

Work, Vocation and Realizing Your Calling

Proverbs

Proverbs 22:29, 6:6-11, 26:14-15, 22:13, 24:30-34

Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before the obscure.

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest--- and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.
A sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.

The sluggard says, “There’s a lion outside! I’ll be killed in the public square!”

I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest--- and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

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so a sluggard turns on his bed.
A sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.
Prov 26:14-15

The sluggard says, “There’s a lion outside!
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Prov 22:13

Proverbs 6:6-11

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Many nations will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.
Micah 4:2-4

"In nothing has the church so
lost Her hold on reality as in
Her failure to understand and
respect the secular vocation."
Dorothy Sayers

CONCLUSION: God does
have a will.

QUESTION: How do we find
God's will? Can we know
God's will?

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before the obscure.

Vocation does not come from willfulness. It comes from listening. I must listen to my life and try to understand what it is truly about-quite apart from what I would like it to be about-or my life will never represent anything real in the world, no matter how earnest my intentions. That insight is hidden in the word vocation itself, which is rooted in the Latin for "voice." Vocation does not mean a goal that I pursue. It means a calling that I hear. Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am. I must listen for the truths and values at the heart of my own identity, not the standards by which I must live-but the standards by which I cannot help but live if I am living my own life.

Parker J. Palmer. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. p4

Redemptive Work: (God's saving and reconciling actions)

Pastors, ministers, counselors, therapists, psychiatrists...

Creative Work: (God's fashioning of the physical and human world)

Entrepreneurs, actors, painters, musicians, producers, poets, dancers...

Providential Work: (God's provision for and sustaining of humans and creation)

Public workers, policymakers, shopkeepers, farmers, repairmen, engineers, chefs, tailors, finance, electricians, carpenters, technology...

Justice Work: (God's maintenance of justice)

Judges, lawyers, paralegals, city managers, prison guards, peace officers, diplomats, supervisors...

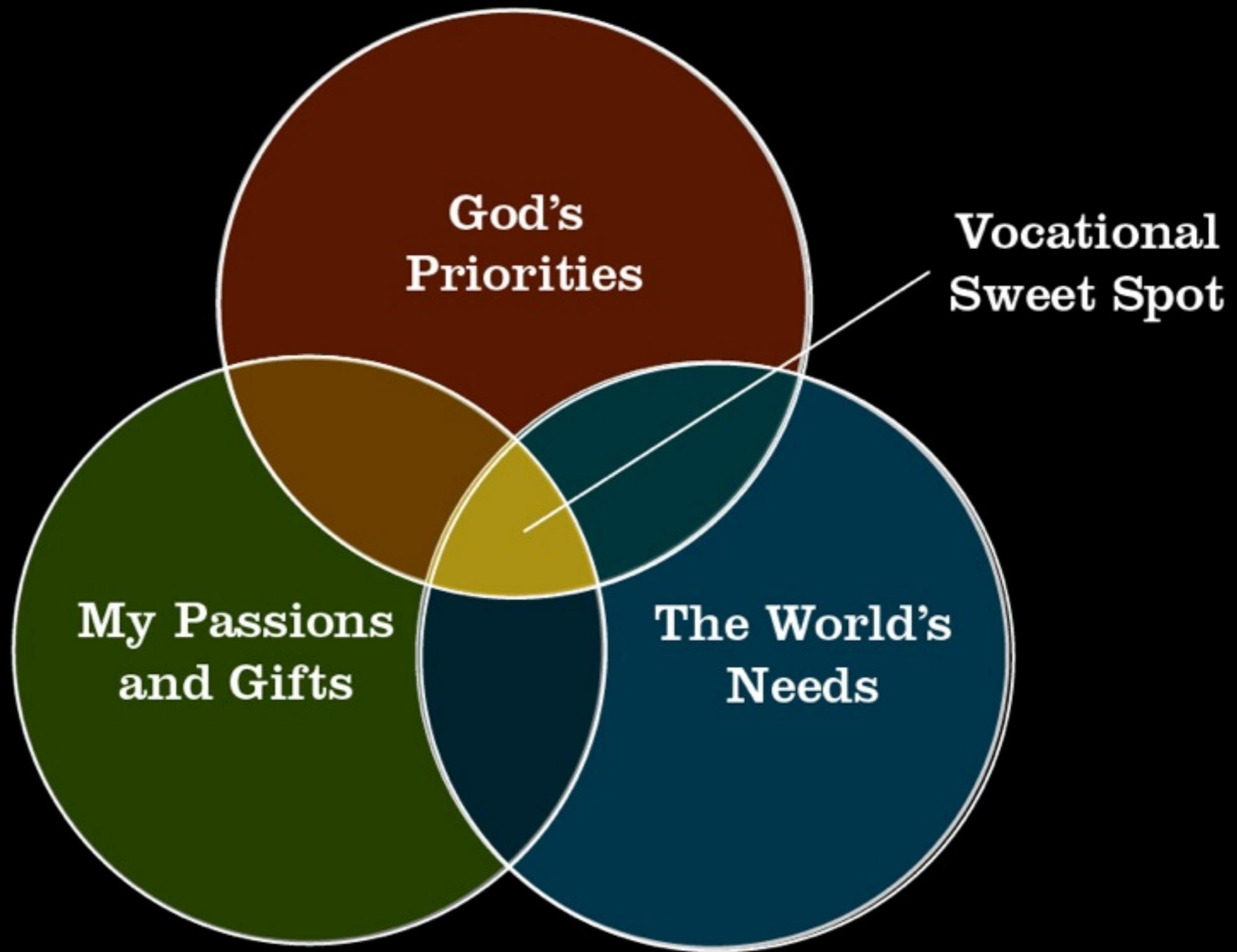
Compassionate Work: (God's involvement in comforting, healing, guiding)

Doctors, nurses, paramedics, psychologists, social workers, nonprofit directors...

Revelatory Work: (God's work to enlighten with truth)

Pastors, scientists, educators, journalists, scholars, writers...

**Amy L. Sherman, Kingdom Calling p102-103*



**via Kingdom Calling,
Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good*

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

-Frederick Buechner

The context of Proverbs
assumes Privilege and calls
us to Stewardship.

“For Proverbs to remain true even as
generalizations, one must have general
control over one’s work, life and family,
with no severe systemic social problems.”
-Witherington, Jesus the Sage

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Proverbs 24:30-34

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10