



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 09/23/2021

Scripture: Colossians 4:1

TITLE: Don’t Be A Jerk!

Don’t be a jerk. That was the opening line of a friend’s seminar. Dr. Michael Frisina has a workshop called “Jerks at work.” It’s all about leading ourselves well, so we aren’t a jerk at work. Because let’s face it, as we talked about yesterday, it’s normal to be disengaged in the workplace. But as employers, leaders, and just humans made in God’s image, we can do so much better.

What do I mean by that? Let’s listen to the Apostle Paul as he continues discussing our new nature at home in Colossians 4:1.

“Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven.”

Now, in case you missed it, Paul has been covering different relationships in the home in ancient culture. He’s talked to husbands, wives, parents, children, slaves, and now masters. Yesterday, we addressed the reality that Jesus came not to be a social justice warrior but to seek and save the lost.

So rather than condemn slavery, Paul addresses the reality of it with practical application. Yesterday, we discovered no matter who we work for, we are called to do our work well because we really do it for God.

Now Paul says, Masters, treat your slaves with dignity and respect. You, too, have a Master in heaven who treats you like gold. In other words, do the same. Now, thankfully, today, we aren’t faced with slavery. But we do face employers and employees. We face leaders of all shapes and sizes. And as John Maxwell said, we are all leaders. Leadership is about influence. We all influence someone so let’s influence up.

So if you’re a traditional manager and employer, how do you treat your employees? Do you treat them with respect? Do you honor them in their unique ways, or do you view them as burdens?

If you’re not an employer but a leader at church, in service, or somewhere else, do you treat people with kindness and respect?

If you’re receiving service at the car rental counter, at the restaurant, at the hospital, or at the airport, when things go wrong, do you blow up, or do you build them up while solving the problem?

These are the everyday opportunities we have to not be a jerk at work or anywhere else. We are called to treat others as God treats us.

So here's my challenge for you today: Find 3 people to show them their worth. If you're an employer, how can you show an employee their value? If you're at the front desk of a business or your living facility, how can you show kindness and the grace God shows you? If you're at the store, the restaurant, or at the post office, how can you share God's grace with the people who are serving you?

There are so many everyday ways to add value to people. I'd rather be remembered for being a grace-giver than a jerk. And so do you.

When we show people our new nature in Christ, we all win the day.