

Series: "ALL DAY EVERY DAY"

For Message: Jeremiah 15:29a; Ps 44:8, 37:5, 113:3; Col 3:23; Rom 12:11, Mark 8:36; John 14:6

Message Title: "Every Day"

Introduction: Welcome to BMZ CHURCH! HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

MANY people come up with New Years Resolutions / GOALS at the BEGINNING of the YEAR because it is a GOOD Natural TRANSITION to something NEW. MANY THINK about HEALTH ... Eating and EXERCISE GOALS. Or MAYBE you've come up with MENTAL or EMOTIONAL HEALTH Resolutions. Maybe you have EDUCATIONAL GOALS ... READING a certain NUMBER of BOOKS or TAKING a CLASS.

BUT have you SET your FAITH GOALS / RESOLUTIONS for the YEAR of 2024? And here's the thing: FAITH is DIFFICULT to MAINTAIN or GROW in. FAITH Resolutions ... well, NOT MANY are DOING THEM, WHICH makes it HARD to SET and KEEP them. SO ... let's put some NEW HABITS in PLACE at the BEGINNING of 2024!

The HEART behind "**ALL DAY EVERY DAY**" is that we go DEEPER in our FAITH at the BEGINNING of 2024, which will HOPEFULLY Help us BE DEEPER in our FAITH at the END of 2024. And The LORD makes it kind of SIMPLE. Listen to The OT Prophet Jeremiah ... **JEREMIAH 15:19a = This is how the Lord responds: "If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me."**

IF you've FALLEN AWAY from ME ... RETURN! That's IT! Our PART is to SIMPLY RETURN to HIM. IF we DO, He will RESTORE US to SERVING in HIS KINGDOM.

HOW do we RETURN? We INTENTIONALLY PRIORITIZE our FAITH RELATIONSHIP with JESUS / GOD. Listen, NO MATTER WHERE we are AT in our FAITH Journey, we DO NOT have to make MONUMENTAL CHANGES. We can SIMPLY RETURN to GOD and ALLOW HIM to RESTORE US ... THEN, we make some SMALL ADJUSTMENTS to PRIORITIZE our FAITH ... ALL DAY ... EVERY DAY.

Last week, we KICKED the YEAR OFF talking about PRIORITIZING our FAITH in our MORNING ROUTINE. DID you WORK to CHANGE any HABITS this PAST WEEK? Keep GOING ... it TAKES TIME to ESTABLISH HABITS.

This WEEK let's CONTINUE THROUGH our DAY. Now, MOST of us WORK or GO to SCHOOL MOST DAYS. THAT is our ROUTINE. NOW, HOW to we ENGAGE our FAITH ALL DAY, EVERY DAY? SMALL ADJUSTMENTS. Simple STEPS. BUT—

We will NEED to PRIORITIZE our FAITH in CHRIST and ... ONE of the BIGGEST BARRIERS to ENGAGING JESUS while we WORK (Work is your JOB / SCHOOL / KIDS / Grandkids / Etc.), is HOW we VIEW our WORK. SOMETIMES we get the WRONG PERSPECTIVE ABOUT our WORK.

Some PERCEIVE their WORK as their **LIFE** ... it is EVERYTHING. It is ALL ENCOMPASSING ... I do NOT have TIME for OTHER THINGS. WORK is my LIFE.

OTHERS PERCEIVE their WORK as their **PAYCHECK**. I WORK for the MONEY ... I MUST WORK to PAY BILLS. SOME = "**WORK is my CURSE.**" I HATE / DREAD WORK. "**Only 30 more years until I can RETIRE!**" Counting down to getting to STOP WORKING!

NEW PERCEPTION ... The BIBLE says WORK is GOOD and GOD has a PURPOSE for your WORK that is GREATER than a PAYCHECK.

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE is that WORK is our MISSION. My WORK is MY MISSION. Work is NOT MY LIFE, but it IS a PART of GOD'S PLAN for MY LIFE.

