



Brian Gray: Well, hello and welcome to the Faith & Work Podcast, where we explore everyday work in God's world. The Faith & Work Podcast is produced and hosted by Denver Institute for Faith & Work. I'm Brian Gray. I'm the COO here and direct our 5280 Fellowship which is a nine month program for Christian professionals in spiritual formation and professional development. And then today, I get to guide a conversation that we'll have in our very first podcast with a few of my friends and colleagues. Let's start with who's in the room. Introduce yourself, tell us about what you do here.

Jeff: Well, hello. My name is Jeff. I'm the Founder and Executive Director of Denver Institute for Faith & Work. I'm the father of four daughters. I'm the big cheese. Haven't quite got founder status to plug in completely, you know, and being super powerful, but I'm the founder of Denver Institute for Faith & Work.

Joanna Meyer: I'm Joanna Meyer. I am the Director of Events and Sponsorships here at the Denver Institute for Faith & Work, and we host about eight to ten public events every year ranging from topics that are very industry specific, like were hosting an event in a couple of weeks on developing a Christian perspective on artificial intelligence for the tech community, and some are very broad, like what is it look like to have a credible public witness in the age of social media. It's an amazing job. I also host our conversation around women, work, and calling.

Dustin Moody: I'm Dustin Moody, I'm Director of Communications, and I have one of the most fun jobs that I can think of, to get people who don't yet know about what Denver Institute does and get them on-board either through events, or fellowships, or our church resources.

Brian Gray: Or the soc-meds.

Dustin Moody: The soc-meds, That's correct.

Brian Gray: Here's what we're going to do today. In this first conversation, we wanted to have a shared conversation dialogue around some of the key themes that animate our own work here at Denver Institute which we see showing up repeatedly in the work of people that we serve. These are also themes that you'll hear in the dialogues from the stories of our guests in future podcasts. To discuss some of these four themes, I'll start with a first one. Often times at Denver Institute, we will talk about the idea of the broadened gospel. Most people are comfortable with the idea that an individual being saved by grace through faith such that they're forgiven for their sins and spend eternity with Christ, most people are comfortable. This is an aspect of an orthodox understanding of the gospel.

Brian Gray: But we would say for the gospel to be orthodox, it also has to be much more than that. That in Christ and because of His resurrection, He's redeeming all things. We'll talk about the nature of the gospel as God's creation intent, how

the fall marred that, how in Christ and then, through His church today, He is redeeming that and it all is going to be restored. It's headed in a certain direction. This is this broadened gospel idea and from that foundation we can think really well about engaging our work.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah. One of the things that I think is most exciting about this conversation, Brian, around a bigger view of the gospel is that suddenly, our life in Christ gets diverse and colorful and relevant to what's happening in our lives every day. I think sometimes, in the church we've been taught that our work matters for just a handful of reasons. It might be that we live ethically there, that people would see Christ through the way live, that we earn money that can be given to charitable causes, or the church that's a place where we can evangelize to our co-workers and those are all good and awesome things but they don't reflect the diversity of God's kingdom and all of the ways that He is at work in the world.

Joanna Meyer: It's a bit like, I compare it to being handed a box of Crayola crayons that has eight colors, and you say, "Oh, great! I'm ready to draw some pictures," versus being handed a box of 64 crayons with the sharpener on the back of the box and you think, "Oh my goodness! All the color and the opportunity and the nuances of the goodness of Christ at work in the world are expressed with the broader gospel." Suddenly, if you're working in tech, you're thinking deeply about how what you create affects the lives of the people that are using your software or if you are a director at the local public hospital, you're thinking about how you can better communicate the dignity of each person through the way that your staff treat every patient that comes through the door and all of sudden you're thinking, "Oh yeah. We got 64 crayons, we have 128 crayons, and even more in the box."

Jeff: I'll add to that as well. When we think about our broadened view of the gospel, you know one of the core verses that we always goes to is John 3:16, "For God so loved ... " right? But, it actually says that, "God so loved the world ... " He so loved the world, not only isolated individuals and what happens to their soul after they die. In my own experience, I did my undergraduate in Spanish and Economics. I'm a big, tall, white guy that does speak Spanish and occasionally I speak Economics, but that language is a lot more difficult. But, I went to seminary and I was learning Hebrew and Greek, and Old Testament and New Testament, and when I would read those two together, the Bible as well as one of my favorite magazines after I graduated from undergraduate was The Economist. They seemed like completely, completely different world.

