

FINDING MEANING BEYOND THE HUSTLE

WORK



REDEEMED



EVERY NATION
CHURCH • PENANG

Genesis 1:27-28

27 So God **created** man in his own image, in the image of God he **created** him; male and female he **created** them.
28. And God **blessed** them. And God said to them, "Be **fruitful** and **multiply** and **fill** the earth and **subdue** it, **and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**RECLAIMING AND
FULFILLING GOD'S
ORIGINAL VISION
FOR WORK
IN OUR LIVES**

FINDING MEANING BEYOND THE HUSTLE



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WORK
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BE
FRUITFUL



NOT HUSTLE

WORK
REDEEMED

MULTIPLY



PROSPERITY WITH PURPOSE

WORK
REDEEMED

FROM
OVERCOMER
CULTURE



TO KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

FILL



INFLUENCE WITH INTEGRITY

**WORK
REDEEMED**

**FROM
OVERCOMER
CULTURE**

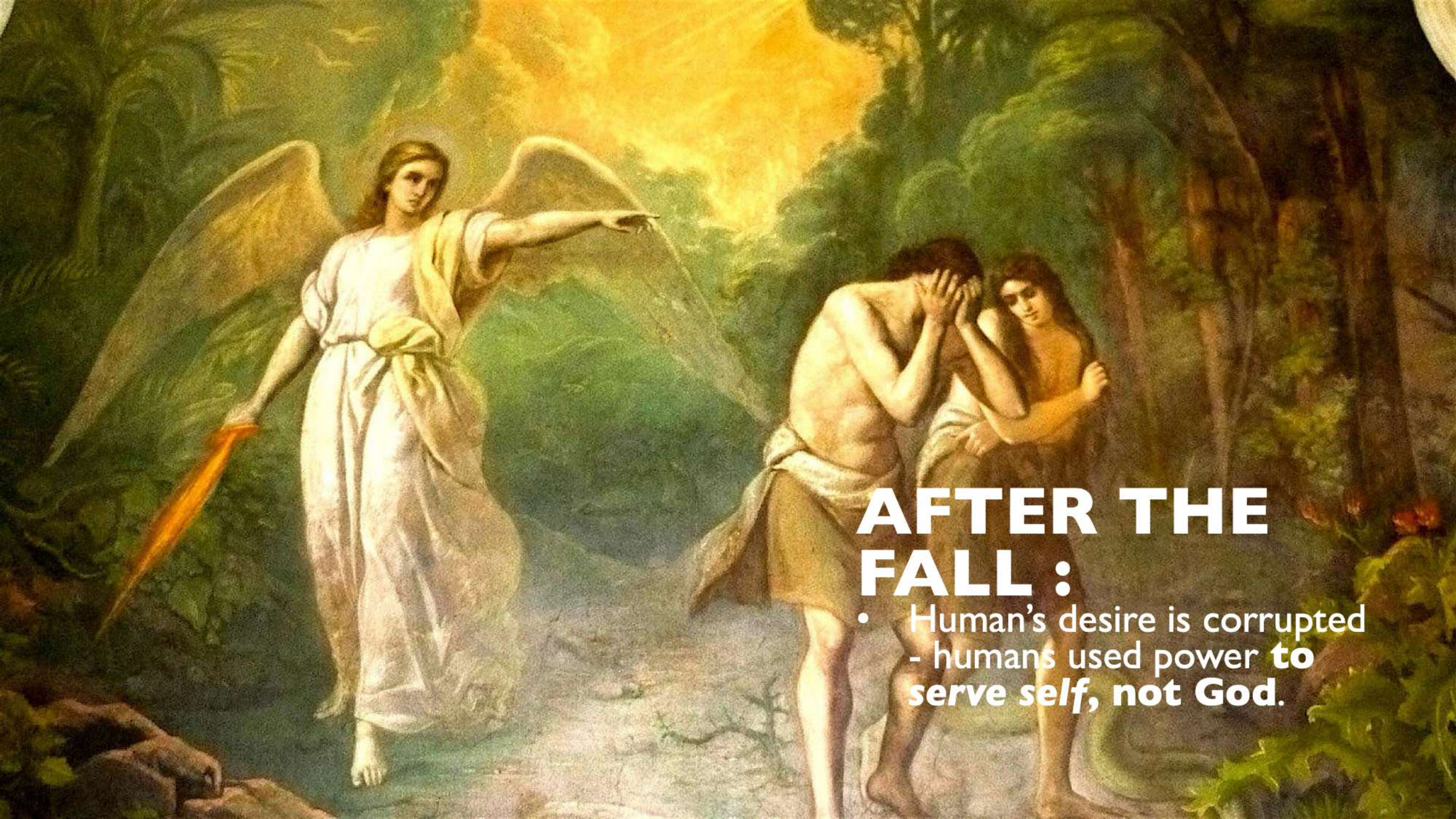
TO KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

