Your Work Matters: You Have a Significant Work to Do

Exodus 2-4

Your Work Matters Series

Pastor Mark Kremer

Well, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" That's a great question when we're two years old. You know all the little kids have some idea. We all had some idea of what we wanted to be when we grew up. Most of us along the way have wanted to be an Olympic athlete—you know especially as you've watched that this last couple of weeks. Some wanted to be famous, maybe a fireman or an astronaut. And it's cute, you know, when little kids are kind of thinking about what the possibilities might be for their life and what they want to be in their simplistic way. As we get a little bit older and you get to high school and college and people ask you, "What are you going to do when you grow up?" The pressure starts to build a little bit because now that's right in front of you. You're at a point where you're having to make some decisions and it's a challenge because of so many options out there in the culture we live in.

What I think sometimes we fail to realize is how unique the ability to choose what we're going to do is to our particular time in history and in a western affluent culture. Most people from the beginning of time, what they were going to do—the call on their life—was determined long before they were born. You were born into whatever state, condition, situation that you were going to be in for the rest of your life and that's the way most of humanity has lived. I'm reminded of that every time I go to India. We go to the rock quarry where people are born into a position and they don't have the choice to say, "Well, what am I going to do with my life?" You're going to be in the rock quarry.

But we have this incredible choice in front of us and it's a lot of pressure when you're young and you have to try to make those decisions based on not a whole lot of information that you have about yourself. And so you make the very best choice that you can and launch into a career. After awhile a lot of folks get into a career thinking, "Man, this is not all that I had hoped it would be. This isn't maybe really what I think I'm wired to do. This really isn't very exciting. This doesn't really utilize my talents or abilities. I don't really have much passion or interest around this particular job that I have." And we begin to question what it is that we should be doing with our life.

Other people will get into a career path and they're very successful at it—they're very good at it. They dive in and there is meaning and they flourish in it. But a lot of times situations arise in life that may be beyond your control—where you're laid off or there's a financial crisis or health issues or other things that come along. And all of a sudden that dream is shattered and broken and now you find yourself in mid-life saying, "What am I going to do when I grow up? I'm in a place that I never could have imagined that I would be in. Now what?"

And then there's that time in almost everyone's life where you're looking back at a career or maybe you've done what you've been doing for twenty, twenty-five, thirty years and you think, *"You know I'm really ready to move on. I'm ready to do something else. There's got to be*

something more beyond just this career." And so again we find ourselves with the question, "What do I do? What do I want to do or be when I grow up?" And some people, even as they approach retirement, are saying, "You know I've done my job—my career. Money isn't really an issue now but I still have a lot of life." And that's again very unique to our culture—that at retirement age we still have in most cases a good twenty or thirty years of life left to do something with. And so again we find ourselves asking the question, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life? What do I want to be when I grow up?"

That's a very important question for all of us—whatever stage of life we're at—and if you haven't asked it in the last five years, you probably will in the next five years because it's just a continual part of our journey through this life—of trying to figure out what's next.

Now let's go back for a second. You know when we are young, what many people do is they try to contemplate what they're going to do with their life as they think primarily about a career—about a job. And you try to find that particular job that fits your talents and abilities and that's a good match with who you are and has some challenge and excitement for you. But very few people, at that stage in life, are thinking about your life as a *calling*. You know we're just kind of thinking about getting a job and something we can love and enjoy and primarily that's kind of about us. But the idea that God might have a *call* on our life is something that many of us have not really considered. In fact, even in the church culture, a *call* was typically thought of as those who were going to be missionaries or pastors—that there was this sort of special group of people that were *called* and everybody else just kind of did what they wanted to do—of course loving Jesus and being holy and sharing their faith, yes, but not really thinking about does God have a bigger *call* on my life? But I believe that God has a *call* for every single Christian, that we are all *called*; we are all in full time ministry. We're all to be doing what God has specifically called and designed us to do and it may not be just one thing for a lifetime. It may be a series of things that build on each other and grow and develop into this life work that would involve your career and things outside of your career. It involves your family—it involves the totality of your life—but it is a *calling* from God that you are to be about something, something that is unique to who God has made you.

I want to challenge you, if that is not the way you've been thinking about your life, to really contemplate whether or not that's true because I think God wants to speak to each one of us and have us have a sense that He's *called* us to something. As the verse we've been memorizing said, "We're His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10) In other words God has a plan and a purpose for our life and some of those things that He is calling us to, He's calling all of us to do. But there is a part of that that is very unique and special—that has just your name written on it.

