

Our Work as Worship

Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:17

March 25, 2018

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. What thoughts, emotions or attitudes do you usually have Sunday nights as you prepare for what you will face on Mondays?
2. How have you felt God's presence with you in your workplace? Conversely, maybe you can think of a time when you have felt abandoned by God at work. Describe one of those moments.
3. The Faith & Work videos we saw in service this past Sunday can be viewed at <https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/faith-and-work/> (we saw the stories of Terry Loper and Bill Hwang). In what ways have you seen God joyfully partnering with you in your work?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Matthew 27:45–53. How do the remarkable events that Matthew depicts surrounding the crucifixion and the death of Jesus relate to the two concepts of God coming out of Eden and Jesus breaking down the barriers between the sacred and the secular that Pastor Jason mentioned?
2. As you reflect on the idea of sacred and secular spaces, what are the "sacred" places where you experience God most powerfully? In what "secular places" do you experience God most palpably?
3. Pastor Jason referenced the Hebrew word, "avodah", which has a constellation of meanings in the Bible, including work, service and worship. How did God's work of creation reflect all of these aspects? How did Adam's work after the fall encompass these expressions as well?
4. The term 'offering' in Rom. 12:1 refers to the burnt offering. What does it mean for us to give this burnt offering as our true worship to God in our work? How might we make our work a sin offering instead from time to time?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How have you put God "in a box," or thought of God as being separate and distant from the world or even from yourself?

2. Pastor Jason mentioned that the burnt offering Paul refers to in Romans 12 was offered out of gratitude for what God has done. What things has God done for you in your life that can lead you to similar gratitude?
3. We are often reminded that our relationship with Jesus should affect the way we work. This week, think about how our work can be a mean to sweeten and strengthen your relationship with Jesus. What adjustment in perspective, attitude and actions do you need to make in order to achieve this?
4. When thinking about your place of work (be it a company, caregiving, retirement, etc.), what is your “cloak,” or the best thing that you have to offer?