

# Jesus and Work: Just Pay and Just Working Conditions

Is Jesus familiar with work? Growing up in a manual trade working with His hands.

Matthew 13:54-55 “He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, “Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter’s son?”

Mark 6:3”Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?

***Yes, Jesus knew well the work of human hands and the satisfaction of physical labor.***

***The following are examples of his familiarity with masonry and building.***

Examples of him being familiar with masonry (carpentry in same guild as masonry?)

Luke 20:17 “But he looked at them and asked, “What then does this scripture passage mean: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’?( Ps 118:22; Is 28:16)

Mathew 24:1-2 “..when his disciples approached him to point out the temple buildings. He said to them in reply, “You see all these things, do you not? Amen, I say to you, there will not be left here a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.” Parallels in Luke 21:5-6 & Mark 13:1-2

Mathew 16:18 “And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.”

John 2:19 “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up’” (see also Mt 24:2; 26:61; 27:40; Mk 13:2; 14:58; 15:29; Lk 21:6 about temple rebuilding)

Luke 14:28 -30 “Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, ‘This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.’

John 14:2-3 “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you (build a place)? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.”

**Jesus knew the scarcity of solid hard workers and how hard life could be.**

Matthew 9:36-38 “At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “*The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few*; so ask the master of the harvest to ***send out laborers*** for his harvest.”

## **St Paul also knew the value of physical labor, manual work**

Paul was a tentmaker by trade (Acts 18:3; 20:34)

1 Thessalonians 2:9 “For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.”

Colossians 3:23 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

1 Timothy 5:18 “The laborer deserves his wages.”

## **Old Testament Teaching on Just Wages (Living Wage)**

Deuteronomy 24:14-15 “You shall not exploit a poor and needy hired servant, whether one of your own kindred or one of the resident aliens who live in your land, within your gates. On each day you shall pay the servant’s wages before the sun goes down, since the servant is poor and is counting on them. Otherwise the servant will cry to the LORD against you, and you will be held guilty.”

Leviticus 19:13 “You shall not exploit your neighbor. You shall not commit robbery. You shall not withhold overnight the wages of your laborer.”

Jeremiah 22:13 “Woe to him who builds his house on wrongdoing, his roof-chambers on injustice; Who works his neighbors without pay, and gives them no wages.”

Malachi 3:5 “I will draw near to you for judgment, and I will be swift to bear witness against sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers, those who deprive a laborer of wages..”

## **New Testament Passages about Just Wages and taking pride in one’s work effort**

James 5:3-4 “Woe to you rich, weep for yourselves .... Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.”

Ephesians 6:5-8 “Slaves, be obedient to your human masters with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ, not only when being watched, as currying favor, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, willingly serving the Lord and not human beings, knowing that each will be requited from the Lord for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.” (Slavery???)-Next Issue!!!)

Luke 3:14-16 “Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Luke 1:52-53 “He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.”