The question that I think all of us wrestle with, whether we're in high school or college or we're facing retirement and thinking about what's next, the question is, "How do I figure out what my calling is? What is the journey like? What's the process that God uses to help me identify His calling on my life?"

Well, in order to help us plot that journey and what it typically looks like, we want to open our Bibles and look at the life of Moses this morning as an example of that particular journey. So if you have your Bibles, turn to Exodus, Chapter 2.

One thing I need to say, just up front, is the fact that we could have picked almost any biblical character and done this study this morning, because there's great similarity between the process that God uses to call people to their life work and there are more similarities than differences really. But Moses is a good example of that and it's also important for us to realize that many of the people who were *called* in the Scriptures were not called to what we would think of as *ministry*. In this case Moses is called to national leadership. Some are called to be soldiers—to be warriors. Some were called to be administrators in times of crisis. And then there were others who were called, like Paul and others, to specific kinds of ministry. But it really encompasses a call across a broad spectrum of different things that God calls us to and I think that's important for us to understand.

Now just a bit of background on where we're going to pick up the story. Remember that Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and carried into Egypt and went through quite a long ordeal of imprisonment and everything else. But ultimately God positioned him, by design and call, to save his family that would become the nation of Israel and to save the whole Egyptian nation from famine because of his wisdom and skill. And then Joseph ruled in Egypt and the Hebrew people—the family of Jacob—grew in numbers and power and significance within Egypt. So there were all these foreigners within the land of Egypt and they become very, very powerful. As Exodus opens up it says, "A king emerged in Egypt who did not remember Joseph." So we're talking about generations after Joseph—nobody even remembered him anymore. It was like, "Who was that Joseph guy that saved the nation?" Now all the king saw was this incredibly large and growing foreign population in his country that was threatening to overpower and overcome the very nation. And so he enslaved the Hebrew people. He made them work hard. He put them basically to slave labor and still they gained in strength and numbers it says. And finally—when he thought there was no other choice—the Pharaoh of Egypt said, "All the baby boys should be killed." And he instructed the midwives to kill the baby boys of the Hebrew people at birth. When that didn't work, because they refused to obey, he told all the people that when they see a newborn Hebrew boy to throw it into the Nile River. So it was into this unique time and situation that Moses is born. Chapter 2, Verse 1:

> **Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to find out what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her maidens walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid, and she brought it to her. When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go ahead." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. The child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she named him Moses, and said, "Because I drew him out of the water."**
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> (*NASB, Exodus 2:1-10)

Now Moses has a very unique early life story. You know in one sense his mother obeyed the command of the Pharaoh. She threw her baby into the Nile. She just happened to put him in a nice basket that was lined and covered—waterproof so that he would live. Technically she followed through but she wanted to see what would happen. And so here is this enslaved people and this baby boy, who was supposed to have been killed, who is now living and found by no one less than the Pharaoh's daughter. And she takes pity on him. She has the mother nurse the child until it is to be weaned and then she takes him in as her own son. And here is Moses now being raised as the grandson to the king of Egypt. From enslaved—should be dead—to living as a grandson of the king of Egypt. That is a unique story that is a significant part of the *call* of God on Moses' life. In other words God laid a sovereign foundation of experience in Moses' life to prepare him for his life work.

It's interesting because Stephen, in Acts 7, before he was to be stoned, kind of recounts the history of the people of Israel and he mentions Moses and this is what he says in Acts 7:22: "Moses was educated in all the learning of the Egyptians and he was a man of power in words and deeds."

So Moses wasn't just raised in the Pharaoh's household. He was a significant intellect. He had power in both words and deeds. He was skilled in all the learning of the Egyptians—one of the most learned cultures of the time. That was Moses' background. That was his story. Those were the sovereign foundations of his life.

For you and me who are trying to discern and understand God's call on our life for what is ahead, it's very important that we pay attention to the sovereign foundations that have been laid in our life. Your story—what has happened in your life to this point—is not a wasted experience. It's not separate from the *call* that God will have on your life. It's part of His preparing you and me for the work that He has for us. There's a reason why you've gone through the things you've gone through. There is a reason why you were born into the family you were born in. There is significance that you were born in the timeframe and the location and place where you were born. All of those things have meaning and significance and I think, at some point in our lives, we'll be able to look back and be able to see how all of those things that happened in our lives were there for a reason. They were the sovereign foundations of our life. For us to begin to figure out what our calling is, we need to go back and recount and know our story and try to pay attention to what it is that has taken place in our life up to this point, because it has all happened for a reason.

