

Our problems with work

... it seems fruitless?

... or pointless

Question from last week

What is the difference between work and leisure?

1) Work can be fruitless

Gen 3:17, God affirms Adam's need to work the ground.

But ... he will also reap thorns and thistles.

Romans 8:22 ... all creation groans

Living with the thorns and thistles

(show picture)

- a. know your circumstances.
- b. work will never give you a perfect experience all the time

2) Work becomes pointlessLiving with death

Ecclesiastes 2:24-36... seek to find contentment in your work as you serve God.

Matthew 11:28-30... find in him the rest for their souls.

3) Work reveals my selfishness

Gen 11:4 ... wanted to make a name for themselves by building a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens.

Living with my selfishness

Qu 1 – How does doing this work help me serve God? How does it help me serve myself? Why has God placed me here doing this work?

Qu 2 – Am I more concerned with the economic return or community recognition this job gives me than I am for my family? Do I wish people would notice me as I did the job?

Qu 3 – Am I prepared to risk the results of my work by making a stand for God in the place I do my work (remember think of the broad definition of work not just as my paid job)

4) Work exposes our idols

So, is there any hope for work?