



# MVC MEN

THE MEN WE NEED

*Read and study through the listed passages and answer the questions as you go. Ideally, you'll work through the lesson on your own and then talk and pray about your discoveries together in a men's small group. Take good notes as you go and take plenty of time to dive in, think, and pray. Our goal is to run at a longer distance pace more than a sprint (about one lesson per month). Read the pages in "The Men We Need" along with the lesson to foster additional discussion as well.*

---

## LESSON 6: KEEPERS OF THE GARDEN, SEEKERS OF THE KINGDOM

---

**KEY PASSAGES FOR STUDY:** Matthew 6:19-34, Matthew 7:24-27, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 8:34-38 (also see Matthew 10:38-39), Colossians 3:23, 24. 2 Timothy 2:1-7 (Also review Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).

**READ:** "The Men We Need," Pages 111-132 [Decision 3, Part 1: **Be ambitious about the right things.**]

---

1. From the book<sup>1</sup>: If you are ambitious about the wrong things, you will be hit by reality eventually. Name two or three regrets, things you wish you could go back and change because you were ambitious about the wrong things. How have those regrets ended up affecting your life and those around you?
  
2. Praise God, Jesus is able to redeem all things! Study through the gospel passages in the list. What are the things (the "right things") that he wants us to be ambitious about? What kind of real-life ambitions fit with his mission and his kingdom?
  
3. In your own words, summarize what Paul is saying in Colossians 3:23, 24. In what ways will "working heartily as for the Lord and not for men" show up in your specific job? What are some of the obstacles to this for you?

---

<sup>1</sup> Portions of some questions taken from "The Men We Need," p. 241-245. Reprinted with publisher permission.

4. Think about your day-to-day work and the idea of serving other image bearers that God loves. What kind of opportunities do you have to serve people in your job? How might your relationships at work (and elsewhere) open doors for Jesus' "kingdom ambition?"
  
5. What observations can you make about the soldier, the athlete, and the farmer in 2 Timothy 2:1-7? What's the significance of v. 2 in this context? How might you envision God using you in this pattern of influence and investment in others (see 1 Corinthians 11:1 also)?
  
6. What are some examples of those who have served you and invested in *your* life or are currently doing so (mentors, disciplers, etc.)?
  
7. How can you personally grow as one who invests in and influences others? What are some practical steps you can begin to take today?
  
8. Continuing to form a life-mission focus, consider the elements you have already written down from previous lessons. ***What specific kingdom and mission focused ambitions might you need to add?*** Again, just list a few bullets. You'll continue to build this toward writing and actual mission statement of life purpose in the last couple of lessons.

**HEART & ACTION:** Summarize the biggest thing(s) God is doing in your heart and the main action step(s) you believe he wants you to take. Discuss one of each with the group. Get accountable, pray together, stay dependent, and make a commitment to sacrificial love and "kingdom ambition" in action.