



Lesson Five: A New Vision for Work, Part I
Matthew 22:34-40; Leviticus 19:1-3, 9-18; Colossians 3:17, 23-24;
Blake Schwarz | July 8, 2025

Matthew 22

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question to test Him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Leviticus 19

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses saying, ² “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ³ Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. ⁴ Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God....

⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹² You shall not swear by My name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³ “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴ You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵ “You shall do not injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Colossians 3

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him....

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What would it mean for you to love someone at work or through your work? What practical steps can you take this week?
2. In *Every Good Endeavor*, Tim Keller says, “There may be no better way to love your neighbor, whether you are writing parking tickets, software, or books, than to simply do your work. But only skillful, competent work will do.” (67) Where do you need to grow in competence this week?
3. What workplace idols, like market forces or legal protections, are you tempted to hide behind? What do these reveal about your relationship with God?
4. How can you create an opportunity for others to have dignified work? You might have a massive payroll, but someone cleans your office or your teeth. What do they get paid? Is it fair? What can you do about it?