

Reflection Questions: Matthew 22:34-40

For the message, "Working for the Common Good" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on June 24, 2018

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Matthew 22:34-40

A summary of the message: If all of our life work is about loving God and loving our neighbor, then all of our work life should be about loving God and loving our neighbor.

Key Points:

- All work can be sacred, not just "spiritual work."
- All work is an opportunity to join God in his work.
- All work is an opportunity to love-by-serving.

Bottom Line:

- When you take the posture of a servant to love your neighbor well, then you tap into the purpose of work, and you can actually begin to see your work as a calling from God and an offering to God—an act of worship.
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QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Do you find it easy or difficult to grasp that the work that you do day in and day out—whether it is your paid work or any number of responsibilities you have—is one of the primary ways that God calls you to love people?
- Why might God be bringing this teaching of Jesus to your attention as you think about your work life? What is going on in your life to which this would be relevant?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- When we live out this teaching of Jesus and apply it to our work life, how does this underscore the witness of our church community? In other words, how does loving others well with our work give credibility to the message we proclaim about the Good News of Jesus?

- What is the cost if we are not transformed by this call to love others well by serving them with our work? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message and the people of Mercy Hill Church approach work just like everyone else?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? Or to put it another way, how would the call to love others in and by our work give perspective to people about why they exist?
- How would Bryan/College Station look radically different if everybody took seriously what Jesus taught about loving others and applied it to their work?

To think about on your own:

- If someone were to follow you around during the week, do you think that they would conclude that you believe that you are called to love people by the things that you do? Why or why not?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points...

- Father, I thank you that _____.
- Jesus, I need _____ to live out apply your teaching in my work life.
- Holy Spirit, enable me to _____.