

Title: Vocation

Series: 2026 Fall Vision Series

Speaker: Joshua Parrish

Date: October 4, 2026



Key Texts: Daniel 6:1-4, Colossians 3:23-24

Introduction

As apprentices to Jesus, we practice vocation in contrast to a world that seeks meaning at the altars of accomplishment and accumulation. Ultimately, the practice of vocation is participating with God through stewarding our God-given identity and calling to create and cultivate good in the world. Our work, paid or unpaid, matters, and so does the way we approach our work; we seek to pursue excellence and integrity in the everyday, ordinary details. We are invited to practice vocation through cultivating habits of open-handedness and contribution. Open-handedness is the habit of stewarding our time, talents, and treasures as channels

through which God's abundance flows to others. Contribution is partnering with God in the renewal of all things through the continual integration of our inner and outer lives. Rather than pursuing ambition or visibility, we desire faithfulness. We invite the Holy Spirit to transform and empower us as we seek to become the kind of people who, rooted in Christ, build, cultivate, and seek shalom in the very places God has planted us.

Icebreaker: Where is one place (your job, neighborhood, team, school) where you can honestly say "this is exactly where I'm supposed to be?" How might God be using you there, or inviting you into something more, to help that place flourish?

Discussion Questions

1. Thinking back to the sermon from this Sunday, what stuck with you? Was there anything particularly encouraging or challenging for you?
2. Read **Daniel 6:1-4**. What details stand out to you from this passage? What stands out to you about the way that Daniel is described?
3. Read **Daniel 6:1-3**. Daniel is given significant responsibility as an exile in a foreign land, one that did not share his values or worship his God. Put yourself in his position – surrounded by ambition and

competition in a role you didn't necessarily choose for yourself. What do you think allowed Daniel to distinguish himself above the other administrators? How does this challenge or encourage you when you think about bringing a quality of excellence to a role or responsibility that you maybe didn't choose, or you feel "stuck" with?

4. Read **Daniel 6:4**. The other officials went looking for something to accuse Daniel of and came up empty — not because he was flawless, but because his excellence and integrity were consistent, even when he was not being rewarded for it. Where might God be inviting you to pursue quiet, consistent integrity and excellence, even in places no one else might notice? Digging a little deeper, where in your own life might you be tempted to cut corners, to do the bare minimum, or to perform only when someone is watching?

5. Read **Colossians 3:23-24**. Whether your work is paid or unpaid, seen or unseen, celebrated or overlooked, what do you think would change if you approached it as service to the Lord rather than to people? This excellence does ultimately ripple outward to the people around us. Think of one task on your plate this week. What would it look like to do this specific task "as for the Lord," and who might benefit if you did it with excellence?

Practice: Contribution Audit

Thank God for the work, paid or unpaid, that he has given you, and for the time, talents, and treasures he has entrusted to you.

Pick one place where you currently spend a lot of time. How might God be inviting you to partner with God in bringing renewal to that space? Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to see where God is already at work. Write down 1-2 ways you are sensing His presence and activity in that place.

Consider Daniel's excellence and integrity in his work. Prayerfully consider this question with the Lord as you consider your own work, paid or unpaid: Where might I be pursuing excellence for recognition or self-advancement, rather than as an offering to God and for the flourishing of others?