

## CA 41 TFP4 OUR WORK

### ***Music theme***

**FOSTER:** Since the Garden of Eden, man has worked. After God created Adam Genesis 2 verse 15 tells us, “*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*”

After Adam and Eve sinned by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, we see in Genesis 3 verse 19 God saying, “*by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread.*”

No more working in the glorious environment of the Garden of Eden. With sin, work became *work*. But is that a bad thing?

Welcome to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and I’m with Kent Darcie. Many of you listening enjoy your jobs. Others see your work as a way to keep food on the table and nothing more. Still others hate your jobs and dread going to them. There are also some of you who are looking for a job, but can’t find one.

But regardless of your current job situation, have you ever considered what God thinks about jobs? As men, this is very important for us to know, so please stay with us here on Champions Arise.

### ***Music Theme in – 5 SECS.***

**FOSTER:** Kent, I’ve had jobs that were great and I’ve worked jobs that I dreaded going to.

**KENT:** I’ve had some good and challenging jobs as well. Although, sometimes I think the people you work with can make a difference. If you like what you do, but your coworkers or boss are difficult to work with, it can be a problem.

**FOSTER:** And I’ve seen the opposite as well. Where the job wasn’t great, but the people I worked with made the days enjoyable.

**KENT:** I’ve also had jobs that were very tough environments to work in. But God was teaching me and molding me in those difficult situations.

**FOSTER:** That’s an important perspective to have. That God is working even if it looks like He isn’t.

**KENT:** Even though we may not always agree, God has a purpose for us in our work. And today we’re going to look at *God’s* view of working.

**FOSTER:** Kent, that's really important and I know we are going to learn a lot about this important topic, but I'm sure there are men listening who are thinking, "Guys, I'd love to be working right now, but there are no jobs. Or "I'd like to work, but I'm injured and I can't." What would you say to those men?

**KENT:** If you're able to work, keep praying—keep looking, and don't give up. But I know there are places where the unemployment rate is very high. Or it's difficult to find a paying job.

If you live in an area like this, and you can't relocate, or you're not physically able to work, I would suggest broadening your definition of work.

**FOSTER:** What do you mean?

**KENT:** Well, let me read you something Jesus said. This is from Matthew 25 verses 31-40.

*"But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.*

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'*

*"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? <sup>39</sup> When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'*

*"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'*

**FOSTER:** Everyone can help "the least of these" Jesus referred to.

**KENT:** That's right. And for those who can't find work, or have a physical or mental reason why they can't work, serving "*the least of these*" in some kind of volunteer capacity is a great alternative. It blesses the organization you help, blesses the people you help, gives **you** a sense of value and self-worth because you're using your God-given skills and experience, and it pleases our Lord.

So as we discuss how God looks at work and jobs, I encourage you to apply what we'll talk about in ways you can serve others in your community.

**FOSTER:** That sounds like great advice. So how does God look at our work?

**KENT:** This may be surprising to some, but God created work. As you read in Genesis 2 verse 15, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”

Think about it. God had Adam working—in Paradise.

**FOSTER:** We don’t normally think of it that way, but that’s true.

**KENT:** Apparently men were created to accomplish things. Not just sit around—even in the Garden of Eden. And that makes sense because humans are created in God’s image—and God works. Genesis 1 verse 1 says, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*”

Another example is in Psalm 111 verses 2 and 3: “*Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.*”

And Jesus said in Matthew 6 verse 25, “*Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.*”

So God works, and He sees work as a natural part of our lives as well.

**FOSTER:** So the opportunity to work is a gift from God

**KENT:** I would say yes. And again, “work” has a dual meaning here. There’s work where we get paid, and there’s work where we serve “the least of these.” God has given us gifts, skills, and strength to work in some capacity.

**FOSTER:** I have a question for you, but first I want to remind our listeners that they’re listening to Champions Arise. I’m Foster Braun and Kent Darcie is with me. Today we’re discussing how God views our work.

Kent, we just said that the opportunity to work, or serve, is a gift from God. If that is true, and I believe it is, what should our attitude be about our work?

**KENT:** [light laughter] Probably better than it is. There’s a lot men out there who are unhappy with their jobs. And in all honesty, sometimes the jobs just aren’t great. As Christian men, we are responsible to provide for our families—as best we can.