Jeff: I think maybe we've underestimated just how narrow our vision of the gospel actually is. Sometimes, we are not even starting conversations as about what faith means for so much of the world that we live in, whether that be healthcare, or journalism, or media, or any of the day-to-day situations in which we work. Again, I think, to your point, Joanna, about all the different crayons, I

feel like we only take maybe one or two crayons out of the box, but you know, I've got kids going into preschool. We get to do much better finger painting and crayon-making in the church center.

Brian Gray: You can burnt sienna. That was always the one color that never got used on the 128 box. It sat on the side.

Jeff: Yeah, that's right. In Denver Institute, that's what we do, burnt sienna. How come we haven't started coloring with that? And actually some of our events might feel like that like, "What are you guys doing talking about faith and artificial intelligence?" Well, nobody's used burnt sienna. We need to.

Joanna Meyer: But, who wants to live in a world that doesn't have the full range of God's kingdom expressed? I mean, life's pretty boring when you only have eight colors, but your faith gains vibrancy when you see the gospel expressed in every corner of our city and world.

Jeff: I think they'd only get frustrated when something happens society and our culture, and stuff seems to fall apart. But, has the church really been salt and light? Have we been the people of God that are really moving out into areas whether that'd be the tech industry or working with entrepreneurs, or politics, or entrepreneurs? Are we the people that are actually bringing about and preserving God's good world as well as healing what's been broken? Or are we just kind of content to do one day a week, one hour a week kind of Christianity? I don't think anybody that's listened to this would think, "That's what they want." But, oftentimes, we'd get stuck in that. So, hosting some of that broadened gospel conversations, some of them, we decided to do.

Brian Gray: At a really practical level. I heard recently a leader in the black church offered a profound statement, at least to me. He said if we have a truncated sense of the gospel that just reflects this individual soul-getting-saved, that we can justify the slave owner who would evangelize or proselytize slaves on their plantation, who at the same time didn't think about their larger humanity and contending against the institution of slavery at that time. We can separate out in the individual soul would have value and yet, the larger humanity, the nature of work, human dignity, injustice at a racial and systemic level wouldn't ever play into that slave owner's understanding of the gospel.

Brian Gray: I think that's an application of, if we leave things to be very narrow, our work doesn't have a place at play unless we're just that creepy person who lurks around the water cooler at work and waits to drop the gospel on somebody. Hey, you know, I think I saw your report got turned in, which reminds me of Jesus. I mean, that's the person you don't want to be and nobody wants to work with.

Jeff: The TPS report.

- Brian Gray: Yeah, your TPS report is a lot like forgiveness and the Lamb's Blood. This is a little awkward, right?
- Jeff: It is a little weird.
- Joanna Meyer: Yeah.
- Jeff: We're oftentimes just changing the subject like instead of actually, this is all one subject, this is all God's world, right?
- Joanna Meyer: Well, one thing that helps me too is that I think when we start talking about the gospel being bigger than personal salvation, people can get a little threatened because it feels like we're devaluing Christ's death and resurrection, the cross and really, it's placing it in a bigger context. It's broadening our understanding to the entire narrative of what God is doing in the Scripture. It starts in Genesis 1 and 2 when God makes man and woman in His image, and the image that we see is of a God who works. Our very first adjective that we see describing God is that He's a creator. He's creative, He's making the world. So, when He says, "I have made you to be like Me, now go and be like Me." It means go and work.
- Joanna Meyer: As Andy Crouch says, the author, "Make something of the world by stewarding it, by developing the world in front of us, by working in this blessed alliance of men and women to make something of the world." You see that beautiful ark of the scripture, of the brokenness and fallenness that comes, and Christ's death and resurrection on the cross doesn't just restore individuals. It's restoring all of the world, as Jeff said earlier. Suddenly, you realize, oh, then that means all of life has implications in how the gospel is looked at.
- Brian Gray: Yup.
- Jeff: I think we see that same call at the end of Christ's life, you know? Right before the ascension, he says, "Go and preach the gospel to all of creation."
- Joanna Meyer: Amen.
- Jeff: I think we take that at a lot of times for preaching the gospel to the individual which is, you know, good and mandated, but what does it look like to preach the gospel to all creation? I think when you have the conversation around work and our work reflecting God as Creator, that's where that gets lived out.
- Joanna Meyer: Yeah.
- Jeff: One of the things I said, I was speaking at my local church in Colorado here, and oftentimes, I think our gospels so just focused on atonement, repayments for sins that we actually forget other parts of the gospel which clearly, Paul, in the Book of Romans, incarnation and Jesus actually living in this world amongst

these people, in all the realities of life, and the marketplace is a part of the gospel as well as the resurrection, right? The resurrection is not just He was who He said He was, which is a part of it. It's also the dawn of the new world as [inaudible 00:10:37] fond of talking about.

