

## How To Find Worth In Your Work

Exodus 12:1-14  
Romans 13:8-14

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Faith Community

From the beginning of creation, work was meant to be a gift from God. Adam was placed in the Garden and told to take care of it. Not only would he find nourishment that way, but his life would have meaning. God would be glorified, and all would be right with the world.

Sin reared its ugly head, however, and everything, including God-given work, was tainted because of it.

Scroll ahead to when the Children of Israel were in slavery in Egypt, and work was an expression of their pain and heartache. They had no choice in what they did, they gained nothing from it, and life itself was plagued by no small amount of misery. There may be some of us here this morning who more than once have felt that way ourselves. Maybe some of us do now.

Along came the Passover. It was their ticket out, given by a God who loved them. It was to be their freedom, their chance for meaning and purpose, for life as an expression of gratitude to God. Maybe even the hopes and dreams at the beginning of creation itself could now be reaffirmed.

I want you to see your life in the same way. Specifically today, I want you to see what you do, whether it's work as  
a student,  
a volunteer,  
a full time parent,  
or a paid position.

See it as a gift that can enlarge you instead of one that drains you dry or as just a way to pay bills or mark time.

When we do that, we learn an important lesson.

Your worth is not found in what you do,  
what you have,  
who you know,  
or how you look.

Instead, your worth is found in who you are and whose you are – the quality and caliber of your relationships.

The Children of Israel didn't earn their freedom that day. It was a gift.

Imagine if instead of trying so hard to prove ourselves, what we do would instead be a reflection of who we are and how we've been gifted!

See what you do as a gift. That's #1. If you can do that, then what you do becomes an expression of gratitude. That's #2. Even before their release from slavery the people made the Passover sacrifice. And they did it as an act of worship and of praise to the God, who loved them and who was about to work such a wonder in their lives that people would talk about it throughout history. So important was this event that their calendars were changed, how they kept track of time would no longer be the same.

How can you live your life as an expression of gratitude to the God who loves you?

Listen to these words:

Integrity  
Character  
Virtue  
Purity  
Commitment  
Servanthood

Think of them as expressions of gratitude. You can't wait to give glory to God, and life itself takes on a persistent pattern of praise and purpose. What you do on a daily basis is your gift back to God.

Paul put it this way:

***Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another...let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.***  
(Romans 13:8-12)

If what you do is a gift, and if your work is an expression of gratitude, then finally consider how you can pass it on.

The Children of Israel were called to keep the Passover for generations to come. Each time they did they were to tell the story so people would never forget God's faithfulness. How can you tell your story of how God's been active in your life?

For example, those of you who are retired: Maybe you could find a whole new calling of passing on the skills and knowledge you've accumulated, laying a foundation for

those who come after you. We need mentors. Could you be one? Maybe that's a ministry we could develop here.

Others of you may feel called to change your careers entirely because of the change that's happened in you.

Those of you who've been made new through the living Jesus Christ: Others are longing for new life too. How could you have a part in seeing it happen?

On this side of Labor Day I challenge you to see what you do as a gift that can enlarge you instead of one that drains you dry or as just a way to pay bills or mark time. And if that's not happening, then perhaps there's a message there as well.

With that in place you'll see what you do as an expression of gratitude to the God who gave you life itself.

Then you'll become passionate about passing it on: your talents, your skills, and the very transformation that made you a new person in the first place.

Gift  
Gratitude  
Passing it on.