**Going deeper in Genesis 2:2,15; Colossians 3:22-24, Matthew 24:14-21**

**INTRODUCTION**

The following passages have to do with the work and how it is a gift from God. The passage in Matthew is about investing and making the resources God has given you “work” for the Kingdom of Heaven.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

Genesis 2:2 – “On the seventh day God finished the work He had done. He rested on the seventh day from all the work He had done.”

Genesis 2:15 – “The Lord God took the man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and take care of it.”

Deuteronomy 5:1 – “Six days you shall labor and do all your work.”

Colossians 3:22-24 – “Bondservants, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Matthew 25:14-21 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Read Genesis 2:2,15. Who sets the first example for work?

2. Read Deuteronomy 5:12-13. How does the fourth commandment reinforce the idea that work is part of what we were designed for?

3. Why do you think that God gives Adam and each of us work? How is work a gift?

4. Read Colossians 3:22-24. Who are we working for regardless of who our earthly boss is? In what way does that change the nature of how we do our work? List out the characteristics of how a Christian should do their work. Which are ones that you do well? Which ones do you need to work on?

4. Read Matthew 24:14-21. Who owns the talents of money? What does this suggest about the generosity of God? What do the good and faithful servants do with what they are given? How should the fact that God owns it all inform our saving and investing?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank God for the gift of the work He has given you.

\*Ask the Lord to empower you to work in a way that reflects Him.

\*Ask the Lord to bring your way this week those who can be impacted with your resources.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Our entire time in this world involves work. The work we are given at each stage of our lives is a gift from God. Some work allows us to earn money. How will you work and invest His resources in a way that furthers the Kingdom of Heaven?