

Life at Work

Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me; And I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one shall snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” John 10.27-30

As Christians let us commit anew to learning how to discern our Shepherd’s voice in this place. We do not cease to be His sheep and under the Lordship (or security) of our Great Shepherd when we enter our place of work. On the contrary, we *establish* His Life, Lordship, and Love here as we walk in obedience to His commands. The difficulty (and challenge) lies in our ability to discern his voice while we are engaged in the daily and often hectic affairs of our lives here at work.

Let us take, then, a few lessons from a dear brother, Brother Lawrence¹:

1) That our work does indeed matter to God and that all must be done for the love of God and for His glory (cf. Colossians 3.17, 23):

“THAT he had always been governed by love, without selfish views; and that having resolved to make the love of GOD the end of all his actions, he had found reasons to be well satisfied with his method. That he was pleased when he could take up a straw from the ground for the love of GOD, seeking Him only, and nothing else, not even His gifts.”

2) That we must supply ample diligence in our personal time alone with God that we might experience fellowship with Him in this place (Jeremiah 29.13; John 15.5; Acts 17.27-28a)

“That in order to form a habit of conversing with GOD continually, and referring all we do to Him; we must at first apply to Him with some diligence: but that after a little care we should find His love inwardly excite us to it without any difficulty.”

3) That we can do nothing apart from Jesus Christ and that the whole of our lives both in word and deed, both in this world and in the world to come, must rest in the power and ability that He supplies (cf. John 15.5; Philippians 4.13):

“That when an occasion of practicing some virtue offered, he addressed himself to GOD, saying, LORD, I cannot do this unless Thou enablest me; and that then he received strength more than sufficient.”

4) That we approach our work with thanksgiving and as an opportunity to grow greater in the character of Jesus Christ and in the practice of His all-availing presence (cf. I Thessalonians 5.18; James 1.2-4; Hebrews 4.16):

“So, likewise, in his business in the kitchen (to which he had naturally a great aversion), having accustomed himself to do everything there for the love of GOD, and with prayer, upon all occasions, for His grace to do his work well, he had found everything easy, during the fifteen years that he had been employed there.”

Work is a place to abide in and exercise God’s redemptive power – *in* us and *for* those we work with. Some practical steps toward practicing the presence of God:

- 1) Spend quality time in prayer and in the Bible in preparation for the day. (Isaiah 50.4)
- 2) Take the time to engage in a solid Scripture Memory Plan. (Psalms 119.9-11; John 15.7)
- 3) Participate in one of your local church’s Bible studies in addition to your weekly time of corporate worship. (Joshua 1.8; II Timothy 3.16,17)
- 4) Attend a lunch-time Bible study at work: a weekly time of prayer, worship, Bible study, and/or fellowship (I John 1.1-4; Hebrews 10.24-25)

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¹ *Practicing the Presence of God*, Brother Lawrence