IF we are going to ENGAGE JESUS ALL DAY EVERY DAY, then EVERY DAY, we SEE our WORK as MORE than a JOB. So, whether you WORK at a JOB or WORK at SCHOOL or are WORKING at HOME ... we need to PAY ATTENTION and SEE YOURSELF as going on a MISSION with GOD EVERY DAY. All day. Every day. Listen ...

PSALM 44:8 = *O God, we give glory to you all day long and constantly praise your name.*

Please UNDERLINE: all day long. ALL DAY, you are on MISSION with GOD.

Today...

Biblical Steps to Honoring God at Work:

Let me SHARE a FEW SIMPLE STEPS that might HELP you GO to WORK DIFFERENTLY:

#1 = Decide to WORK FOR GOD

I HOPE you LIKE your WORK, and you LIKE your BOSS, but STUDIES SHOW that MANY / MOST people are DISSATISFIED with their JOB. More than a THIRD would CHANGE JOBS IF they COULD! BUT ... IF we CHANGED JOBS, we might FIND the GRASS is NOT GREENER. You DREAM of a NEW JOB or a NEW BOSS and then LIFE will be RAINBOWS, UNICORNS, PUPPIES, and LOLLIPOPS. NOPE! NOT how it WORKS.

How about THIS: What if YOU WENT to WORK at the SAME JOB, but you WENT to WORK for a NEW BOSS? Memory Verse ... COLOSSIANS 3:23 = *Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*

TOMORROW when you GO to WORK, WORK for The Lord, ENTHUSIASTICALLY, doing your VERY BEST for GOD. For whom do you CURRENTLY WORK? Who are you trying to PLEASE? Is it for a PAYCHECK? PRESTIGE? Climbing the LADDER ... for YOU?

God says, *"IF you come to WORK for ME, I will REPLACE your PRESSURE with MY PEACE, your WORRY with MY PRESENCE, your STRESS with MY POWER, your DEADLINES with MY PURPOSE."* How's THAT SOUND?

When we WORK for the LORD, it CHANGES EVERYTHING. It changes how we SEE and ENJOY our WORK. It LOWERS our STRESS and CHANGES our PRIORITIES. When you GO to WORK, let HIM be the PRIMARY ONE you are WORKING FOR.

BUT do NOT go to WORK and TELL HER she's NOT your BOSS ANYMORE ... but ... PSALM 37:5 = *Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.*

IF we LEARN to WORK for the LORD EVEN at WORK, NOW we are getting at ALL DAY EVERY DAY. SECOND STEP to Honoring God at WORK ...

#2 = Direct My THOUGHTS TO GOD

I KNOW, you're THINKING, *"Pastor Stan, that's EASY for YOU. You WORK in a CHURCH OFFICE! Of COURSE, your THOUGHTS are on GOD ALL DAY LONG..."*

You'd THINK SO, but HERE'S what HAPPENS ... I get UP and DO the MORNING the way we TALKED about LAST WEEK. TALK to GOD FIRST ... DO my DEVOS ... SING a PRAISE SONG ... PRAY on my WAY to WORK.

THEN, I get to the OFFICE, and I have a PILE of EMAILS / TO DOS / and people WAITING on ME to GET MY STUFF DONE ... PEOPLE are HURTING / People are COMPLAINING. BEFORE I KNOW IT, I'm NO LONGER THINKING about GOD. I'm thinking about WORK / TASKS / PEOPLE / TIMELINES / DEADLINES and WHO I HAVEN'T CONNECTED WITH ... and my ATTENTION is OFF GOD. Does that ever HAPPEN to YOU? The TEMPTATION for ALL of US is to COMPARTMENTALIZE our LIVES and LEAVE GOD a few HOURS a WEEK at WORSHIP or our GROWTH GROUP ... *but THEN I need to GET BACK to WORK on REAL LIFE STUFF ... Right?!*

Remember, the GOAL of “*All Day Every Day*” is to NOT have a LIFE that just CHECKS IN with GOD ever NOW and THEN. All DAY Every DAY!