Genesis 1:28

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CREATION MANDATE :

- GOD **CREATED** MAN
- GOD **BLESSED** THEM :
BE FRUITFUL, MULTIPLY, FILL
AND **SUBDUE** AND HAVE
DOMINION;
- GOD GAVE THEM AUTHORITY
(to **extend** His rule, to **reflect** His
nature and to **represent** His
purpose in creation)



AFTER THE FALL :

- Human's desire is corrupted
- humans used power **to**
serve self, not God.

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SUBDUE :

- (Hebrew: קָבַשׁ – *kabash*)
- **means to bring** order, manage resources, and exercise authority **that** reflects God’s justice and care.
- **The idea is not** violent conquest/suppression, **but** bringing creation into its God-intended harmony, purpose and productivity.



Genesis 1:28

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HAVE DOMINION :

- (Hebrew: רָדָה – *radah*)
- **means to** rule, to govern, to exercise responsible authority or govern as a steward.”
- It is like a **shepherd** who leads, protects, and provides for the flock.





WORK CULTURE



ANCIENT TIMES :WORK AS SURVIVAL

- Work was largely **physical labor** — farming, building, or crafting for survival.
- **The goal** was to live another day.
- **Work** felt like a **curse & pain**, not a **calling**.



INDUSTRIAL & MODERN TIMES :WORK AS STATUS

- As **civilization** advanced, work became a **source of identity and status**.
- The **Industrial** Revolution **turned** people into **producers**, not **persons**.



TODAY'S CULTURE :

- **PERFORMANCE DRIVEN** Leads To Pressure;
- **LEADERSHIP** marked by whom you can out-perform/ out-shine, control;
- **SUCCESS** measured by rising above others, lording over; this creating climate of fear, ego and power plays.
- **How** high, how much, how powerful you become...



WORK shifted

- **from** *serving others* **to** *self-promotion*;
- **from** calling **to** careerism;

WE live in a world obsessed with

- Performance, power and position.



BUT GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN : WORK-

- was part of **Worship** :
- was meant **to Serve creation, not** enslave;
- **as steward not** dominate and abuse;
- it is to **reflect** God's creativity, heart, care and stewardship;

**WORK
REDEEMED**

**FROM
OVERCOMER
CULTURE**

TO KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

**NOW WE CONNECT BOTH
GOD'S CREATION
MANDATE AND
JESUS KINGDOM MODEL**

Mark 10:42-45

42 And **Jesus** **called** them to him and **said** to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **43** But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. **45** For even **the Son of Man** **came** not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

JESUS : THE WORK- CULTURE CHANGER

HOW DOES **WORK REDEEMED** AT WORKPLACE?

The World says,
“Climb higher”
“Take control”
“Be served”

JESUS says,
“Go lower”
“Take up the cross.”
“Serve others”

Greatness is not in how many **serve you**
BUT how **you serve** others.

#1 : JESUS REDEEMS OUR MOTIVE FOR WORK

=FROM AMBITION
TO SERVICE

Mark 10:42-43a

42 And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

*43 But **it shall not be so among you...***

Motive :

World's vs Kingdom :

- "how can I get there?" vs "how can I serve?"
- "work for yourselves" vs "work for others"
- Achieving "status, recognition, personal gain" vs "service, contribution, transformation"

Mark 10:35-37

35 And **James and John**, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." **36** And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" **37** And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory."

WORK REDEEMED :
**WHAT IS JESUS
DOING/
SAYING?**

**1-JESUS EXPOSES
THE TOXIC MOTIVE**

- the drive to rule, to be seen, to be above.
- ambition without surrender leads to abuse.

**2-JESUS CALLS US TO
A NEW MOTIVE**

- to serve and not to be served.

WORK REDEEMED :
**MOTIVE FOR
WORK**

Work is redeemed :

When our motivation shifts from **personal promotion** to **people's flourishing**.

Work is redeemed :

When our work becomes **a way to bless others**, you start to **reflect** the heart of God.

Work is Worship : not self-promotion. We work **for** God, **with** God and **unto** God.