Brian Gray: The prophet Owen [inaudible 00:10:42] reminds us that JC was a carpenter.

Jeff: JC was a carpenter.

Brian Gray: Which is really important. This idea of the broaden the gospel is we want to take and see in people's understanding of God's kingdom apply to their work are moved from the individual salvation of souls, which is important to a broadened sense of the redemption of all things. Okay, a second key thing and it might be common to a lot of people, even if they may have felt this without ever naming it. As we see oftentimes are really strong secular and sacred divide that people experience. The way it works is this way. There's two categories. Some practices or some types of work are considered sacred. They are important to God. They are "spiritual." They have great kingdom importance.

Brian Gray: Then, other practices or activities, or types of work would get into a category that people would have as secular. It doesn't have the same weight spiritually. When we got this really large secular sacred divide, we end up elevating the work of some people, traditionally missionaries, overseas missionaries. Bonus points if you're in an un-reach people group, double bonus points if you have to learn a dialect that nobody else speaks, right or pastors. Even in that, there's senior pastors and then, "Oh, you're just a youth pastor." We have these interesting ladders of what it means to do work that's sacred and important to God, and then, there's the rest of us; the butchers, the bakers, the candlestick makers, the runners of nonprofit organizations is what we're doing also in that same category. There's a strong tendency that people have either learned or heard, or perhaps just never questioned and that's something that doesn't square with the biblical account of how God views the world.

Jeff: If you're a candlestick maker and if you're listening to this podcast, we want to talk with you.

Brian Gray: Jesus loves your work.

Joanna Meyer: Your work matters to God.

Brian Gray: Your work matters to God.

Jeff: [crosstalk 00:12:34]

Brian Gray: We want to interview you about the work of candlestick makers.

Jeff: We would love to do that. One of the things that we're going to do in this podcast, we're going to be doing a lot of storytelling. We're going to be hearing about people's day-to-day work. We're going to be sharing stories about our own life and our work as we kind of frame this up as well. Yeah, but we're going to actually dive in to saying, what is the relevance of the gospel for all life and pushing against a sacred, secular divide. You know, Brian, one of the things I think about on that is actually, I tend to think about it in terms of public and private, sometimes more than secular and sacred that in the public realm, we think that things like science or business, those are things that are based on fact, right? Those are things that we should be able to get the right answer with.

Jeff: But, when it comes to the humanities, or religion, or faith; well, there can't be any right and wrong necessarily on those, a lot of people would say. So, that's your personal, private opinion but it actually has no bearing necessarily on the world or how we live our public life. As you read the news, as you read, even just read our world today, I think that's everywhere is that you don't think about Christianity and its relationship to the world or to our work because, well, just your personal, private opinion that it almost make no sense to start talking about that. We actually think Christianity, if Jesus is Lord over all, we should be looking at what that means for all sorts of areas of our life, our culture, and our work.

Brian Gray: Yeah, there's this idea that of the public and private divide, which is just really a version of the same secular, sacred divide. I think it was Francis Schaeffer who I first heard using this illustration of a typical, two-storey home. Think of a two-storey home. Architects and designers have laid it out such that the bottom floor of that home is usually what's considered public space, right? If I throw a party at my house and you come over, you can hang out in my kitchen, you can hang out in the living room, you can be a whole lot of places.

Brian Gray: But the second or the upper storey is oftentimes, private spaces, the bedroom, right? So, at the same dinner party, if I walk upstairs and you're in my master bedroom, I'm feeling creeped out and we have an interesting conversation to have, right? In this two-storey model, there are certain things that are public space, to your point, the sciences. But then, you know, faith, what's good for you is good for you. We kick these types of matters into the private space.