GOD’S GOAL for US is a RELATIONSHIP where we are IN CONVERSATION ALL DAY ... PSALM 113:3 = *From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same The LORD’s name is to be praised. (KJV)* This means MORNING to NIGHT (all times) and from EAST to WEST (all places) ... and it INCLUDES our DAYS / WORK.

God wants US to PRAY without CEASING / ALWAYS. Stay in TOUCH. Never HANG UP. Always PRAY ... 5 Simple PRAYERS: 1) Thank you, Lord. 2) Lord, help me. 3) Lord, Send me. 4) Not my will, but Yours. 5) You are with me / You’ve got me.

Attending GROWTH GROUP HELPS us REMEMBER about ALL DAY EVERY DAY ... coming in FEBRUARY! Third Biblical STEP to Honoring God at WORK...

#3 = Do Everything with INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE

These TWO VALUES, integrity, and excellence are IMPORTANT because they do NOT only AFFECT YOUR DAY, but they also COMMUNICATE to EVERYONE around you WHO YOU ARE. At WORK or SCHOOL, everyone is KNOWN ... KNOWN as the PERSON WHO, RIGHT?! That’s the PERSON who CRACKS the JOKES. That’s the MORNING PERSON. That’s the PERSON who BRINGS the DONUTS. That’s the PERSON who EATS the DONUTS. But you do NOT want to be KNOWN as the PERSON who SLACKS OFF or does NOT TELL the TRUTH.

We’re ALL KNOWN. Are YOU KNOWN as the person who can be TRUSTED / you can COUNT ON ... A HARD WORKER? You’ll DIG IN and GO AFTER IT and PUT in the HOURS and FIGURE it OUT? Are you KNOWN as the ONE who is HELPFUL?

OR are you KNOWN as the ONE who is KIND of SELFISH / Self-Centered ... who will DO the MINIMUM and NEVER GO the EXTRA MILE? Are you KNOWN as the one who TALKS BEHIND OTHERS BACKS / GOSSIPS / KNOW it ALL ... CRITICAL where NOTHING is EVER RIGHT or GOOD ENOUGH? Are you UNDERMINING a co-worker?

Do you find yourself in a position where you could LIE or THROW a CO-WORKER under the BUS ... START RUMORS that MIGHT GET you AHEAD? Well, The BIBLE is CLEAR ... PROVERBS 10:9 = *People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed.* Have you EVER PHONED it IN? EVER FELT like you were GIVEN a TASK that was “**BENEATH YOU**” so you DIDN’T PUT IN much EFFORT?

Well, GOD does NOT WORK that WAY ... Paul reminds us to ... ROMANS 12:11 = *Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.*

As we THINK about EXCELLENCE, **EXCELLENCE is DEFINED as DOING the BEST with WHAT YOU HAVE** (Time, resources, energy, \$, etc.). Are you? Am I?

Well, #3 FEEDS into BIBLICAL STEP #4 to HONOR GOD at WORK...

#4 = Determine to Be a WITNESS TO CHRIST

Remember LAST WEEK we talked about your COMMUTE being your LAST moments BEFORE you GO PUBLIC? Listen, we ALL go PUBLIC with SOMETHING. As Followers of JESUS, we GO PUBLIC as WITNESSES to HIM.

OTHERS in your WORKPLACE are WATCHING YOU. They’re TRYING to FIND OUT what JESUS is ABOUT. And YOU might be the ONLY CHRIST-FOLLOWER at your WORKPLACE / CLASSROOM. YOU are PLAN A as a REPRESENTATIVE of JESUS.

You are PLAN A for the GUY you work NEXT TO. You are GOD’S PLAN A for the WOMAN who is HURTING because they LOST a LOVED ONE / DIVORCE. Truth: God is NOT COUNTING on a PLAN B. YOU ARE ON MISSION with GOD at WORK!

So, you SHARE your FAITH ... but be CAREFUL. Do NOT WANT to BEAT anyone OVER the HEAD with your FAITH!