WORK REDEEMED :
**WHAT DO WE
DO AT WORK-
PLACE?**

Start your day asking :

Instead of “How can I get ahead?”
ASK :

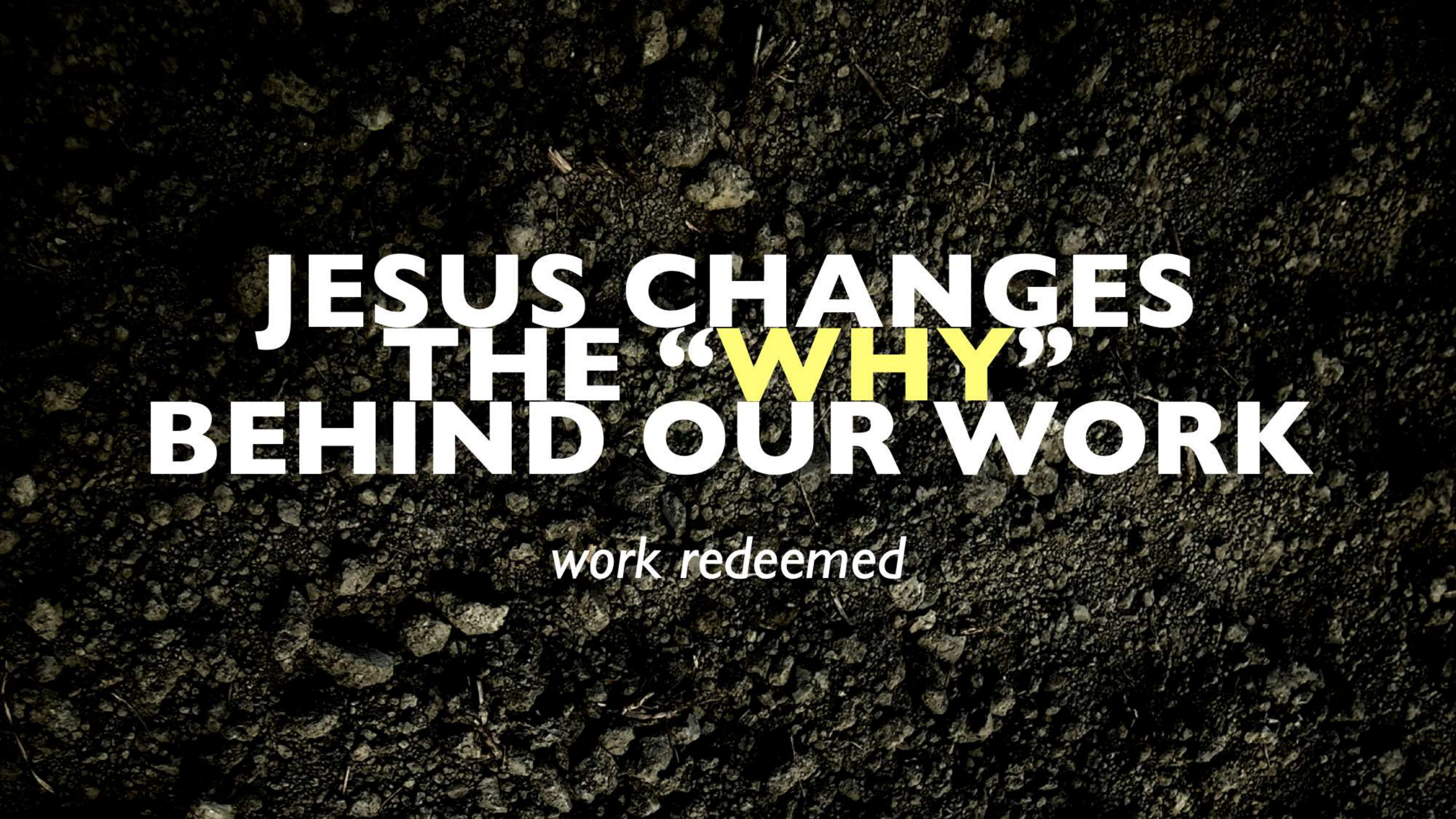
- “How can I add value?”
- “Who can I serve through my work today?”
- “Am I using my role to advance my name or God’s name?”
- “What drives me at work - ambition or service?”

The image features five individuals climbing tall, silver ladders against a solid teal background. From left to right: a woman in a black dress is high up on the first ladder; a man in a white shirt and dark pants is about halfway up the second ladder; a woman in a grey top and black skirt is about a quarter of the way up the third ladder; a man in a light blue shirt and dark pants is about a quarter of the way up the fourth ladder; and a man in a blue shirt and grey pants is about halfway up the fifth ladder. The ladders are positioned at regular intervals across the frame.

