Part 5: Take This Job and Love It

Big Idea
Pastor Chris opened by encouraging each of us to take our next steps in our spiritual journey. In Mark 8:34-36, Jesus addressed the crowd and his disciples. First, He encouraged the crowd to “come and see.” All are invited – believers and non-believers – to check out our weekend services. Second, He invited us to “come and join” the congregation. We are building God’s family, not an organization. This happens by way of the Growth Track. Third, He encouraged us to commit, “come and grow.” We do this by joining Small Groups to engage in relationships that help us grow to be more like Jesus. Fourth, as we “come and serve,” we become the core of the church. We join the Dream Team, a place for each of us to experience our purpose while making a difference in the lives of others.

By encouraging us to take next steps on our spiritual journey, Pastor Chris challenged us to have a perspective on work. He expanded the view of work to include home life, school life, and work life. This week in the One Year Bible in Colossians 3:1-2, the apostle Paul encourages us to set our hearts and minds on the things above (eternity) instead of earthly cares. This is a daily discipline. Colossians continues in verses 12-14 to encourage us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. In addition, we bear with one another, forgive each other and put on love, which helps us get dressed with a good attitude toward work.

Here are some principles or keys to practice: 1) Discover your real purpose and make a difference with your life. In Acts 20:23-24 (MSG), Paul sets the example that work may be tough, but it can be endured when you know you are making a difference in other places. For us, we make a difference by serving on the Dream Team. 2) Consider your vocation your ministry location. We may not be called to the job, but we are called to the people on the job. Pray for them and invite them to church. Put on compassion, kindness, and love to set an example for them. 3) Work for God, not people. Ultimately, we are working for the Lord. By maintaining an eternal perspective, joy can replace job-related stress.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

Discussion Questions
- What is your purpose and how have you used it to make a difference in the lives of others?
- How is your next step spiritually related to your perspective of your work?
- What actions can you take to make a positive impact on others at your work?

Prayer Focus
This week pray for courage and boldness to take the next step in your spiritual journey and to adopt a healthy perspective toward your work.

Next Steps
Commit to be the example at work by developing an action plan to be the light of Christ at work.

Leader Tip
Share with your group how you decided one of your next steps and the impact taking it had on your attitude toward your life and work in particular.