

Workers, Shirkers, and Jerkers¹

Nehemiah 3:5

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Illustration:** When the company founded by Andrew Carnegie was taken over by the U.S. Steel Corporation in 1901, it acquired as one of its obligations, a contract to pay the top Carnegie executive, Charles M. Schwab, the then unheard of minimum sum of \$1,000,000.00. J.P. Morgan of U.S. Steel was in a quandary about it. The highest salary on record was then \$100,000.00. He met with Schwab, showed him the contract and hesitatingly asked what could be done about it. "This!" said Schwab as he took the contract and tore it up. That contract had paid Schwab \$1,300,000.00 the year before. "I didn't care what salary they paid me," Schwab later told a *Forbes* magazine interviewer. "I was not animated by money motives. I believe in what I was trying to do and I wanted to see it brought about. I cancelled that contract without a moment's hesitation. Why do I work? I work for just the pleasure I find in work, the satisfaction there is in developing things, in creating. Also, the associations business begets. The person who does not work for the love of work, but only for money, is not likely to make money nor to find much fun in life."²
2. In the reconstruction of the wall of Jerusalem, the nobles of Tekoa "would not stoop to serve their Lord" (Neh. 3:5, ESV).
3. In any work, among the workers, there are workers, shirkers, and jerkers.

DISCUSSION:

I. There are workers.

- A. Yielded to God's will
- B. Involved in the task
- C. Compassionate to those in need
- D. Accountable to others
- E. Committed to the work

II. There are shirkers.

- A. Slightly yielded to God's will
- B. Slightly involved in the work
- C. Slightly compassionate to those in need
- D. Slightly accountable to others
- E. Slightly committed to the work

III. There are jerkers.

- A. Afraid of losing control

¹ James Dunn, "Calling All Workers!" by James Dunn. www.sermoncentral.com. Accessed 07/16/2004.

² *Bits and Pieces*, May 1991, p. 2.

- B. Afraid of losing attention
- C. Afraid of losing influence
- D. Afraid of losing position

CONCLUSION:

1. When workers do not want to serve...
 - a. They lack vision.
 - b. They do not have a desire to grow (i.e. they are complacent).
 - c. They refuse to let go of the past.
 - d. They had rather let others do the work.
 - e. They are lazy.
 - f. They are blinded by Satan.
2. Illustration: The sign in the store window said, "NO HELP WANTED." As two men passed by, one said to the other, "You should apply. You'd be great."