

## **Week 6**

### **Working through to the end**

‘When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.’ John 19:30

#### **Introduction**

In our final week, we look at how to bring our work to a satisfactory completion. This could apply to our plans for retirement from paid employment, but there are other aspects of our work that may need to be completed before starting something new. This could also apply to church activities that we undertake as part of our serving/ministry.

#### **Finishing well**

The life and work of Jesus was finished because he had completed the work that his Father had sent him to do. John 17:4 ‘I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.’ Our purpose doesn’t end when we retire from paid employment. God has a calling and commission for each one of us. The aim is to finish well.

1. Are we fulfilling the work that God has given us to do? Take some time to review where you are in relation to what God has called you to do. Some talking points:

- Do we forgive others readily? (Col. 3:13; Matt. 6:14-15)
- Are we giving hope and encouragement to others? (1 Thess. 5:11; Gal.6:2)

- Have we discovered who is important to us and got our priorities right? (Luke 10:38-42)
- Have we fought the fight, stood for what is right, kept the faith? (2 Tim. 4:7-8)

2. This was a defining moment in Jesus' work. He knew that his work was done. What defining moments have there been in our lives? Think about what led up to the decisive moment. What was the result of the decision? How did it change your life?

3. There are many processes in our lives – relating to work, home, church. Can you point to times when a decision was made that marked a turning point or change of direction in your lives? *(This could be spiritual, family or work situations.)* Share some of your experiences.

### **Understanding our calling**

4. Jesus knew what work the Father had given him to complete. (Luke 4:16-20) What work do you think God is calling you to do? Perhaps you find it difficult to know what work God wants you to do. This could relate to your employment, to church-related work or other areas. Think about:

- Your gifts – what gifts do you have?
- Your interests – what are you passionate about? What motivates you?
- Your abilities and skills – what are you good at?

- Your personality – introvert or extrovert? Do you like to work alone or with others?

- Your experience – how can your past experiences be used in future work?

5. Our lives often involve several stages – as one stage is completed, God may reveal another that he has called us to. Think about any areas of your life or work that might need to be completed before moving on.

### **Passing on the work to others**

Although Jesus' work was done, the mission of God did not end with his death: this was just the beginning. Jesus passed the baton on to his disciples, who continued his work by telling others the good news. Finishing well means passing on the work to others. It's common in business to talk about 'succession planning.' This means planning for who will pick up the baton after you've left.

6. How are you going to pass on the work you do for others to continue? Think not only about paid work, but also about the work you do in serving God, your role in your family, etc. How are you planning to pass on your wisdom to the next generation? There are many things we learn through our experiences. Consider how we might share these with others.

### **Conclusion**

Look back over the last 6 weeks and recap on your discussions. Share your thoughts. Do you view work any differently? Will you

make any changes in your work life as a result of this? Pray for one another.