Jeff: Getting back to this idea of sacred, secular divide in our work, Joanna, I was curious from your perspective, you have a background in missions agency and now work with us here at Denver Institute, how does this idea resonate with you in your past work, past conversations? What does this look like outside of people who work in the faith community?

Joanna Meyer: I remember back in the day, it feels like it was an eternity ago, I worked in campus ministry. A part of my job was raising financial support to support my work. I can't tell you the number of times I sat down with my ministry partners

and they would say, "Wow. I'm so glad to be able to give you some money, so you can do work that really matters for God. I just do my job, but at least, I can give to you." At that time, I felt so humbled and honored that they would trust me with that money. I hope I would do it justice, but looking back, I grieve for that because they didn't realize the value of what they did. I think this conversation on Faith & Work matters because it affirms the gifts of every believer.

Joanna Meyer: If you think about the needs in our world and the scope of where we see brokenness, goodness, all it takes is one step out your door and you'll see something that isn't right in the world or isn't the way God intended it to be. How we'll only shift when we have every person who's following Christ understanding that the work that they do is an outpost of God's kingdom wherever that may be. Even if somebody is in a cubicle managing spreadsheets all day and they were just north of the Denver Tech Center, and there are thousands of people down there working every day, managing spreadsheets, that God is present in that one, wanted to shape their own spiritual lives that God is doing the work of the kingdom through them in that place. It really takes shifting our language and our understanding to see the fullness of God come through his people.

Jeff: Just to add to that, Joanna, I was at a lunch with a gentleman recently. We're talking about his experience as a kid growing up. He's now a real estate investor, but his dad told him when he was a kid, his dad told him, "Hey, there's two kinds of people in the world. There's goers and there's senders."

Joanna Meyer: Yup.

Jeff: His younger sister, actually, so this father's daughter [inaudible 00:17:00] medical missions work in Africa. Is she a goer or a sender, right? She was a goer. He, however was a real estate investor and it's his job to make the money to support the ones that [inaudible 00:17:13], right? That was actually his whole vision of what a meaningful life was; make as much money as I can to give it away to do that. So, we're not against medical missionary work and we're not against generosity. We think those are both beautiful things. But, we are against the idea of thinking about only one percent of the Body of Christ as our mission. What about the other 99% that are living out their day-to-day lives? The global workplace forum that [inaudible 00:17:37] is putting on this next year in Manila, that's the premise. Is that, it's the whole church bringing the whole gospel to the whole world and we're really trying to tease up what that means at our work.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah. If you'll humor me, I'm going to get a little intellectual here but I think it has some very practical applications. I read an article recently from the Center for Public Justice. It's a Christian think-tank that helps put forward policies whether it's in the business world or in government. They can help a Christian



worldview be expressed in these arenas. They came up with this report recently as part of their Families Valued Initiative, and it was fascinating because they looked at how modern business practices are having a profound effect in families. They're making a call to integrate God's call to both work and family. So, simple things like can women have a maternity leave that allows them to genuinely rest and care for a child, which we would want any mother, I think as believers to be able to care for an infant. But, can she afford to take a maternity leave? Do businesses have even basic policies to help make that happen?

Joanna Meyer:

Things like as a business owner, realizing that if you have folks on your payroll who are more working class and aren't receiving more than an hourly salary, it can be financially impossible for them to create space in their lives to actually care well for their families. Suddenly, you realize, "Oh, as a business owner, the way I structure my business, the choices I make in how I care for my employees will have a profound effect on something like family," which I think as Christians, we would all say that we really value. Bridging the secular, sacred divide really helps us think, what are the implications of my faith for this arena in which I have leadership or have resources?

Brian Gray:

Yes. This is just to even put a bone on it. It's a really nice example of the idea of a secular sacred divide doesn't exist per se in what we do, that actually any type of work that we would engage in, apart from that which is overtly sinful, is something that can be honoring to God and serving our neighbor. But, I think Jesus taught that the secular, sacred divide is actually something that runs internal to each one of us and why we do what we do. I think this is a great example trying to ask Christian business owners, Joanna, to just think in an integrated manner of how they would approach business, how they would think about benefits. It's an outworking of this, a reconnecting of this division.