**FOSTER:** And that means doing a job that may not be what we would like to do.

**KENT:** Yes, biblically, it’s not about the job; it’s our attitude about the job.

**FOSTER:** I don’t mind telling you. I’ve had some pretty stinky attitudes sometimes with my jobs.

**KENT:** Well, I’ve had the same problem. But whatever we’re doing, we need to have attitudes that honor God.

**FOSTER:** And what does that look like? Can you give us some examples?

**KENT:** The book, "*The Four Priorities*" lists four attitudes we should have in regards to our jobs. The first is all work is honorable work—when it's done for the Lord.

Basically, there's no division between secular and sacred work. For example, people often think that the work of the clergy—pastors—is "godlier" than a janitor or the manager in a company. But that's not how God sees it. If our work is done as an act of worship, it honors God

**FOSTER:** And what is the second attitude we should have toward our job?

**KENT:** The next attitude we should have is one that realizes that God calls every man to his vocation—to the job he's doing. When we accept that God has put us where we are, we can have contentment where we are. Foster I've had a couple of jobs that were very difficult. They seemed too hard for me to do. But I knew God had called me there. And I did my best to honor Him in the job.

But you shouldn't be content if you haven't been doing your best at work, or you have a bad attitude, or you're lazy. God isn't going to honor that. But if you're honestly doing your best—for now—God has called you to where you are.

**FOSTER:** And I think we also have to remember that God has the big picture. He has a plan that we may not see.

**KENT:** That's true. And He's given us gifts to use wherever He calls us. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12 verse 4-6, "*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.*"

The Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4 verses 10 and 11, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

**FOSTER:** And that is the important thing—that God gets the praise. Kent, what's the next attitude we need to have regarding our job?

**KENT:** The third attitude we should have understands the motivation and goal of work itself. Why are we working? Many men would say, "To pay the bills." But it's more than that.

Back in the 1600's there was a group called the Puritans. Their goal was to be pure before the Lord—to honor Him in all they did—and that included work. They believed that work should be:

- useful to society,
- should glorify God and be moral,
- should provide for the family and serve as a means to help the poor, and
- it should use our God-given talents.

They believed that if you worked with these motivations and goals, you'd honor God.

**FOSTER:** It's interesting that 400 years later, those criteria still apply.

**KENT:** Yes. If we followed those we'd all be a lot better off.

**FOSTER:** So what is the fourth attitude we should have toward our jobs?

**KENT:** This is a tough one—particularly in western culture, but the fourth attitude we should have is an attitude of moderation with work.

Laziness may be a challenge to some, but a lot of men suffer from being workaholics—working all the time.

And while there may be a time period where you have to work a lot of hours, overall, working all the time is bad for us emotionally, physically, spiritually, and socially.

Now some of you may be thinking, “Kent, you don't know how important my job is.”

My friend, Jesus said, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (Mt 6:33.)” Are you too busy to do that? The world says work, work, work, but Psalm 127 verse 1 says, “*In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for he (God) grants sleep to those he loves*”.

**FOSTER:** We need to trust God to help us balance work and life outside of work. Kent, this has been a very interesting look at God's perspective on work. Can you give us a quick review of what we discussed today?

**KENT:** Sure. We discussed that God created us to work. We also reviewed four attitudes we should have about work.

- All work is honorable – there is no difference between sacred and secular work.
- God calls us to our jobs
- We should honor God in our work, and
- We need a godly balance between work and our personal lives.

**FOSTER:** Thanks Kent. We'll be right back.

***Music Theme in*****Program Close**

**FOSTER:** Thank you for listening to Champions Arise where men are equipped and strengthened to meet their God-given potential. Today we discussed how God views our work. This program was based on material from chapter 26 of the book “The Four Priorities” by Dr. John Tolson and Larry Kreider. “The Four Priorities” is published by “The Gathering USA” in 2007 and used by permission. You can learn more about this book and listen to any of these programs at our website [championsarise.org](http://championsarise.org) and by clicking on ‘*The Four Priorities.*’ I’m Foster Braun with Kent Darcie. Thank you for listening to Champions Arise. May God mold you into the man He knows you can be.

***Music under then up established and out.***

**Closing ID**

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