The Stewardship of Service:

Sharing the Gospel Through Your Work

By Erin Jenkins



In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul described what stewardship of service looks like. He told the Corinthians, "I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them" (verse 19). He also said he would "become all things to all people…for the sake of the gospel" (verses 22-23, ESV). In his ministry, Paul used every opportunity to serve others and share the gospel, whether with believers or nonbelievers.

We are called to do the same. Having a career outside pastoral ministry or Bible work does not mean we cannot share the gospel in our daily work. Some of us are teachers, healthcare professionals, grocery workers, Uber drivers, and laypersons. We are all entrusted with a stewardship of service and given our own gift: the work God has given us to do and the ability He gives us for it (1 Corinthians 9:17; 7:7).

In my work as a psychiatric professional, people come to me every day with mental health challenges, including serious mental illnesses. Although there are boundaries to directly sharing the gospel in my work, I do not hide that I am a Christian. That allows me to listen openly and "become all things to all people" (1 Corinthians 9:22). At the start of my day, I pray for a double portion of the Spirit so that I may "see" people with a different set of eyes. People often come to me hopeless, desperate, and at their wits' end. When someone tells me they are suffering mentally and emotionally, I offer hope where I can and prayer to those open to it. Sometimes that means being a spiritual counselor, but most times it means being an open ear. Even when clients do not express an interest in the Bible, I provide compassionate care so they may see Jesus through me. I have had long-term clients say when they find out I am Christian, "I knew there was something about you," or "You are an answer to my prayers."

And that is what Paul meant when speaking to the Christian church. In these situations, God places us where He equips us with the desire, education, and Spirit to share the gospel through our work and the love of Christ. You do not need theological training or professional schooling to share God's love in service to others. So ask yourself: how can the work I do become an opportunity to serve others?

