Worldview Apologetics: Faith Impacting Culture

Lecture 8:
Vocation & our GPS in the Kingdom of God

Dr. Richard S. Park, D.Phil.

Lecture Outline

I. Calling, Vocation, Profession
   A. Secondary Callings: as strategic
   B. Secondary Callings: as sacred

II. GAPS in the Kingdom
   A. Gifts
   B. Passions
   C. Serving God’s purposes

III. Final Word of Encouragement
   A. “Personal Redemption”
   B. Summary and transition

I. Calling, Vocation, Profession
   • Calling / Vocation / Profession
     • Calling – that arena of analysis, activity, and asking for which one is uniquely gifted and unquestioningly passionate
     • Primary & Secondary Calling
       • One calls us to “deny [ourselves] and take up [the] cross and follow [him]” (Mk. 8.34).
       • Primary before secondary; indicative (who we are) drives the imperative (what we do).
I. Calling, Vocation, Profession

A. Secondary callings as strategic
   • If the whole of the Christian universal church “felt called” to basket-weaving … (Acts 13.36)
   • Shaun – making money to give to thinkers;
     RSP – Templeton Foundation
   • Do not over-strategize [OG to US; RSP to US]

B. Secondary callings as sacred
   • Consider: poverty-reduction v. pornography;
     praises from the heart v. shouts at a spouse;
     communion versus communism
   • 2 Tim. 2.20-21.

Lecture Outline

I. Calling, Vocation, Profession
   A. Secondary Callings: as strategic
   B. Secondary Callings: as sacred

II. GAPS in the Kingdom
   A. Gifts
   B. Passions
   C. Serving God’s purposes

Our GPS in the Kingdom

A. Gifts
   • those capacities to engender GTB, the exercise of which comes naturally to us
   • in exercising our gifts, we feel most like ourselves
   • skill v. gift [pick apples; starting an int’l apple co.]
   • the exercise of our gifts is something that others should enjoy

B. Passions
   • those dispositions of the heart in virtue of which we deeply desire to engender GTB
   • that which we cannot not do
   • Πάσχω [paschó]: that for which we are willing to suffer
   • the expression of our passions make us feel most alive
Our GPS in the Kingdom

B. Passions

1. Our passions often: dominate our thought-life; drive us to work; inspire us to dream; make us wish things were different; keep us awake; wake us up; make us wait; cause us to pray; get us talking as well as draw us into silent pondering; stir our souls.

2. What inspires me to dream? What makes me wish things were different? What keeps me awake or wakes me up? What do I love to pray and/or talk about?

3. Which values of the Kingdom – GTB – do we want to see reflected, reinforced, and reified in the world of:
   - e.g., inhuman trafficking; global (or local) poverty; politics; business ethics; academic scholarship; popular culture (films, songs, fine art, museum curacy, radio studios, tour buses, concert venues); primary/secondary school education; professional sports; social media; laws; and nearly infinitely much more.

C. And

• We must consider our gifts (what others enjoy our doing) AND our passions (what we ourselves enjoy doing).

D. Serving God’s purposes

• King David “had served the purpose of God in his own generation” (Acts 13.36)

• taking into account what God seems to be doing in his cosmic redemption program in our generation and geography

• how much greater is it to align our analyses (thought), activities (work), and asking (prayer) with the global purposes of God in our historical moment

Lecture Outline

I. Calling, Vocation, Profession
   A. Secondary Callings: as strategic
   B. Secondary Callings: as sacred

II. GAPS in the Kingdom
   A. Gifts
   B. Passions
   C. Serving God’s purposes

III. Final Word of Encouragement
   A. “Personal Redemption”
   B. Summary and transition
III. Final Word of Encouragement

A. “Personal Redemption”
   - Redemption flattens fear (Joseph in Gen. 37-50)
   - Rich’s regret: friends → friends

B. What I would tell my 20-year-old self
   1. Find a wise mentor (1 or 2)
   2. Forge Kingdom friendships (3-5)
   3. Formulate a marriage plan (3-5)

---

The Course
Overarching Question (OQ)
“How does Scripture inform the Christian worldview such that the integration of faith and reason impacts culture?”