



## It's All His: Earn All You Can

### MAIN THING

Laziness is not a spiritual discipline; poverty is not holiness

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:14-30, Genesis 2:15, Colossians 3:23-24, Exodus 20:17, Proverbs 12:11, Proverbs 13:11, Matthew 5:41

### ICEBREAKER

The worst job I ever had was . . . .

### OPENING THOUGHT

This is part one of a series within a series. The best Christian financial ethic I've ever heard is John Wesley's statement- "Earn all you can, Save all you can, Give all you can." Those three statements work like three legs on a stool- without all three, everything crashes down.

There is a strange, toxic line of thought within the church that goes something like this- "It's a sin to be wealthy, and anyone who makes a lot of money must be out of God's will." To be sure, the Bible warns us of the love of money and all that, and we are called to be wise with what we earn, but nowhere in the Bible does it say earning is evil. In fact, many statements in the Bible say the exact opposite. Work, in the Bible, is seen as a good thing. A blessing from God. Unfortunately, many of us have a bad thought process when it comes to work, and we need to get that right.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. What messages did you receive about work when you were growing up? What was the attitude towards work that you picked up from the people around you?
3. What does "work as if working for the Lord" mean to you and how can you apply that every day at your job?
4. How can you "go the extra mile" at work this week?

### LIFE APPLICATION

Work is a blessing from God. We've lost that in our fallen world, and work has become a popular topic of complaining and whining for many people. Laziness is a real problem in our world, and there is a common lament among employers that they "can't find anyone willing to work." What if Christians were different? What if bosses marveled at their Christian employees who showed up to work on time, did it right the first time, went the extra mile, and "worked as if working for the Lord, not human masters" consistently every day? What an amazing example to the world that would be.

### CHALLENGE

This week, look for at least one instance where you can go the extra mile as Jesus commanded. See if you can eliminate complaining. Honor God with the way you work. If you are facing budget shortfalls, look at picking up a part-time job to increase your income so that you can truly, "Earn all you can."