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Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

"You are the light of the world...let your good deeds shine out for all to see..."

MYTH #1 - The title "pastor" gives someone the **authority** to do the **REAL** work of God.

TRUTH #1 - The **REAL** work of God is in **all** of our hands as followers of Jesus.

MYTH #2 - Only **pastors** are able to do **REAL** ministry.

TRUTH #2 - The work you **do** is just as **valuable**.

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."

Ephesians 4:11-13

MYTH #3 - I have no **opportunities** to be **BRIGHT**!

Jesus makes all of God's WORK in the MARKETPLACE and His Church SIMPLE.

"Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28

The Church follows Jesus into the MARKETPLACE.

"This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives... ⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras... ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you. ⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. ¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy," Colossians 1:6-11

TRUTH #3 - I have many **opportunities** to be **BRIGHT** in my marketplace.

"Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. ²³ Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴ Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. ²⁵ But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites."

Colossians 3:22-25

Assumptions I'm making:

- We **want** to do our jobs well.
- We are following Jesus and therefore will follow Jesus into the **marketplace**.
- We will get stuck in **ruts**.

A Tool to help you burn brighter:

3 Clarifying Questions

1. Is there anything you want me to **STOP** doing?
2. Is there anything you want me to **START** doing?
3. Is there something you want me to do **BETTER**?

Challenge:

- Will I aspire to be bright?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read Matthew 5:14-16.

1. Will you aspire to be bright in your marketplace?
2. What are some intentional ways you can do this?
3. Are you struggling with any of the three myths, and if so, why?
4. According to the Scriptures listed on the message notes, how can you shift your thinking to be in line with God's truth?