Brian Gray:

Let's move to a third theme that we see oftentimes and that's the idea we'll talk frequently with people about the idea of calling. People bring a lot of baggage to the idea of calling. It's connected with their understanding of what's God will. Is it just a needle in a haystack that I have to figure out that some really holy people have, that I'm still on a journey of discovery or is it something larger? Well, we would suggest that calling, if we take a look biblically and historically, calling is something that primarily we, as Christian share in common. The idea of calling is, it's answering the types of questions like who are we as God's people? How are we to live and why are we to live?

Brian Gray:

After that, secondarily, it is about my expression of that. So, who am I supposed to be and becoming? How am I supposed to live? Why am I supposed to live? That God does also care about what we do and where we do it, but it's really subservient to this larger idea of calling being that which unifies all of us and animates some of these ideas and motivation. The thing we'll often talk about is what's the relationship of our work to a larger understanding or biblical vision or a calling like this. It makes work a very important subset of our calling, just like



other aspects of our life; the way we interact with our neighbors, the way we coach a 3rd and 4th grade girl's volleyball team, the way we engage family, the way we do hobbies. All of these are aspects of how God calls us to be in the world. Thoughts on that?

Jeff: I would add to that a couple of different things. I'll share a personal story. When I graduated from seminary, I was married and had two young kids and I was definitely struggling with this idea of calling. I was doing a job that I did not like one bit and I woke up one day saying, "God, I surely have missed it. I surely have missed it. I am not within Your will right now." I think that actually illustrates, Brian, something that's important to think about. There's a lot of people, I think, also think about calling in terms of "my ideal job" or "my best version of me, my ideal life." I think one of the things that the faith at work movement hasn't done well is we haven't taken a look broadly that most people don't have a ton of options in their day-to-day work.

Brian Gray: Absolutely. That's right.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah.

Jeff: Most people are waking up, they're serving their neighbors but also, their family and they're providing for that as well. I think oftentimes, in the Christian church, we've [inaudible 00:22:18] the division of calling that is really about do what you love. Do you love this?

Brian Gray: Absolutely.

Jeff: How much do you love this, right? That's what you're really, really called to do. But really, I think the center point of calling is the Great Commandment, "Love God and love your neighbors as yourself." Every single moment, even in circumstances of pain, you offer those back to God. I think, in those context, when you're sitting in an apartment right off of Holly in Colorado and you're saying, "I've missed it," there's an opportunity right there. Just submit your heart to Jesus and saying, "In my pain, Lord Jesus, meet me here." Immediately, you can be back within calling because calling is much more about who we're becoming rather than the types of work activities we're doing.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah.

Dustin Moody: Yeah. I think it's helpful to consider that many of the conversations around calling, at least in, say Christian circles come from a point of privilege. To our point, Jeff, it assumes that we have mobility to try a different job. It assumes that we have the means to go back to school or to learn a different skill, or to buy software that I need for graphic design or whatever that might be. I think, when you take a step back, to Brian's point earlier, and considering that calling

is something a little broader, it actually frees you to do God's work and to be faithful in that, wherever that is.

Jeff: I heard a story, one of our friends, his name is [Mambo 00:23:35] and he is a pastor of a white, working class, Hispanic church in town. He shared the story of a guy. He's originally from South America, but a lot of his congregants are from Mexico and he shared this story of a guy holding a basket of bread around on his back. He was just overflowing with the love of God and this guy was sharing the Good News and just passion for life with Mambo's wife when they were in Veracruz, Mexico. He's like, "There's a person, doesn't have options and there is a joy available to anybody in any circumstance that Christianity makes clear." It's based on what He's done at the resurrection. It's not based on your circumstance. This is the power of Christianity when where you have a boss that humiliates you or whatever it might be, there's an opportunity to be different because of what God has done for us.

Brian Gray: Yes. His sense of calling is how he sells bread. It's why he sells bread. It's who he is and is becoming as he sells bread. These are the aspects of calling that connect down to his work.

Jeff: Which has a very, very powerful influence on those around him. One quote that we often talk about around here at Denver Institute, actually it was Joanna that brought it to our attention, but it's from Oz Guinness and he talks about calling. He says this, he says, "Grand Christian movements will rise and fall. Grand campaigns will be mounted and grand coalitions assembled. But altogether, such coordinated efforts will never match the influence of untold numbers of followers of Christ living out their calling faithfully across the vastness and complexity of modern society." That's kind of a mouthful.

