

# Week 28: "Holy Work"

## Day One: "Sincerity at Work"

**Read:** Ephesians 6:5-9

**Reflect:** In your experience, how would you characterize your relationship with management in your workplace?

**Dig:** Exchange the word "employees" for "slaves" and "employers" for "masters" and then read Ephesians 6:5 and answer these questions:

1. What are the three words that are used to describe the attitude we are to have toward our managers at our worksite?
2. How does the phrase "just as you would obey Christ" put limits to what we would do for a manager or boss?
3. Look up 1 Timothy 6:1. What is the reason given here for obeying those in authority over us at our workplace?

**Apply:** What attitude adjustment do you need in order to have biblical for your relationships to those who manage you at your job?

In the space provided, write out a prayer of confession regarding your attitude toward your bosses.

## Week Twenty-Eight: "Holy Work"

### Day Two: "Your Boss is God Himself"

**Read:** Ephesians 6:5-9

**Reflect:** In your own practice, or in observing others, how does your (or others') work performance change when the boss is not around?

**Dig:** Once again, exchanging the concept of "employees" for "slaves" and "employers" for "masters", read Ephesians 6:6 and answer these questions:

1. How are we NOT supposed to work?
2. Read Ephesians 5:3-5 and consider that we are slaves of Christ and obey him; how might that affect our conduct in the workplace?

3. According to this text, who are you really working for? How should that make a difference in everyday life?

4. Many people "just put in their time" or purposely work slowly and watch the clock. What phrase in Ephesians 6:6 speaks to this attitude?

**Apply:** In the space provided here, describe your present attitude toward your work. Do you work mostly just for the paycheck? Do you work just as hard when the boss is not looking?

Then write out a prayer asking God to give you a heart of service for HIM as you work for your boss.

**Week Twenty-Eight: "Holy Work"**  
**Day Three: "Serve Wholeheartedly"**

**Read: Ephesians 6:5-9**

**Reflect:** What is the current attitude of our culture toward work, the workplace and bosses?

How do we tend to relate to incompetent or insensitive bosses?

**Dig:** Once again, exchanging the concept of "employees" for "slaves" and "employers" for "masters", read Ephesians 6:7-8 and answer these questions:

1. How is "serving wholeheartedly" explained or described in this text?

2. What is the reason given for serving wholeheartedly?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. What does that text teach you about rewards?

4. Read Colossians 3:24-25. What does that text teach about how God will repay or reward us for our work with our bosses (masters)?

**Apply:** What should you do today on your jobsite or in your profession to begin to store up for yourself rewards?

**Week Twenty-Eight: "Holy Work"**  
**Day Four: "Be a Good Leader"**

**Read: Ephesians 6:5-9**

**Reflect:** When you have been in a position of leadership or authority, how has it gone?

In your estimation, what is the top characteristic of a good leader?

**Dig:** Once again, exchanging the concept of "employees" for "slaves" and "employers" for "masters" read Ephesians 6:9 and answer these questions:

1. What might the phrase "in the same way" refer to? (Hint: go back to verse 5 and also verse 7)
2. What are leaders specifically NOT supposed to do?
3. Read the parallel passage in Colossians 4:1. What are leaders ("masters") supposed to do for their employees here?
4. To whom are leaders (employers) accountable?
5. How does this entire section (Ephesians 6:5-9) fit with the heading or introductory text of Ephesians 5:21?

**Apply:** If you are in a position of authority over anyone, what should change in your management of people so that your behavior lines up with this scripture?

## **Week Twenty-Eight: "Holy Work"**

### **Day Five: "Lectio Divina"**

**Read: Ephesians 6:5-9** "Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him."

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

-- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness: after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.

-- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life: write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.

-- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition.  
Write out a prayer based on the passage.