

The Matthew 633
Workplace
invites you to
31 Days of Devotional Reflection
for
Job Seekers

Note from Barb:

I pray this resource blesses you and leads you into a deeper relationship with the Father. Never forget, you work for Him and can never be unemployed in His Kingdom.

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*Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need.*
Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

Without a doubt, this is the most radical... and the most important... piece of advice a job seeker will ever receive. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else. Radical? Yes! In fact, it's totally opposed to the advice you'll get from the world. But when God is the Ruler over your job search He can guide you and open doors that wouldn't have opened any other way. Of course, you will still have to work very hard. But, if you give God your full attention first and foremost, He will direct, manage and bless the rest of the process for you.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I am a citizen in the Kingdom of God.

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,
1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT)

You do not belong to yourself! Now that's an interesting piece of information. I used to hear my daughter tell her brother, "You are not the boss of me." Well, don't say that to God because God owns you—body, mind and spirit. It's time to throw out all thoughts and beliefs that do not line up with the Father who adopted you. You need to think His thoughts and seek His ways. This time between jobs is God's time to do some serious work on you. Agree, cooperate, and behave as someone who knows His Spirit of God is in you every moment of every day, every place you go.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I belong totally to God who created me.

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood
enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the
unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark
world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*
Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

Don't miss this vital point. A huge battle is raging and you are not on the sidelines! Like it or not, it's time to become "armed and dangerous." If you've been going into the job market without prayer, without the direction of the Holy Spirit, and without the sword of the spirit, it's no wonder you're struggling. Stop stumbling around the battlefield bewildered and defense-less. Put on the whole armor of God! The Enemy may not want you to find your place in the workforce but God does! Suit up and claim your place with spiritual force.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I declare war on the enemies of Christ.

If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Matthew 6:30-33
(Message)

This may be one of the most important revelations a job seeker could ever receive. Your employer is Almighty God. He adopted you into His household and you work, full time, for Him. You can never be unemployed and you will never run out of provision. Think of the children in a royal family. They have work to do but they never need to be concerned about their provision. That's you! God has already met all your needs and now He's trying to get you to receive His provisions by faith. Turn all your attention on getting to know your new employer, your Father the King, and see what He has in store for you.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/____

DECLARE THIS: I work for my Father, the King over all things.

*For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD.
“They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give
you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)*

Are you still trying to decide if you want to do your job search “God’s way,” or handle it yourself? Are you persuaded that you need to get God involved, or do you still think you’re okay on your own? Pause right here and take the time to meditate on this word. The God who sees all of eternity is telling you that He has a great future and hope for you. Doesn’t it make sense to put Him in charge? He promises only good to those who trust Him. Can you do better than that for yourself?

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I choose God’s plan for my life because it is better than anything I could plan.

*“But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I
am going to do. For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?
I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”*
Isaiah 43:18-19 (NLT)

What do you feel when you think about your last job? The instruction here is clear—“forget all that.” There is nothing about your past that can stop the future God has for you! Accept this and rejoice in your freedom from sadness, shame, guilt, anger, and resentment. Turn all your attention to the new thing God is about to do with and through you. Watch for the new path He has carved out for you. Watch to see how He will fill your present “wasteland” with rivers of flowing water! Focus on this alone—God has a wonderful future for you.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I willingly and completely release the past; it has no hold on me.

No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8 (NLT)

To put it simply, it's time to put your house in order. If you know that Jesus is the Lord and you want to serve Him ... but you're not sure how. Here's your starting point. Go to the last thing God told you to do and do it. Did he tell you to forgive someone? Do it. Is there a habit you need to break? Maybe there's some project you've been putting off or a volunteer assignment you haven't yet accepted. Now is the time. Go to the Lord and tell him you're willing to do anything He tells you and then just do it.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I receive my righteousness by faith in Jesus.

*She (Wisdom) offers you long life in her right hand,
and riches and honor in her left.*
Proverbs 3:16

Apparently, Solomon was really onto something when he chose wisdom above everything else. Most of us would try to get our basic needs met and then seek wisdom when we were comfortably fixed. But just look at what wisdom holds in her hands—long life, riches and honor! What an amazing concept! When you seek wisdom, which is just another name for the Word of God, you are guaranteed to get all her gifts. In the book of James, you find that God will give wisdom to anyone who asks for it. That certainly seems like the way to go.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I choose wisdom and seek it diligently.