Jeff: "The untold numbers of followers of Christ living out their calling," this is powerful because when people living from a different, it's essential why. This is when you see the first public hospital. It started the 4th century Caesarea, you see it at the foundations of capitalism in the 11th century. You see everything from Bach to Michelangelo. You see a Christian church influencing culture, but it's one person submitting their heart and their life to God that has cultural impact and influence.

Brian Gray: For sure. Then, it makes calling, that long, slow obedience in the same direction, right, as opposed to what we do and where we do it. Okay. Fourth and final theme, again, we should resonate the stories of so many people. We like to talk about and think about work in a very holistic way. What I mean by a holistic definition of work is I think, I've [inaudible 00:25:52] and I'm paraphrasing it, the definition I heard from Dorothy Sayers originally. She said that work is the expression of our creative energies in service of God and neighbor. What this does is it leaves room for work to not exclusively be connected to a paycheck. Show, don't tell on this one, right? Let me ask a quick question. If somebody's

job is they prepare food for other people, their paid job is to prepare food; what do we call them?

Joanna Meyer: A chef.

Jeff: A cook?

Brian Gray: Yeah, chef, cook. Right, a number of others. If their job is to take care for children, my wife and I go out on a date and we pay for somebody, what do we call them?

Jeff: Babysitter.

Dustin Moody: A nanny.

Brian Gray: Yeah, a babysitter, a nanny. If somebody cleans our office after work or they clean homes, what's that type of work?

Joanna Meyer: Janitor.

Brian Gray: Yeah, right. Janitor or a maid. If somebody cooks and they clean, and they take care of children, they don't get paid, what do we call them?

Joanna Meyer: A mom.

Brian Gray: This is Joanna Meyer, very sexist. We call them a parent.

Joanna Meyer: Oh!

Brian Gray: Right? We call them a parent.

Joanna Meyer: Oh, yes, we do. We call them a parent.

Brian Gray: Point taken, right? Yeah, we call them typical mom. We call them a parent. Now, does anybody want to take up argument that the work of a parent or the work of a mother in those types of roles is not work? Absolutely not. That is a beautiful image of the creative expression of her or his energies in service of those children, in service of the people that they're going to interact with as they go out and become citizens at school. It's a way to worship God, right? We think of this holistic understanding of work.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah. Since I was the one who just said a sexist remark, I'm actually going to weigh in and hopefully, redeem my reputation. Brian, one of the things that has been so powerful here at Denver Institute is this conversation around women work in calling, because often, and I say this gently, but with a lot of passion behind it, often, when we think about how women's roles have been portrayed

in church culture, we often begin and end with our family and marriage commitments. Those are amazing things. They're rooted in the core identity of how God has made women. We can't escape our biology of how God has made us. Yet, when God calls men and women to His purposes in the world, it's a much broader context that work in family. That's one expression of it.

Joanna Meyer: As we think about what God is calling women to, He's calling them to steward every season of their lives. So, that ebbs and flows. It's rare to find a woman whose career will be straight line and one direction. It tends to go in waves through the various seasons and responsibilities that we have and yet, we're passionate about expanding that conversation. Women have, what I like to call, vocational imagination. They're saying, "God, how will You use me? What is the unique stewardship of this calling on my life at this moment?" Whether it's somebody like me who's what I call, an accidental career woman, who never thought I would be in my 40s and not married, and has had a much longer career than I anticipated. I just [inaudible 00:28:47] kids would be part of the picture by now or there's someone that's deep in the trenches of raising kids or juggling it. We want to have a vision that's robust enough for the unique expressions that every woman faces on a journey.

Jeff: One of the things I would add to that is work ... We talked about this. Work has intrinsic value, not just extrinsic. What we mean by that is that work isn't only about the money we make, so that we can buy stuff and live and not die. But, actually, the work that we do not only matters to God, but matters to all of us as well. I mean, we're sitting in the room right now recording our first podcast. I'm in a place with light and I'm looking at a window at a city. I've got computers around me. There's a table here. There's a screen. Somebody went to work and provided the clothes on my back, the water that I am drinking, the legal systems that we're surrounded by. When people show up to work and I actually say, there's something really worthwhile and valuable here and we'd say it people with Christian faith, what they see is an active, enabling love, it has huge impacts on society.

Jeff: However, would you go on just say, "I'm going to do the minimal I can because work stinks and I don't like," we become an extractive force because we're trying to extract money out of companies and so that we can just, you know, the Broncos, I love the Broncos but there's other things than just going and living for the weekend and trying to get rid of work in our life. We think work has real day-to-day value for our neighbors.

