact with us on a daily basis important?

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- 4: In our places of employment we have interact on stratified levels; boss, employee, customer, creditor etc. With these interactions, in what ways can we be making mistakes with our our attitudes and relationships? (Ref Henry cloud)
- 5: If you are called to forgive someone, how as a christian should you go about this?
- 6: (verses 11-12) Your ultimate employer is God himself. In considering Christ's work of being crucified on the cross, paying the penalty and securing the love of the trinitarian God of scripture for you how should this affect your work life and improve it? (Ref Tim Keller)

REFERENCES |

Henry Cloud, Integrity p.246-8

To prosper in this world you must bow down to something greater than yourself. There is one great question that confronts all humanity. That question is are you God? The way you answer that question will define your life and the results of your labors. The majority of people will give the correct answer to this question. They will say of course I'm not God. But those very same people will live their lives as if they in fact were God. They live as though they were the center of the universe this they live as though all things existed to serve them..

Tim Keller, Every Good Endeavor, p.220-1

Only if Jesus is your treasure are you truly rich, for he is the only currency tha cannot be devalued. And only if he is your Savior are you truly successful, for status with him is the only status that can't be lost..

PRAYER |

- Because of the cross of Christ, let us once again reorient ourselves to integrity and truthfulness in our places of work. Let us pray that we can turn ourselves to forgiveness and peace such that we lower ourselves down and serve those in our places of work.
- If you are working as though your faith and work have no connection, as you are lead by the Holy Spirit, confess this. Pray that we can in more integrity live in ways that work and faith are expressing themselves in unison.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Community group leaders meeting: (7/25)
Lunchtime meetings(7/27 Marunouchi, 7/28 Otemachi)
Elderly care volunteering opportunity (7/30)
Bible study (Walk through the bible 7/31)
Sunday Worship (7/31)
Obento project(8/6)
Bible study (Walk through the bible 8/7)
Sunday worship: Location change Nihonbashi F-tower (8/7)