I think the first place, then, is just to pay attention to your life story—and I don't know exactly what that looks like for you. But if you've ever taken the time to just kind of go back through your life and write down the big events: your history, the experiences that you've had, your talents, your abilities, your passions and interests that grew out of, no doubt, experiences that you've had—things that you care about—things that are important to you because of things that have happened in your life. Even the most horrible things that have happened to us happened for a reason and many times those bad experiences helped to shape what we were called to do. Many of the problems that are solved in our world are solved by people who have experienced those problems and have given their life to fix those things, to work on those things, to see those things changed. Moses' early life and story mattered. It counted. It was important. Well notice what happens next in this story.

Verse 11:

Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to

his brethren and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw there was no one around, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. He went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, "Why are you striking your companion?" But he said, "Who made you a prince or a judge over us? Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said, "Surely the matter has become known." When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian;

(Vs. 11-15)

Moses is going about his plan for his life—the plan that was in front of him—and he's a part of Pharaoh's household. He's doing what princes do. He's out living his life. He's forty years old now so he's not just a young man but he's been doing this sort of royal thing for quite awhile. Moses has some very good qualities. One of those qualities is he doesn't like injustice. He is a man who wants justice. And so, in this particular case, he sees a great injustice happening and out of anger he kills the man and buries him in the sand. Moses has this moment of failure, this moment where his plan suddenly comes face to face with the reality of life, and his choice basically gets Moses fired. I mean he's no longer a part of the royal household. He's lost everything that he's had now. He has to run for his life. His plans that he had mapped out for his life are completely out of the question now. Now he's a man on the run. He's a man in a far-off wilderness. He's far from the palace of Egypt because of his failure. Moses, at that point in time, went with "Plan Moses". He was doing his own thing in his own way.

I think it's very significant for us to think about how true that is of us—how oftentimes we go into life—especially early in our life and we're doing our own thing. We kind of have our own plan, our own idea. We've sort of mapped it out and laid it out. We think we know exactly what we want to do. We've got sort of our career map—our path laid out—and basically it's *our* plan. If we're Christian we may offer our plan to God and said, "Hey, God, here's my plan. Bless it. You know, help me. Help it come to pass." But it's still basically our plan. It's our idea of our future and what it ought to look like. We take matters into our own hands. We try to make things happen because that's just the way we are. And then we have to have this disappointment or failure or loss—where our plans are thwarted—and suddenly we can find ourselves in a very different place than where we thought we'd be. We are far from the ideal plan that we once laid out for our own lives. But it seems like it's a very necessary part of getting us ready to hear what God wants for us, because the only way we're going to really listen to God's plan for our life is to have our own plan sort of come to an end. Our thoughts about what life was going to be about—how our career was going to go—can suddenly come to an end and that puts us in a position to really listen and hear from God about what *His* plan is now. And that is exactly where Moses found himself. Notice what happens in Midian where he settles or where he flees to.

Verse 16:

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters; and they came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. Then the shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and helped them and watered their flock. When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "Why have you come back so soon today?" So they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds; and what is more, he even drew the water for us and watered the flock." He said to his daughters,

"Where is he then? Why is it that you have left the man behind? Invite him to have something to eat." Moses was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses. Then she gave birth to a son, and he named him Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." (Vs. 16-22)

Even though Moses had this significant failure, he finds himself in Midian and there God provides for him. God connects him to this family and ultimately provides a wife and a family and for forty years Moses lives as a shepherd in this family far from what he thought would be his life plan. It's sort of his *desert experience*, but all the while God is providing for him, God is also doing something more significant. That is God is positioning Moses to be able to listen and hear what God's plan for the next season of his life was going to be about. It was a time of seasoning and of deepening in Moses' life to prepare him for the work that he was going to be called to—yet to come.

Many of us find ourselves in a place where we're thinking, "This is not what I had planned for my life or my career. I am not really in a job that is satisfying." God is providing through it but perhaps this is sort of that desert experience for you where you're going along and trying to make the best of the situation. It's important that, during these times, we are growing in our heart and positioning our own heart to listen to God—to hear what He might want for us next. Whether you're young, in high school or college, or whether you're facing retirement, it's important that we find ourselves in that place where we're ready to hear what God has for us. Most of the time that means that our plans, our desires, have to be laid aside so we're ready to really listen to God.

So while Moses is being prepared and provided for by God—although far from what he expected—this need for him to step up and be called to something greater is beginning to develop back in Egypt.