*So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. "It is the LORD's will," Eli replied.
"Let him do what he thinks best."
1 Samuel 3:18 (NLT)*

“Let Him do what He thinks best.” Are you able to do that? Can you stand before the Lord and tell Him to train you however He chooses? What if God wants to deal with something in your heart before He opens up a place of new employment for you? Are you okay with that? Might there be some project He wants you to undertake now, even though there is no way to make income by doing it? Are you willing to obediently spend your time on it? Listen to what God has in mind for you. He knows your situation and He knows what you really need. Decide to trust Him, no matter what. His will for you is far better and greater than anything you could plan for yourself.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I trust God's timing because He sees the future and has my very best in mind.

Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

A job search is a full-time job and few people do it well. Nothing about it is automatic or easy. It takes training and preparation and yet few people do the research and study required to master the process. What about you? Do you know how to conduct a job search so well that Your Father would be proud of you? If not, get busy and get good at it. If this is where God has you now, master the process. Learn to interview well. Spend your time in a planned and disciplined way. Show up on temporary assignments as if you are there to work for the Lord himself. Joseph was a great worker when he was a slave in Potiphar's house. And he continued to behave with excellence even in prison. Now it's your turn. Be the best job seeker out there.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I am a good worker in all my endeavors. I am never off duty in God's service.

“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”
Matthew 7:7-11 (NLT)

When you’re sick you have no problem taking a prescription medication that promises to help you recover, right? You’ll take the medication three times a day for months if that’s what the doctor prescribes. You don’t stop taking it if you aren’t completely well after a dose or two. You just follow the directions on the bottle, believing relief will come. Why do we have such trouble doing the same thing with the promises we receive from God? Joseph, Moses, Abraham, and countless others had to wait for the fulfillment of their dreams and promises. The Word is clear — if you keep on, you will receive. You’ll find what you seek and land where you need to be. So keep on.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I know God’s word is true and His promises are real.

*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,
who will never leave you.”*

John 14:16 (NLT)

Say this request out loud right now — “Lord, make me aware of your presence within me. Teach me to be led by your Spirit.” Now you’re ready to look for a job. Sadly, most job seekers never find this internal source of direction. They go to bed every night wondering if they spent their time well. Did they do all they could do to get back to work, they wonder? How about you? Do you recognize God’s voice when He speaks to you? Can you settle down at night confident that you were always in the right place doing the right things? If not, ask Him to teach you to listen.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I receive by faith the Holy Spirit of God as an indwelling presence in my life.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Have you ever experienced the great joy of doing something you really love? Amazingly, when you use your God-given gifts and talents you also do your best work with your greatest satisfaction. Doesn't it show the love of God that He would make you good at something and use those same gifts to make you happy? But notice the purpose here. Your talents and gifts were given for service to others. If you use them selfishly or hoard them until the "offer is right" they'll produce no fruit. So use your gifts — give them away for a while if you must— and they'll produce a harvest for both you and the Kingdom.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I thank God for my gifts and talents. I dedicate them to His service.

[Type here]

“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

Psalm 139:13-15 (NLT)

God made you so you’ve got to be good! He doesn’t make mistakes. No matter what you may have been told, you aren’t an accident. In fact, God designed you as a unique part of His master plan with no one else to stand in for you. Do you understand your design? Have you discovered your gifts and talents? This would be a great time to find out what you have to contribute to the Kingdom of God. Don’t be like the servant who buried his talents. Figure out what you’re designed to do and invest your gifts and talents for the purposes of God.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I know that I am wonderfully made and that God has a purpose for my life.

[Type here]

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
for good works, which God prepared beforehand that
we should walk in them.*
Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

Many job seekers complain that they don't know what their purpose is. There's no mystery. The life purpose of every believer is to bring God glory! This scripture makes it pretty clear that you were created in Christ to do good works. Those works have been laid out before you and God will walk you right into them. The trouble comes when you start looking for a career that will satisfy and fulfill your selfish desires; jobs to make you feel important and respected. You're in the workplace to serve others and represent God. Period. So find a way to bring God's love and light wherever you go. Ask God to open doors to the places where you can be the greatest blessing. There's your purpose, now go for it!

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I am ready and available to perform good works.

*Each time he said, "My grace is all you need.
My power works best in weakness."
So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ can work through me.*
2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

What weakness can hold you back in the face of this promise? Do you think you are too old, young, unskilled, over-qualified, or shy? Imagine God noticing you and saying, "Oh no, I forgot about that college education (or age requirement or experience) and now the eternal destiny that I had planned, before the foundation of the earth, can't happen. I blew it!" Not possible! There is nothing about you that can stop what God has planned for you from the beginning of time. So, change your mind about your perceived "limitations" and let the power of Christ carry you through to the finish line. Never forget your God is able!