**Kingdom shift : Instead
of climbing ladders...WE**

The image features three silhouetted figures climbing a dark, jagged mountain peak. The figure on the left is at the top, reaching down to assist the middle figure. The middle figure is in a crouched position, reaching up towards the first figure. The figure on the right is at the base of the peak, reaching up towards the middle figure. The background is a bright, hazy sky with soft, white clouds, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of teamwork and achievement.

We LIFT others up!
Our ambition will
Reflect God's heart in
our workplace.



JESUS CHANGES THE “WHY” BEHIND OUR WORK

work redeemed

#2 : JESUS REDEEMS OUR MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

**=FROM CONTROL
TO COMPASSION**

Mark 10:43-44

43 *But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be **great** among you must be your **servant**,*

44 *and whoever would be **first** among you must be **slave** of all.*

Model :

- **World : equates** greatness with control - more authority, more applause, more autonomy and more and more.
- In the **Kingdom : greatness** is measured by how much you serve, **not** how much you control.

WORK REDEEMED :
**WHAT IS JESUS
DOING/
SAYING?**

**1-JESUS FLIPS THE WORLD'S
LEADERSHIP PYRAMID UPSIDE
DOWN.**

- **World** : the top commands the bottom.
- **Kingdom** : the top empowers the bottom.

**2-JESUS INTRODUCES
SERVANT LEADERSHIP**

- Jesus turns hierarchy into humility.

WORK REDEEMED :
**MODEL FOR
LEADERSHIP**

When you see your leadership as stewardship, your heart shifts -

- From **ego** to **empathy**.
- From **competing** to **contributing**.

Leadership is **not** about asserting **power** **but** building and empowering others.

- It is about using authority to build up, **not** break down.
- It's **not** to *lord over*, **but** to *lift others up*

WORK REDEEMED :
**WHAT DO WE
DO AT WORK-
PLACE?**

Instead of Commanding you **begin to Listen** before **leading**.

- **Ask** : how you can make your team better, **not** just your results orientated.

Our leadership begins to reflect God's shepherd heart.

You will see people

- as people not pawns,
- as co-workers and not competitors.





JESUS CHANGES THE “HOW” OF OUR LEADERSHIP

work redeemed

#3 : JESUS REDEEMS OUR MEANS OF INFLUENCE

**FROM POWER
TO SACRIFICE**

Mark 10:45

45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Means :

- **World** : exert influence through power - the **louder** voice, the **stronger** hand and the **bigger** platform;
- In God's **Kingdom**, influence flows **not** from power, **but** from service — the **listening** ear; the **helping** hand; and the **lower** posture.

WORK REDEEMED :
**WHAT IS JESUS
DOING/
SAYING?**

1-JESUS models influence through surrender - by laying down his life.

- His influence came **not** from a throne of power, **but** from a cross of sacrifice.

2-JESUS models by using his authority not to take but to serve and give.

- Jesus is the Servant-King; he has all authority, yet uses it to serve and to save.

WORK REDEEMED :
**MEANS OF
INFLUENCE**

Jesus showed that sacrifice is the truest form of leadership.

Jesus showed his disciples that **THE MEANS** doesn't come from **position**, but from **posture** — kneeling, washing feet, giving of his life.

WORK REDEEMED :
**WHAT DO WE
DO AT WORK-
PLACE?**

When It seems like that posture cost Jesus his **position**, that **posture** transforms lives.
ASK

- “**Will you** be **willing** to take the hard role that benefits others?”
- “**Will you Stand** for truth, even when it costs you?”
- “**Will you use** your influence/ power to restore and reconcile, not to intimidate or impress?”



**JESUS CHANGES
THE “WAY” WE
USE OUR POWER**

work redeemed

Work Redeemed :

Summary : CHRIST REDEEMS...

Our **Motive** for work : shifting us from *ambition* to *service*.

- Greatness is **not** how high we climb, **but** how deeply we serve.

Our **Model** of leadership : from *control* to *compassion*.

- True leadership **lifts others up**, not holds them down.

Our **Means** of influence : from *power* to *sacrifice*.

- The greatest influence flows from a **humble** heart and **willing** hands.

Application Questions :

Q1 :

Which part of Jesus' teaching in Mark 10 **challenges** your current **view** of leadership or work the most?

Q2 :

What would **change** in your workplace if "**service**" replaced "**status**" as the measure of success?

Q3 :

Where might Jesus be **calling** you to **lay down** your "power" and serve someone sacrificially this week?