



Seculosity

16 October 2020

How would you define the word “religious”? The word “secular”?

Have you ever felt like you were at church even though you weren't?

I will have lived a good enough life if _____.

Religion is....

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Alas, if our current cultural climate tells us anything, it's that the needs addressed by Religion-- for hope, purpose, connection, justification, enoughness-- haven't diminished as churches have become taprooms and theaters. The psychic energy involved hasn't evaporated. It can't. It has to go *somewhere*. ~ **Seculosity**

Seculosity:

Religiosity that's directed horizontally rather than vertically, at earthly rather than heavenly objects.

The Seculosity of Busyness and Work

Do you feel like your life has gotten busier or less busy in the last five years?

Can you imagine a life lived without a scoresheet? Does that prospect make you feel excited? Nervous?

How do you feel when people ask what you do for a living? Is it easy to answer that question or do you avoid it?

Busyness has become a status symbol, a.k.a. a public display of enoughness.

~**Seculosity**

Matthew 20:1-16, The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Jesus said, “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

What is the scandal of this parable?

How might vs. 16 re-orient how we view our work lives?