



**How Do You Cut A New Path For Your Life
(Learn How to Work)**

November 3, 2019

Series Summary: Dealing With Work Issues

1. Be **Clear** About Your Work
2. Learn **How** to Work
3. Know **What** You Should Be Working Toward (Where are you headed?)
4. Know **Who** You Should Be Working With

Big Question: Who Taught You How To Work?

Personal Thoughts:

- I am convinced many of us were taught to be busy and active but not how to work in a productive way toward specific goals. Being busy and tired is not proof that you know how to work.

I. Five Observations About The Work Life of Nehemiah

1. Nehemiah Was Questioned

- Nehemiah 2:2 Therefore the king said to me, “**Why is your face sad, since you are not sick?** This is nothing but sorrow of heart.”

2. Nehemiah Was Afraid

- So **I became dreadfully afraid**, 3 and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?”

3. Nehemiah Was Prepared

4. Then the king said to me, “What do you request? **“So, I prayed to the God of heaven.** 5 And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it.”

- He prayed before he spoke (v4)
- He had a plan (v5)
- He was willing to go (He asked to be sent, v5)
- He was going to build (v5)



- He was time conscience

4. Nehemiah Was Time Conscience (Willing to Commit to a Timetable)

- 6 Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), “**How long will your journey be? And when will you return?**” So it pleased the king to send me; and **I set him a time.**

5. Nehemiah Was Resource Conscience

- 7 Furthermore I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let **letters** be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king’s forest, that he must give me **timber** to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, **for the city wall**, and **for the house that I will occupy.**” And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.
- 9 Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king’s letters. Now the king had sent captains of the **army** and horsemen with me. 10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

II. Five Insights About the Way Nehemiah Worked

1. He worked with an openness to **discussions**
2. He worked with a **healthy** fearful attitude (He knew his boundaries)
3. He worked with a **prepared** agenda
4. He worked with a **deep respect** for time
5. He worked with a **mature understanding of resources**

Minister Beverly Davis

Date: November 3, 2019

Text: Matthew 25:14-30 English Standard Version (ESV)

The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵**To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.** Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the **five talents went at once and traded with them**, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also **he who had the two talents made two talents more.** ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

I. Our Gifts and Talents Are Given To Us By God

1. Whatever talents you have been given belong to God v14
2. It is God who gives us power to gain wealth – v15 (cp. Deut. 8:18)



3. Your talent is given according to your ability, but you can increase your ability v.16
 - a. You can have the gift and not the skill
 - b. I may have the talent to be an engineer, but I don't have the education

II. Managing Our Gifts and Talents (Work)

1. I am responsible to increase my ability
2. I am responsible to invest in myself
 - a. Through education and training, when necessary
 - b. Through reading (audio books)
 - c. YouTube
3. Be faithful and diligent on the job you have

III. Success Is a Byproduct of Investing In Your Gifts and Talents

Colossians 3:23-24 **Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters**, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (NIV)

1. **Work with all your heart (v23)**
 - a. Set your Priorities
 - b. Sharpen your work ethic
 - c. Watch your Influencers
 - d. Work like God is the boss
2. **Realize Your Ultimate Purpose For Work**
 - a. Christ will be glorified through you
 - b. You will receive an inheritance from God
 - c. Your work is to be an expression of your love for Christ (cp. Ephesians 2:10)

IV. You Are Accountable For Where You Are In Life

Matthew 25:19 – 25: Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.^[c] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.'²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.'

- a. You can increase your value
- b. You can survey your gifts and make good use of them
- c. Your success is in your hands.

My Grandma Ethel's Quote: "Whatever job you get, master your area to the degree that when you are off, everyone wants to know where you are. Make yourself valuable to them."

Next Time: What Should You Be Working Toward

- A. Can you work toward money and growth without feeling guilty? (**This can cut two ways**)
- B. Can you work toward a relationship that you reach out to establish (**I am working toward opportunities that I desire for us**)
- C. Can you get over people not wanting to do what you want to do (**They are not supposed to do the work you want to do**)