

Jesus and Work

Message Study Notes for 2 May 2021

We were designed for work. The bible implies that we will be given, again, stewardship and responsibility. **What work would not be right for Christians?**

Read Matthew 5 verses 14 to 16. Part of God making things right is that he uses his followers to enter every corner of his creation and to shine. **How can we do that? What does it mean to live the message of Jesus by our words, deeds and attitudes?**

Read 2nd Corinthians 5 verses 16 to 21. Paul says that, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, and God calls us to share in his work of reconciliation. **In what ways can we be reconciled? With who or what? How can we be agents of Shalom?**

If we find this difficult, we have four main options:

1: Hide away from our culture.

2: Make certain areas acceptable, such as only Christian music, etc.

3: Accept it's difficult and don't try to resist the culture.

4: Live with the tension. Engage the conflict with the message of Jesus, and demonstrate his life in these hard places.

Is option 4 the best or only option? Why?

Read 2nd Kings 5 verses 1 to 19. The bible seems to accept that, in the conflict between what is right and what is not, there will be necessary places of conflict. **Do you agree? Can you think of modern equivalents of situations where conflict should be accepted?**

Who we are as we work, our integrity and quality of our work, our honesty, how we spend our time, should point to Jesus. **How? Is having such a character enough, or are there times when we should speak of Jesus?**

Jesus-followers are called to use their money to help advance his kingdom. **Does that only mean giving to church work? If not, what else?**