



Face the Issue:

This week, Matt reminded us that we should put God first in all that we do. It is so important that God made it commandment number one. Matt gave us some examples of things that we often put ahead of God. One thing that he did not mention was our job.

Most people would agree that it's important to have a job to provide for our needs. However, it is easy to get caught up in the alluring benefits of success. As Christians, we want to make sure our jobs do not become idols, coming before Christ. After all, what are we living for?

What emotional needs can jobs meet?

What dangers do Christians face when they define themselves by their jobs?

What is the difference between how jobs meet our needs for belonging and self-esteem and how Christ meets those needs?

Into the Word:

Read **Luke 12:13–24, 29–34**

Jesus has a message for those who devote their lives to attaining occupational success and material things.

Why should we not strive for success and possessions in this life?

What happens to our earthly success when we die?

What does Jesus tell us to seek?

How will we obtain earthly success and possessions if we don't strive for them?

Read **Ecclesiastes 2:4–11, 17–26**

Solomon, who seems to have reached a midlife crisis, questions the validity of spending his life trying to be successful.

Why is Solomon dissatisfied with his work and wealth?

What will happen to his possessions when he dies?

How does Solomon come to view his accomplishments?

How does he feel about how he has spent his time and energy when he realizes he can't take it with him?

In verses 24–26, how does Solomon put work into a proper perspective?

Who is ultimately responsible for man's accomplishments on earth?

Action Step

What percentage of your time is spent in activities related to your job? This includes time spent on the job, doing job-related work at home, thinking about the job, commuting, and so on.

Which is more satisfying for you—being praised for good work on the job, or knowing that God loves you? Working with peers on the job, or being part of the body of Christ? Getting a raise, or being assured of eternal life with Christ? What scripture apply to this issue?