



Thrones
Leveraging Authority to Help Others Win
Part 5 – Helping Your Employees Win
Travis Brawner

Every week here at Woodland Hills, we are blessed with some fantastic teaching. We get to hear from Ted, of course. We also get to hear from Adam and Shay and Joe White and Alex Himaya. We are very fortunate to get to hear from some fantastic teachers. This week, Ted has asked me to do the teaching, so let me introduce myself to you. My name is Travis Brawner. I'm actually a doctor; I'm not a pastor, but I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night, so hopefully we will be okay here. My wife Kari and I have been members here for going on eight years. We have three kids. For the past four years, I've had the honor of serving as an elder here at Woodland Hills.

Today, I get the honor of teaching the next message in our series that we are in called *Thrones: Leveraging Authority to Help Others Win*. Today, we are talking about the message titled *Helping Your Employees Win*. Before we start, I know some of you are thinking, *I don't own a business, I don't have employees, so this doesn't apply to me and I can mentally check out*. To that, I would say, before you go checking to see what Trump is tweeting out this morning or how much candy you can crush or whatever you choose to do, hang with us. We are going to talk about some things that apply to pretty much everyone in here.

As we dive into this, I want to talk first about authority in the workplace in general. Authority in the workplace comes in a lot of different forms. Some of us do maybe own a small business and have a group of employees that you oversee. Some may be a manager or director or some type of overseer in a place that you don't own, but you work for and you have employees that you have authority over. We have a lot of ministries here in Branson and this area, Stone and Taney Counties. Some of you lead in ministry and have folks that you have authority over and that you are leading.

Here's an interesting one. I want you to think about this one. When my wife goes to a place like Home Depot, she likes to play what she calls "the dumb blonde card." She walks in and she tells them, whoever is selling or providing a service, "I don't know anything about this so I need you to educate me, I need you to help me with this because I don't know anything." With that, she is granting them a level of authority. So, service people, sales people, for those of us that don't know much about what you're selling or the service you're providing, you have a certain level of authority in the workplace. I want us to keep that in mind as we move forward through this today.

We have a lot of different opinions about work, too. When you say work, a lot of us have different responses and two in general. One is that some people love their job. Some people love going to work

on Monday morning or whenever their shift starts or whenever their work starts. They love going to work, they love the day to day, and they love what they do. Unfortunately, I would say, for the majority of us, the opposite is true. We tend to have this negative connotation of work. We even have phrases like TGIF because we're working Monday through Friday and we put in five days of work so that we can get these two days of recreation or rest. You might call it the 9:00 to 5:00.

Then there's this one here: **The Grind**. What is the grind? The grind is a repetitive and laborious task that can tend to wear you down like a grindstone. So, we have this negative connotation of work. I want to suggest something that you may never have thought of before. **The grind is a blessing**. Your job is a blessing. Work is a blessing. Some of you may be thinking, *You have no idea what I have to put up with in the workplace, what I have to go to, the people I have to deal with, the things I have to deal with; there's no way that my grind is a blessing*. To that, I would say let's take a step back for a moment and look into scripture and see what scripture has to say about the grind.

If you have your Bible and you want to follow along in your own Bible, turn to Ecclesiastes 3. We are going to be going through Verses 9 through 13. As we talk about the grind, let's look at what it says in Ecclesiastes 3. **9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart...** If you are an underliner or a highlighter, go ahead and mark that up there. He has put eternity in a man's heart. We are going to come back to that later. **...yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.** That's exactly what we're reading here: the grind is a blessing.

Now, in an affluent country like the United States – affluent meaning a generally wealthy country – we tend to take our basic needs for granted. So, food, clothing, shelter... we just kind of expect that we are going to have that. Here at Woodland Hills, we support a school in Carrefour Dufort, Haiti with 150 students. Those 150 students show up to school Monday through Friday and when they are there, they get a mid-day meal. By the way, your generous giving helps support that. For 70% of those students, that mid-day meal is the only meal they will eat that day. I would suggest that when those families sit around a table and they have full plates of food in front of them, their gratitude is very different than ours. You see, in an affluent country, what happens is gratitude takes a back seat to entitlement.

This is where we have to understand the grind is a blessing because you see the grind is the means by which God provides for us; it is the means of our provision. Understanding that, I would suggest this to you. **It is inconsistent to be grateful for God's provision, but ungrateful for the means by which he provides**. Here's what that looks like. "God, thank you so much for food, for clothing, for shelter and, here in America, an affluent country, for the conveniences and comforts that I have. God, I'm very grateful. God, my job is a drag. Can you please help me here? This grind is wearing me out. I can't take it." It's inconsistent. The grind is a blessing. We've got to understand that. The grind is a blessing.

So, as we look into five points today, we're going to move on into this authority thing in the workplace and we are going to look at five points. Central to that is going to be a question and the question is "What's it all about?" We've asked that, right? Tomorrow morning when the alarm goes off and you're

hitting your snooze for the third time, you're asking "What is it all about?" That's the question we are going to look into as we look at these five points.

To start with, let's understand... and we know this. We all have different jobs. We have different workplaces, different environments. I bet I could give you a list of ten jobs, assigned, named jobs, and I could ask you to put them in order of importance. From number one down to number ten, what's the most important job out of all these ten and then what's the least important. I'll bet you even if we stacked up what we individually said against one another, they would be pretty close because we have this perceived understanding in our minds and in our society of which jobs are important and which ones are least important.

Here is point number one as we ask the question: "What's the grind all about?"

1. It's not about the job. Let's look at a couple of scriptures that talk to this. First Corinthians 10: 31 says, ***So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*** So, even in the most basic activity – eating and drinking – we are to do it to the glory of God.

Colossians 3: 23 says this: ***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters...*** I love this verse because what it does, when we're talking about "it's not about the job," is it levels the playing field. It takes that ranked list that you just made, top importance to lowest importance – and shakes them all up and throws them out on the table. It's a level playing field; they are all there together. Now understand that in the workplace, hierarchy of authority is important and leadership and chain of command is all important. That's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is as we perceive importance of our job in what's it all about, we are all on a level playing field according to Colossians 3:23.

So, once we get it all out there on a level playing field, all the importance the same, there is something else that comes in that's far more important than our importance list that we've made and it's this thing called **culture**. Culture is an interesting word. It's an interesting thing. We hear about it a lot in business. It's brought up a lot and it's one of those things that's hard to define, but here's what it is. Culture is the beliefs and behaviors characteristic of a particular group. By the way, your workplace is a particular group.

I want to tell you a personal story that highlights that it's not about the job and that culture matters. We recently had to have our septic tank pumped at our house. If you don't know what that means, we needed someone to drive a big tank truck to our house, take a hose, plug it into this big tank that's under the ground, and remove the accumulation of our toilet flushes from the last several years. Not something that we instantly think is glamorous, if we're just being honest with one another.

I get the name of a company, Boerman Septic, and I call them. The lady that answered the phone was amazing. She treated me with respect, with kindness, with joy, and with a willingness to serve. I'm thinking *Am I getting septic tank pumped or am I booking a trip to Disney here.* It was amazing the incredible way this woman treated me on the phone. She said, "I'm going to call one of our drivers and they'll call you and set this up and we'll get it taken care of. