

Grace and Work
Matthew 5:44-45, 22:36-40
June 1, 2014
Message Notes



1. God's Common Grace

Matthew 5.44-45

God's kindnesses generously given to all people

(see also Psalm 145.9, 15-16, Mark 10.21, Luke 6.35-36,
Acts 14.16-17, 2 Peter 3.9-10, etc.)

2. God's Common Grace Working Through Me

Matthew 22.36-40

"It is not enough when one can say, 'Oh I work, I have my trade, I set the pace.' This is not enough; for one must be concerned whether it is good and profitable to the community and if it is able to serve our neighbors."
John Calvin

3. Our Great Disconnect: Common Grace and Work

Boaz the farmer, Ruth the Moabite, and God's law of the harvest Leviticus 19.9-10

Paul the leatherworker, his work and common grace Acts 20.32-35

(see also Galatians 6.10, 1 Thessalonians 5.15, Titus 3.1-2,
Luke 6.35-36, etc.)

4. Common Grace Often Opens the Door for Saving Grace

"God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does."
Martin Luther

Following God in working common grace

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Growth Group Questions



1. What is something God has challenged you with in our *Work Matters* series? New insight? How is the Holy Spirit nudging you, tweaking your attitude?

2. Let's think about common grace.

a. What is common grace? Give some specific examples of common grace in our world today.

b. Is common grace only for Christians? What's the biblical support of your answer?

c. If I buy into the myth that God's kindnesses and mercies (common grace) are only for believers, what are some of the implications for my work?

d. Read the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10.27-37. How does this story help us understand God's common grace and Jesus' great command (Matthew 22:36-40)? How does this story connect with our work?

3. Where do I need the Holy Spirit's empowering to spread God's common grace in my work? Be specific, name names, identify bad attitudes. Pray for one another that our work will matter for God's glory.