

Home Group Reading for June 16-21, 2024

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? 3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Mark 6:1-3

When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." Matthew 13:53-57

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 7 "Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' Matthew 20:1-7

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." 23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. Luke 3:21-23

Excerpts

"Through his incarnation, Jesus co-suffers with us, and has redeemed work that does not seem redemptive."

Reflection Questions

1. When you consider the "carpenter" identity of Jesus, what feelings or thoughts come to mind?
2. How does Jesus' life as a labourer effect how we follow him?
3. Do you ever feel like work feels pointless? How does Scott's perspective that Jesus worked as a carpenter, also most likely completing mundane tasks, bring you comfort? Or does it?
4. The idea that God delights in Jesus before Jesus accomplishes anything (Luke 3) can be hard for us to accept in a world that holds back acceptance until we've accomplished our work. What would it look like for us to look on others (co-workers, employees, spouse, kids, friends, etc.) with delight and favour before anything is done to "deserve" it?
5. Jesus co-suffers with us. Does this mostly comfort you or mostly trouble you when you reflect on this? Do you sometimes wish Jesus was outside of our experience in order to be more "God-like" and in control or does his co-suffering bring you peace?
6. Our work is redemptive even if it doesn't at first appear to be so. What are some ways that our work can be redemptive even if it eventually turns to dust in the end?