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I am not limited by my weaknesses. Christ is more than enough.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’”

John 16:13-15

Wouldn't the world love to have this? Look at all the things they do to find out about the future. Psychic hot lines, forecasters, analysts... Imagine what they'd pay to get answers from The Source of all wisdom and knowledge. God offers this to you. Christ himself moved into you on the day of your new birth, ready to bring you word from the very throne room of God. You'll be told whatever you need to know when you need to know it. God gave His Son everything He has and Jesus is ready to share it with you.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I am not confused. God's Word is my lamp and light.

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

A job search can really make you feel alone. Everybody goes off to work, school or some routine and there you are all alone. Or so it seems. But God never leaves you and He sends others. Here are some clues to help you recognize them. First, they are committed to your success — looking for leads and talking to others about you. Second, they help you when you fall, reminding you to ask for forgiveness and “let it go.” Third, they “keep you warm” and connected to others. Some folks might avoid you while you’re unemployed, but these people stand and fight with you. Connect with people like this and become the kind of person God can send to others.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: God has arranged divine connections for me in the body of Christ.

He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not.”
Matthew 13:11 (NLT)

Have you ever wondered why Jesus talked in parables? His disciples asked Him about it. He said that He didn’t intend for everyone to understand His teaching. You are privileged to receive knowledge that is hidden from others. So, what’s your part? You need to recognize when God is speaking to you and to watch for His hidden secrets all the time. You are being given insight into an invisible Kingdom and, make no mistake about it, it’s the only Kingdom that matters. When this world fades away, God’s Kingdom will remain. So you need to know its secrets — for abundant life now and for all eternity.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I hear from God and I can know His will.

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

Colossians 3:1-2 (NLT)

Nothing will bring a job seeker down faster or harder than thinking about the wrong things. Turn on a news story about unemployment rates and bam, the wind will go completely out of your sails! What does that tell you? Simply that you need to guard your thoughts. Unemployment rates do not concern you; negative reports do not apply to you. "You have been raised to a new life in Christ." No matter what is going on in the world, you are safe in the Kingdom of God. Fill your mind with His truth and your heart with His love. Don't let anything else in.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I have set my sights on Jesus and Him only.

*This is my command—be strong and courageous!
Do not be afraid or discouraged.
For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*
Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

This is a command, not a suggestion. No head hanging, shoulder drooping, foot dragging for you. No “I can’t help feeling down; I’m only human.” Face every moment of every day knowing that God is with you. He’s on the phone with you. He’s in the car with you. He’s filling out applications with you. More than that, His plans for you are awesome and His provision for you is limitless. Focus on His promises. Meditate on them, murmur them under your breath, and keep your eyes on them. Will you obey this command or shrug it off and keep struggling?

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I have the victory in every situation.

*Be thankful in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)

You don't have to be thankful for all circumstances, just thankful during them. When situations are painful and challenging, God isn't the cause. You can be assured He has something else in mind for you. He offers the promises and provisions to work the problem all the way to a good conclusion. You can give thanks in those circumstances with the absolute confidence that God has already made a way out for you! Your solution awaits. Think about what God has promised and how you'll feel when the victory is yours. Now you can give thanks in all circumstances.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/____

DECLARE THIS: I am grateful for my life and all the promise that it holds.

*For if you live according to [the dictates of] the flesh,
you will surely die. But if through the power of the [Holy]
Spirit you are [habitually] putting to death (making extinct,
deadening) the [evil] deeds prompted by the body,
you shall [really and genuinely] live forever.*
Romans 8:13 (AMP)

You choose. Decide to allow the Holy Spirit to give you power or choose to struggle, fail, and struggle some more. The best choice is rather obvious. The abundant life that God desires for you, can only be obtained by habitually making the choice to listen to and obey the Spirit inside. Then, with that empowerment, you will put to death evil deeds and the limitations of your worldly nature. Hit the streets in the strength of the Lord and in the confidence that a powerful, God-quality life is already working in you.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I have the guarantee of eternal life and nothing can change that.