Please don't ... ***“Hey JIM, do you have those REPORTS ready? JANE, are you ready for your PRESENTATION? Hey STEVE, do you UNDERSTAND your SOUL is HANGING by a THREAD over the PRECIPICE of HELL? You should DO SOMETHING about that...”***

NO! Listen to PETER ... ***1 PETER 3:15-16 = Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*** Circle “ALWAYS” and then UNDERLINE “Gentle and Respectful.” Those are VITAL!

COUPLE THINGS: Let people KNOW you are a FOLLOWER of JESUS ... GENTLY. When asked about your WEEKEND ... “I went to a REALLY COOL CHURCH!” How was your EVENING? “I had GROWTH GROUP last night...” Read your DEVOTIONAL or your GROWTH GROUP BOOK at LUNCH. It's OKAY if people SEE IT!

LISTEN, there is a RISE in INTEREST in CHRISTIANITY ... like, right now! BUT, if you are NOT STRIVING for INTEGRITY, EXCELLENCE, and KINDNESS ... IF you ARE a **GRADE A JERK** at WORK, do NOT TELL anyone you are a CHRISTIAN and please do NOT let them KNOW you ATTEND BMZ!

Then, how about this ... ASK HOW you can PRAY for them ... especially if you know they are going through a ROUGH TIME. ***People do NOT CARE how much you KNOW until they KNOW how much you CARE.*** Listen, here's a GOOD WAY to do this in a ***“GENTLE and RESPECTFUL WAY”*** ... like the EARLY CHURCH: LOVE and CARE for people who do NOT EXPECT IT or THINK they ***“DESERVE”*** it. As CHRIST LOVED YOU ... LOVE ONE ANOTHER. They are watching you.

This OPENS Opportunities to INVITE people to ATTEND and DECIDE if they will be PART of The BODY of CHRIST / CHURCH. Finally ...

#5 = Dedicate My ENTIRE LIFE TO GOD

To HONOR GOD at WORK / SCHOOL, etc. remember there is MORE to LIFE than WORK. When we GET things OUT of ORDER, we start to SACRIFICE our RELATIONSHIP with GOD. We GO AFTER the STUFF of the WORLD and FORGET our ETERNITY. That's a PROBLEM ... a PROBLEM JESUS ADDRESSED ... ***MARK 8:36 = And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?***

WORK for YOUR BENEFIT and GAIN is the WRONG PRIORITY. No MERE MORTALS. When you GO to WORK, you are ON MISSION ... an ETERNAL MISSION with Almighty God! When we TRUST GOD and GO on MISSION with HIM in our WORK, we GROW in our FAITH in HIM. That's the GOAL of LIFE according to JESUS.

If you are FOLLOWER of JESUS and for some reason have been LOOKING to OTHER THINGS of LIFE (work / paycheck, etc.) to SATISFY you, it's TIME to RETURN to GOD. RECOMMIT your ENTIRE LIFE (work, school, and what you do there) to GOD.

IF you've NEVER Accepted JESUS as your SAVIOR and LORD ... time to COME to HIM for the FIRST TIME. Today, acknowledge HIM (Jesus) as SAVIOR / LORD who DIED on a CROSS for YOUR SINS ... He GAVE His LIFE so YOU could have ETERNAL LIFE.

Listen, JESUS is the ONLY WAY to FIND REAL PURPOSE in THIS LIFE and He is the ONLY WAY to ETERNITY in HEAVEN ... ***JOHN 14:6 = Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”***

There is NO PLAN B. This is JESUS' PLAN for YOU ... AND your CO-WORKERS and CLASSMATES. Let's GO to WORK ... for the RIGHT REASONS! Let's PRAY!

Next Steps: *I will Memorize Colossians 3:23*
I will Read Romans 12 and/or John 14
I will Pray for my Co-workers and/or Classmates

Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!
 In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information.

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.
 It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is HIT "**SEND**" your COMPLETED Connection Card

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- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... **MARK 8:36 = And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?**
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the first place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- NEXT WEEK: **NEW in 2024 ... Let's GO DEEPER into our FAITH ALL DAY, EVERY DAY! HOW ABOUT AT NIGHT!?**

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."

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