Verse 23:

Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them. (Vs. 23-25)

You know God is aware of the needs within the world today. God sees and knows and hears the cry of people today. He knows where there are problems that need to be solved, where there are injustices that need to be rectified. He knows where there are people who are lost and need help and hope. God sees and He hears and He knows. In God's mind He knows exactly the person who is rightly designed, who has the right story, the right history, the right education—everything is perfect—the right person to go back and deliver this people. And it is Moses. Moses has been prepared for this *call* on his life, for this *work* that God has for him to do. So God tries to get Moses' attention.

Chapter 3, Verse 1:

Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the

bush was not consumed. So Moses said, "I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up." (Exodus 3:1-3)

What an amazing thing! I mean Moses had done this for forty years: He's taken his flock around the desert, or this wilderness, to graze the flock and this time he happens to show up by ...**Horeb, the mountain of God**. And then he sees this most amazing, unusual thing off to the side. Somehow in our minds we think of this bush as appearing right in front of Moses—out of nowhere—but it clearly indicates that it was off to the side that this unusual thing was happening. Here's a bush on fire, which would be unusual enough, but more unusual was the fact the bush was on fire and it wasn't being burned up. And Moses said, "You know I've got to go over and take a look at this. I've got to go see what this thing is. I mean this is unusual! This is not like anything I've ever seen or witnessed or observed before!" And so now God has Moses' attention.

Now before you go out and look for a burning bush on your way home today, this is the only time in history that it is recorded that there was a bush on fire that wasn't burned up. Don't go looking for some burning bush or a pile of snow with flame coming out of the top but the snow is not melting. On your way home don't go look for the flowering crab tree when it's twenty-seven degrees outside, but you do need to pay attention to the principle here. The principle is that God tries to get our attention. Sometimes we're just sort of *nose to the grindstone*—straight ahead in the trenches—just living it out day by day by day by day and we aren't looking to even see whether God might be trying to get our attention. But God may very well be trying to get our attention.

I can remember a number of instances in my life, and I'm sure you can too if you reflect on it, where God has had to do something unusual to get me to wake up and pay attention—to listen. I can remember when I went off to college. I think I was a sophomore in college and I'd grown up in a small town, in a pretty restrictive environment, and now I was in the big city and I was having one good time—dating girls. There weren't any girls in my hometown. (Laughter) I mean this was fun! We were having fun; we were seeing the city. We were taking in big city life and we were out cruising and doing stuff and just having a great time and life was good. School was really kind of secondary or maybe third—maybe fourth. (Laughter) And I will never forget though, after being out on a Saturday night with my buddies, whatever we were doing, driving back to the college, we came upon an accident. There was a young person trapped in the car and we were there for a considerable time while they tried to get this person out of the car. It was that first moment in my life where I thought, "You know there are no guarantees in life." And for some reason it was just enough to grab my attention, to think, "*Kremer, what are you doing? What is your life going to be about? Are you just going to live it and kind of fritter it away, or does God have something more for you?*" And I remember for the first time, probably in months, I went back to my dorm room and I opened up my Bible and I began to read. And God led me to one of the Psalms and it very clearly was a Psalm that was intended for me—and He got my attention. He said, "Do you not know that God has set apart the godly man for himself?" It was part of the text. It was just one of those wakeup call moments where God had my attention.

And there have been other points along the way where I've been just kind of nose to the grindstone, straight ahead, but God has had to use some unusual thing to get my attention—to perk me up—that I might pull aside and even listen to what He has to say. Part of the process of discerning and knowing the *call* of God in your life is paying attention when God is trying to get your attention.

And then God speaks directly to Moses.

Verse 4:

> **When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."**

It is very significant that God called Moses by name. Bryan has talked before that in this culture the name was representative of all that you were. And you can go throughout the Scriptures and, in almost every situation where God calls somebody to do something, He uses their name. It isn't a "Hey you." It's "Moses"; It's "Saul"; It's "Samuel". God knows your name. He knows your story. He knows why He wants to call you to the particular thing He wants to call *you* to because there is no one else who is prepared, who is just right for the thing that God wants to call you to be. And Moses responds here by saying, "**Here I am**." He's ready to listen now after forty years—kind of experiencing the pain of his early mistake. Now he's ready to listen and God lays out, over these coming verses, the affliction that the people of Israel are going through and that He wants Moses to go back and lead them out—to be their national leader and to rescue them out of the Egyptian snare and to bring them to the land of promise.