*Give all your worries and cares to God,
for he cares about you.*
1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)

This just doesn't seem right. How can we be adults and not worry? You need to "worry things in for a landing" if you really want them to happen, don't you? When you get anxious about the future, do you excuse yourself saying "After all, I'm only human." That's not how God sees it. His Word is clear — give your concerns to Him and fear not. God views worry, fear and anxiety as a vote of "no confidence" in His Word. Either you believe He cares for you and He is able to handle everything that concerns you or you don't. Which is it? The right answer is pretty obvious. Give God all your cares and get on with other things.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I have no cares. I have a good and faithful Shepherd to watch over me.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."
John 14:12 (NLT)

What are you going to do with this scripture? Jesus said that anyone who believes in Him will do the same works as He did. You have His love inside you, His mind, His spirit... you're completely equipped. You are on a path to a great destiny and eternal life. But you must absolutely believe that Jesus is who He says He is and that you are who He says you are. You have to decide to believe. Then, by faith, you can go into jobs that are too big and work that is too challenging and accomplish great things for the Kingdom. You can do it. Jesus said so!

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I am on my way to my God-ordained destiny.

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God.*
1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)

Do you think you're off the hook because you're unemployed or in a temporary job that "doesn't count?" Well, this word says that even when you're eating or drinking, you're supposed to bring God glory, so I'd say it's a full-time assignment. But that raises some interesting questions. How can you bring God glory when you're unemployed? What can you do to bring your family and loved ones closer to God when you're not going off to work each day? If you don't know the answer to these questions, ask God. He already has something in mind, I promise.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I am an ambassador for Christ and I know the world is watching me.

God will make this happen, for He who calls you is faithful.
1 Thessalonians 5:24

This is an intriguing idea, isn't it? Could it really mean that the Lord commits Himself to make some things happen in your workplace; that your job search isn't entirely up to you? Absolutely! But you have to know and believe what He has said He'll do. He promises to give you the right words to say, to make a way where there is none, and protect you from harm. Search for His promises and expect Him to make things happen in, through and for you. Count on it. Count on the good news.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I will always overcome through the blood of the Lamb because God brings the victory.

*But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled
by fear of harm.*
Proverbs 1:33

The Lord has gifts in mind for believers who are going through the experience of unemployment and job search. He wants to permanently change your life for the better. One of His key objectives is to give His children continuous and unshakable peace. Not just peace during the time of unemployment but for the rest of your life. If you can experience His peace during a job search when everything looks shaky and out of control, it is not hard to imagine that you will be able to stay in peace for the rest of your life, right? So where will peace like this come from? How can you experience peace in these uncertain and chaotic times? His Word says that you have to listen to Him--to hear His word and pay attention to only what He tells you. Isn't peace worth the effort to do that?

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I have unshakable peace.

God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

Ephesians 1:9

Take heart and be encouraged. You are eternally connected to Jesus Christ and nothing can change that. You have been adopted into the royal household of God Almighty and there is an inheritance there with your name on it! God chose you, before you ever set foot on earth, and He is working everything out according to the plan He has for you. That's not all. Jeremiah 29:11 says His plan is a good one and you're going to like it. So, relax, God's got you and He'll never let you go. Just keep on — knocking on doors, doing the good works He gives you to do, and loving others. The rest is up to Him and He's faithful to do what He has promised.

REFLECTIONS: Today's Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I have peace and joy because I know how everything turns out.

So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

This is a perfect “job search scripture”! It’s a guarantee that we will reap a harvest of blessing right when we need it. That’s exactly what we’ve been praying for. The deciding factor is “if we don’t give up.” It’s so easy to run out of ideas and contacts and energy. Then what? Find a way to “seed” your talents somewhere. Where can you volunteer your time and gifts? Where can you use your skills and talents to make a difference for the kingdom? Don’t say you don’t have time. You can’t afford not to give of yourself because there can be no harvest where there has been no planting. Ask God where you can make a Kingdom difference. Then watch for God to open up new opportunities for you and help you to harvest the assignment he has in mind for you.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I will never quit. By faith I claim a harvest for the seeds I sow in faith.

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who
brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims
salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*
Isaiah 52:7

You are the messenger with good news. Jesus is your Lord and Savior. You have been given abundant life, eternal life, peace and blessings that are priceless and without number. Imagine the difference you can make by giving off joy, peace, confident hope, and grace wherever you go. People expect job seekers to be anxious, downtrodden, and depressed. What might happen if you showed up differently? Try this experiment—walk around for one week as if you truly are the recipient of Kingdom promises and blessings. See if you might prompt people to ask about the secret of your happiness. The be ready to share the good news of a life in Christ.

REFLECTIONS: Today’s Date: __/__/__

DECLARE THIS: I bring life, and light, and truth with me everywhere I go.