

SERMON TITLE: *Made For The World*

SERMON SERIES: Made For This

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:15, Psalm 150:6

BIG Idea: We were made for the WORLD!

#1 We were made to bless the world through work.

- God is a vigorous worker.
 - *Work: activity involving mental or physical effort in order to achieve a purpose or result.*
 - Human flourishing is the goal of God's work.
- Made in the image of a working God means that we were made to work.
 - a. What is the nature of our work?
 - i. We are to **RULE!** But how?
 1. **Subduing**
 2. **Tending**
 - And...
 3. **Keeping** all that God has created
- Here's your job description:
 - Job Title:** King or Queen
 - Will Report to:** The King of Kings
 - Primary task:** to rule the earth
 - Responsibilities:** manage, develop, direct, maintain and protect all the resources of God's amazing creation
 - Mission:** Maximize human flourishing as God defines it
- Ruling like a master gardener
- The negative effects of ignoring God's design that we were made to work
- Ways to redeem the goodness of work:

- I. We must see work as good and major part of what it means to be human.
- II. The church must view equipping people to be excellent workers as a vital component of discipleship.
- III. We must choose our work wisely.
- IV. We must trust God enough to pursue ruling in the way that he has uniquely designed us to rule.
- V. We must never stop working.

#2 We were made to bless the world through our witness.

- We were made to glorify God.
 - a. We glorify God by following his design for human life.
 - b. We glorify God by the words we speak and sing.
- In commanding that we praise God, God is commanding our joy to be made complete because praise, as C.S. Lewis notes, completes the enjoyment of the thing or person being praised.
- Because sin has entered the world, we must also be God's witnesses so that people who are trapped in the prison of sin that leads to eternal death might see God's goodness and turn to him for salvation.
 - a. **Gospel proclamation** is using words to bear witness to the good news that God has accomplished our salvation for us through Christ in order to bring us into a right relationship with him and to eventually destroy all the results of sin in the world.

In Gospel proclamation we help people to understand the answers to these five questions:

 1. Where did we come from?
 2. What went wrong?
 3. How will things be made right?
 4. How can I be made right?
 5. How has God designed me to live?
 - b. **Gospel demonstration** is living in a way that your life provides tangible evidence that the Gospel you proclaim is real.

- i. We demonstrate the power of the Gospel when the Holy Spirit empowers us to live out God's design for human life...when we pursue intimacy with God, rest and celebrate well, love our family and our church family, and work for human flourishing, and act as witness for God.
- ii. We demonstrate the Gospel by doing all of these things with transformed character.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you make of the fact that you were designed to rule?
2. Think of different occupations with your group. List some of the ways that those occupations do the work of ruling through subduing, tending, and keeping and work for human flourishing. For example, a janitor subdues tools and chemicals to manage the condition of a school district's facilities so that teachers have a safe, clean, useful environment to work in and students have a conducive environment to learn in.
3. What stands out to you regarding the use of gardening as a metaphor for work?
4. Sin has infected everything including work. In what ways have you experienced sin's negative impact on work?
5. Why is it critical that the church equip people to be excellent workers?
6. Based on your spiritual gifts, the passions God has placed in your heart, the natural abilities God has given you, your personality, and your life experiences, what work can you pour yourself into that will have the greatest impact on human flourishing as God defines it? Is what you are currently doing for work? Or is it something else?
7. Do you feel confident in your ability to help a person answer the five questions Pastor Shane mentioned that assist us in proclaiming the Gospel? If so, how would you answer them?
8. What tangible evidence exists in your life that the Gospel is real?
9. Considering the entire *Made For This* sermon series, how would you rate yourself at:
 - Pursuing intimacy with God
 - Resting and celebrating
 - Loving your family
 - Loving your church

- Working for God's glory and human flourishing
- Being a witness for Jesus through Gospel proclamation and demonstration

10. As we wrap up this sermon series, what is your major take away? What will you do about it? Who will hold you accountable?

Resources to Dive Deeper:

- Sermon series by Pastor Shane:
 - *Between Sundays*
 - *Going Public*
- Books
 - *Garden City* by John Mark Comer
 - *Every Good Endeavor* by Timothy Keller