



Rising out of Vocational Ruts

Listen! Tennis Gibson, Morton Salt, and Manistee, Michigan.

- **Words Matter:** We give definition to our lives, and shape them powerfully, by the metaphors we use. We may not realize how powerfully we influence our own lives by the metaphors we use for various aspects of our lives.

American metaphors of the workplace:

- The salt mines: If so, I am _____.
- The rat race: If so, I am _____.
- The battle: If so, I am _____.
- The bank: If so, I am _____.
- The Snakebit Operation: If so, I am _____.

God's metaphor of the workplace:

- The Field:
- If so, I am _____. Matthew 5:13.
- If so, I am _____. Matthew 5:14-16.

Application:

- What if you are the _____ of your workplace?
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Idea: We rise out of vocational ruts...when we view our workplace as our field—and therefore view ourselves as full-time, vocational fishers of men.

Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking with Christ and pursuing God through obedience, reflective living, and community.

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Please take some time each day this week for "spiritual recalibration" by thinking through the following ideas and questions related to having "eternity in our hearts:"

- **Today:** What have been the main metaphors that you use for work and the workplace? Why have you chosen them? What metaphors do you hear others use for their workplace?
- **Monday:** What do you think about the distinctions between work, job, career, business, occupation, and vocation? Which do you have?
- **Tuesday:** Do you think it is biblically accurate to think of your workplace as a "field" in the mission sense?
- **Wednesday:** If you are actually the pastor, or one of the pastors, of your workplace what does that mean?
- **Thursday:** What would it look like for you to be the light of your workplace?
- **Friday:** What would it look like for you to be the salt of your workplace?
- **Saturday:** What is the difference between, "I have to go to work." and, "I get to go to work."?
- **Bonus Question:** Have you ever had a day or a period at work that you would classify as spiritually productive? If so, what did that look like and how did it happen?