Over the course of the rest of Chapter 3 and all the way through half of Chapter 4 Moses has quite an argument with God about why he is not qualified, why it won't work, why he isn't the right person and it sounds very, very familiar, doesn't it? Because, when we sense what God is calling us to do, when we hear that call—whatever it is—we can come up with all kinds of reasons why it won't work, why we can't do it, why we're not the right person for the job. "It's not the right time. I don't have the right education. It's too big." And every one of those excuses and arguments that Moses put up, God had an answer for; God had a provision for, because ultimately all He needed was for Moses to be willing and God would come alongside and accomplish what He called Moses to do. Moses would have the privilege, the adventure of doing something significant with his life with God. And that is what God wants us to be involved in—doing something significant with our life, just like Moses did.

Ultimately Moses gives in and says, "God, if you call me to it, I'll go." He gathers up his family and departs from his father-in-law and away they go back to Egypt. He has got to be having a thousand questions in his mind: *"How in the world is this ever going to happen? How will I ever accomplish this that God has put before me*?" But God did accomplish it—one hundred thirty-three chapters later—with Moses having brought the nation of Israel right to the Jordan River ready to cross into the land of promise, it says that at one hundred twenty years old he died. But he had not lost his vision or his vigor at one hundred twenty years old. From eighty to one hundred twenty years old he led this people on this incredible journey. The last third of his life was the most significant part of his calling.

So you're sitting here this morning and you're saying, "Hey, I'm fifty"; "I'm sixty"; "I'm seventy; this must be for the young people's section over there." "What if God were to call you to do the most significant work in your life in your last season of your life?" But to all of us there is some significant work that God has called us to be a part of and to do. It will look different in different seasons. It changes over the course of time. Even for Moses, what he had to do initially, when he went back to Egypt, was very different than what he had to do once they were out in the wilderness and they were grumbling and complaining. It was very different than what he had to do after they were turned back from the Jordan River and he had to put up with them for a long time while they

wandered around. I mean each season brought a new challenge, but it was still part of the big *call* on his life to lead his people.

Now one of the problems we have when we read text like this is we say, "You know that's Moses. I mean that's this big, grand *call.* I mean how many people are called to be leaders of a nation?" The parallel of this for us would be that God would speak to one of us this morning and call us to be the President of the United States. I mean it's a big, big undertaking and we can just say, "Well you know, that's that big thing." But I believe the same process and *call* is on every single one of our lives. The context will be different. The scope of what we're called to do will be different. But the *call* is no less important, no less significant. It's a work that God has called you and me to do that we are uniquely prepared and qualified to do—because of the work of God in our life. And the question is, "Are we listening? Do we want to know what that *call* is? Are we ready to respond when God makes it clear what that *call* is? I think for most of us it very much will include our vocation; it will include what we do for a living. But it's probably even beyond that, because no job totally embraces all that we are. And so we do our work so that way we fulfill the *call* of God. It may be helping to transform the culture of an organization. It may be giving not only just care to the patients that you see as a nurse or a doctor or a dentist, but even going beyond that to say, "I have a sense that God has really called me to do this and to do it in a unique and special way that He wants me to do it."

If you're called to be a parent and that's a part of your *call* right now, it's not about just raising your kids and getting them out of the house. Maybe the *call* of God is that you would help to shape generations to come, preparing them to be leaders, preparing them to be spiritual men and women that can help transform our nation—our world. Perhaps as a grandparent you have a call to pour your life into your grandkids. I would not be standing here today if it were not for my grandfather—a significant impact on my life! He poured himself into his grandkids. He prayed. It was a part of his calling in the last season of his life to have influence relationally in a powerful way.

So it includes our vocation but it's bigger than that. It's a life work that God is calling us to. The question is: Are we just operating off our own plan and presenting it and saying, "God, here's my plan; bless it," or are we saying, "God, what is Your plan? What is it that You want me to be doing with my life? What's Your unique and special *call* on my life that I am uniquely prepared for and that You are calling me to?" Imagine what God could do if all of us had a clear sense of what that was and we were pursuing that. We knew that we needed God to show up in our work every single day! We were praying and walking and pursuing God because we had a significant *call* on our life. It required us to walk intimately with Him and depend on Him and to trust Him and we begin to see that *call* unfold and lived out and God to accomplish things. What would happen if all of us had that experience—if we were all a part of that? Is it not possible that a city can be transformed?...a state could be transformed?...a nation can be transformed?...the world can be changed? The question is, "Are we in a position to listen and hear the *call* of God on our lives, including how that relates to our work life?"

