**Called *for* Service and Work**

Visual Faith – select an image.

How does your image capture your experience of work?

What emotions/feeling surface in you as you look at this image?

What does this image tell you about your experience of work as a calling from God?

A few notes from Chapter 5:

Vocation is self-giving service for the sake of God’s world. Vocation is deeply personal because it is other-focused. God’s call is to you for love of neighbor and service for others. Jesus teaches, “’You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37-39). The truth about who you are and what you are for is the service you are called to give for others, for God’s world. Jesus gave his life for you, and discipleship entails giving it back. Vocation, then is self-giving service in community for the sake of God’s world. (p.61)

In calling you for a life of service the common good, God can call you *to* work and *in* your work.

The work that you do is inherently good when it aligns with God’s purposes, when your work is a service given for the common good. You may experience a deep resonance between who you are and what you are able to do. You competence and excellence in your work is a sign of God’s work in you.

Your gifts and abilities, then, call you to do certain work, but it is also what you do in and on the job that constitutes your vocation. Any kind of work can be a Christian vocation—there is no higher or better job than another—you are called to love God and serve your neighbor. (p. 73)

Work has always been a means of sustenance, a way to provide good, shelter, and well-being for ourselves and our families, but work is not an end in itself. It is a means to a greater good, a good that is in service the larger community. (p. 74)

​(From: *The Stories We Live: Finding God's calling All Around Us*. Kathleen Cahalan. Eerdmans, 2017.)​

**REFELCTION QUESTIONS**

**How do you know what your callings are *for*?**

**In what ways are you called to serve?**

**For whom is your service to be given?**

**Can your employed work be a form of service?
-or-
How are you serving (or how might you serve) in retirement?**

When discerning what you can give your life for (whether in employment or retirement) consider the three questions:

1. **Is what you are doing a source of joy?**

“Do you get a kick out of it?” Joy is not feeling good about what you are doing; rather it is an interior conviction that what one is doing is good even if it does not make one happy or content.

1. **Is it something that calls forth your gifts, engaging your abilities and talents, using them fully?**“Are you any good at it?” “What gifts do you have for this service / work?”
2. **Is this role or work of genuine service to others and to the wider society?**“Does anyone want you to do it?”

**Closing Prayer**

*Gracious God,*

*Bless the work we do,*

*the words we say,*

*the love we share*

*and the grace we show,*

*on our daily walk*

*through this beautiful*

*and precious world. Amen.*