

Band of Brothers' MVP (Men of Valor and Purpose) Bible Study

“The Man in the Mirror” by Patrick Morley

“The Secret of Job Contentment” (chapter 6), November 1st, 2011

1. Discuss at your table Morley’s data from page 98 that showed “up to 80% of working Americans occupy the wrong job for them” and that a spirit of discontentment pervades the workplace. How does this apply to you?
2. Share at your table something that you do that really makes you sense God’s pleasure and tasks that you do that provide a true feeling of personal satisfaction. Are there similar or dissimilar responses from your group?
3. Discuss Morley’s observation that “the secret to job contentment is not getting what you want, but redefining what you need (p. 100). How has this been played out in your life, or has it?
4. Take a moment and review Genesis 2:15 and 3:17. Our author makes an extremely valuable observation that it is not “work” that is cursed, but the ground. Sadly, men often regard their work as a “curse”, when in fact God created us to work. Look up Exodus 3:12. The word translated “cultivate” (work) in Genesis 2:15 is also used in Exodus 3:12, but in another sense. Can you figure out what word in Exodus 3:12 is also the word we translate for “work”? How should this impact our view of work?
5. What is the hazard of being a “deal junkie”? (p. 99ff). Have you ever succumbed to this philosophy? What was the result?
6. What did Morley account as the key to contentment even amidst suffering and discouragement (p. 102)? This is one of the Bible’s most difficult truths to apply, but one that is so very urgent in a world that looks primarily at our circumstances and/or checking account to determine success and/or contentment. How are you doing in applying and living out this truth? Can you recount your challenges or successes in this regard? How has sorrow been “sweet”?

7. What does it mean to “redefine our boss” (p. 103)? How does this compare with the inward desire of most employees to ‘be their own boss’?

8. Discuss the concept of being a “branch manager” (p. 105). What freedom comes from this concept? Are you currently employed as a “branch manager” as Morley would describe it? Describe how this idea stems from the difference between an ‘owner’ versus a ‘steward’. Which are we?

9. What is God’s will for vocation (work)? Look up the following passages to glean insight into this important topic. Summarize each passage with a few key words/concepts.

Leviticus 23:3

Proverbs 6:6-11

Matthew 6:11

Luke 14:33

1 Corinthians 3:9

Colossians 3:22-24

1 Thessalonians 4:1, 9-12

2 Thessalonians 3:10

James 4:13-15

10. Is there an area of your work or your life you have not yet surrendered over to God? Being a “branch manager” in God’s economy is a great thing! Offer yourself to do so today!