One of the reasons why we have started this WorkLIFE ministry is just to come alongside and help us listen to God, understand the *call* of God on our life—that work that we're supposed to be a part of. And we want to provide resources and help along the way for you to be able to do that. If this morning you're here and you're struggling to say, "You know I really don't know what I'm called to do. I know I'm not in the right place right now." You know that one of the recent Gallup polls showed that eighty percent of men feel like they're miscast; they're not in the right role or the right kind of a job situation. Eighty percent! So there are a lot of us this morning who are feeling like

there's got to be something more to my life and what I should be doing. And if you're at that point where you're exploring that—whatever season you're in—one of the things that we're offering is a class that is starting in just a couple of weeks called *Living with Purpose and Passion* and it's a whole process for you to explore what that calling of God is for you in your life. We have talked about it as a part of our *Decade on Purpose*—writing a mission plan—which is really to say, "This is my calling." But it's very important I think that we not just sit down and hammer out a mission statement or a mission plan because that could be just *our* doing again. But instead to put ourselves in a position to say, "God, what have you uniquely called and prepared for me to do?"

We have a lot of resources available to you and on the front of *The Loop* of this morning you have some of those things. There's an entire Coaching System that we have connection to through our website that includes an online assessment of where you struggle in your work life and regular communication to address those situations. There are Bible studies and resources there. There are three ways that you can sign up, including texting, a number here that you can sign up to be a part of that and to begin to engage in that for your work life—to explore what it is that God wants for you. There are Truth Modules and Bible studies that will be available to you if you do that.

Next week we have our Ministry Expo where we are able to explore dozens of opportunities that are maybe outside of our work environment but are a part of maybe understanding what God has *called* us uniquely to be a part of—to do with our life, our talents, our story. So I encourage you to come prepared for that. We have a table for our WorkLIFE ministry on both levels—the 100 level and the 200 level. I encourage you to stop by there and take a look at some of the things that are there and engage in trying to listen to God. And if you have a very clear understanding of what that is, if you have a mission statement, if you have a clear sense of what God's *calling* in your life is, then that is awesome and I'd love for you to be able to share that with other people and tell people about your journey: how you came to that place, how God revealed that to you. Let people know that.

We've actually designed on our website a Facebook community where people can engage and talk and share their stories. And, if you have your calling, please by all means share that with other people and make yourself available so that they can learn from your experience.

My prayer this morning is that each and every one of us would have, ultimately, a clear understanding of God's *call* on our life—a work to do that is significant and meaningful, that makes it exciting for us to get up each and every single day—not just for a job, but to accomplish the purpose for which we were created.

> *Our Father, I pray for each of us that we would understand what that call is on our lives. Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart that is ready to respond to Your call. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

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Lincoln Berean Church, 6400 S. 70th, Lincoln, NE 68516 (402) 483-6512
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WorkLIFE
your work matters

YOUR WORK MATTERS:
You Have a Significant Work to Do

Exodus 2:1 - 4:20
Pastor Mark Kremer
February, 27/28, 2010

Review

Review the five biblical answers to the question "Why Work?" that we studied in Genesis last week.

- God is a worker and I am created in His image
- God called me to be His work partner and gave me significant work to do
- Work done in partnership with God provides for my needs and is satisfying
- In Christ, I am restored, my work has new purpose and is used by God to make me like Jesus
- God is preparing me now for the significant and satisfying work I will do forever in His Kingdom.

How have these truths given you new perspective on your worklife this week?

Engage

Read Exodus 1-2. How was Moses uniquely qualified for the work God called him to?

What are the sovereign foundations of your life that have shaped you into the person you are today?

How do you think your life story and unique design have been or will be useful in accomplishing your life work?

Moses took matters into his own hands and ended up in the wilderness for a long time? Can you relate to him in this regard? Whose plan are you working from now? Yours or God's?

How did this experience shape Moses' character for the life work God was calling him to?

How did the dire situation of the Hebrew people come to God's attention and what was His response to the need? (Exodus 2:23-25)

God got Moses' attention through the burning bush that wasn't consumed and then God spoke. How has God gotten your attention when He has had something to say to you?

Do you make space to look for God in your daily life? If you thought God was trying to get your attention would you stop and listen? Why or why not?

When God called Moses how did he respond? (both good and bad)

Moses' life work was an amazing adventure that saved a nation and was a key piece in bringing salvation to all mankind. Do you believe that God has an important work for you to do? Do you know what it is?

Memorize

Ephesians 2:10: ***"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."***