Joanna Meyer: Jeff, what are the implications for somebody that's retired who think, "I'm done with work."

Jeff: That's a good question. I've a book coming out in April of 2019 about that called [inaudible 00:30:17] God to Retirement. I just plugged myself. That's a little weird. No, but we should think about that as that as you think about moving in

retirement this season of stepping back from my first career, one of the things that I mentioned in the book is that work is intrinsic. Work is intrinsic to what it means to be human and that changes over season of a lifetime. But, there's an author that we quote here and he talks about how work later in life is really oftentimes about wisdom and blessing. It's about being a person of wisdom for your community and sharing the blessings that you've accumulated over a lifetime with others as well. I would say that work changes over seasons, but we're not off the hook. We're not off the hook. If work is service, we never retire from serving the needs of our neighbors.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah. You may move at a little slower pace and a little different environment, but you're still on duty for the Lord. Okay, so to draw our conversation to a close, I just want to refresh our listeners' memories about the four themes that will be part of the Faith & Work Podcast, this idea of a very big, vibrant gospel in the world. It's about integrating our lives, that we're not living in a sacred, secular divide that gives us this conflicting view of work. We want to gain clarity and passion around our callings. Finally, we want to develop a holistic view of work that captures people at every age, life stage, and role to see how their unique spot in this world matters to God. I can't wait to see where this conversation goes. Dustin, I would love to know from you as our Communications Director where this podcast is going.

Dustin Moody: Yes. We are very excited about this, what we're calling the first season of the Faith & Work Podcast between now and the next several months. We're going to be diving into these topics through conversations like this one today just with the three or four of us around the table. We're going to be hearing from some past event speakers and we're also going to be doing some new conversations with some people we think that you need to know about. People like [John Martian N. Snyder 00:32:11] and Chuck DeGroat and guests like [Caitlyn Beatty and Shaw Barraca and Eugene Peterson 00:32:15]. We've got a lot planned for the next couple of weeks and months, and if there's one takeaway that I could encourage everyone who's listening to do it, would be to subscribe to the podcast because we think there's some great conversations that you want to be a part of.

Jeff: Yeah, let me just take it from there, on just takeaways even from this podcast. A lot of people listen to podcasts on their way to work and we're thinking about you on the way to work as well today. So, let's actually just go around, just a couple 30-second takeaways from this inaugural podcast something that people can sink their teeth into. Brian, kind of what's the big takeaway that you would share with our listeners today?

Brian Gray: Yeah, I think what we've done in the conversation or what we would hope for listeners is to start just reflecting on the way that they integrate their experience in spirituality and their experience of work. A life unreflected upon is just less interesting. It's less worth living. To begin to think about how God is at

work within our work, how He's animating those things, how work is a place for a potential worship, mission, spiritual formation, I would just suggest the idea of just begin reflecting upon your work and God.

Jeff: Wonderful. Joanna?

Joanna Meyer: I would say, ask the Lord to open your eyes to the things in this world that aren't the way that He intends them to be and just spend some time looking, whether you're commuting home from work, whether you're running out for lunch, or washing dishes in the evening, just say, "Lord, show me what's here that isn't how when we say "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" what here on earth isn't the way that your kingdom would heaven be?"

Jeff: Thanks Joanna. The last thing I would say, I would say a quick takeaway is that as we go about and we live about the world, we have to question the culture that we're living in today. We have to realize that sin is not on the inside, but it's distorted and broken everything from companies to cities to cultures. But, the breadth of redemption is that big as well. When you think about that, go in and see co-workers as beautiful in God's image and just as every bit as broken as you as well and saying, "God has sent me out into mission in this place." What does it mean? Just as you said, Joanna, to be a part of healing of God's broken world in our day-to-day life. Dustin, what's the last takeaway you have for us?

Joanna Meyer: Yeah. My last takeaway is pretty simple and it's to subscribe to the podcast, whatever podcast platform you choose to listen on, hit that Subscribe button and hit the Share button. We're looking forward to the next several weeks.

Jeff: We're going to be huge. You guys don't know it yet, but we're going to be enormous. We're going to blow it up. Thanks so much for listening. We really appreciate it. Thanks for joining us on the first Faith & Work Podcast and we'll see you on the next episode.