

Let's Start at the Beginning: Genesis 1-11

May 9th, 2021

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Redeeming Your 9-5 – Part 1 (Genesis 2:1-15)

1. Work is how we *rule* with God over the world (2:4-7)

2. Work is how we *reflect* God in worship (2:8-15)

For Further Thought and Discussion:

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

Going Deeper:

2. Why is it significant that the author of Genesis depicts God's creative activity as working for 6 days and then resting (see especially Genesis 2:2)? What is the author trying to convey through this portrayal of God? What significance does this have for us as God's image bearers?
3. How does the author describe the state of the land prior to God's creation of humanity (see 2:5-6)? What's significant about this description (compare with 1:2)? What does this teach us about humanity's role on the earth (compare Genesis 1:28).
4. What is the "garden" a picture of? What does it resemble? What does God put Adam in the garden to do (see Genesis 2:15)? What does it mean for Adam to "work" and "keep" the garden? Where else are these verbs, "work" and "keep" used in the Old Testament? How does this reshape our view of Adam's work? How might this reshape the way you look at your job?
5. Why is it significant that the biblical story begins in a garden (Genesis 2:1-15), but ends in a city (Revelation 21-22)? What does this tell us about humanity's role in working with God in the world (see especially Revelation 21:23-27)?

Application:

6. Jeff said that when we understand God's purpose for work, we realize that work is more about contribution than compensation. How does this transform the way we view work? How does it impact the way you view your job?
7. Tim Keller notes that people have understood what it means to "serve God" at work in a variety of ways.¹ Here are a few:
 - a. *The way to serve God at work is to further justice in the world.*
 - b. *The way to serve God at work is to be personally honest and share Christ with your colleagues.*
 - c. *The way to serve God at work is just to do skillful, excellent work.*
 - d. *The way to serve God is to create beauty.*
 - e. *The way to serve God at work is to do whatever gives you the greatest joy and passion.*
 - f. *The way to serve God at work is to make as much money as you can, so that you can be as generous as you can.*

Which of these statements do you gravitate towards? Which of these had you not previously considered?

8. What's one thing from this week's sermon that you can apply to your life?

Genesis 2:4-15

“These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up- for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground- ⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

ⁱ *Every Good Endeavor, Connecting Your Work to God’s Work* (Dutton, New York, 2012); 22.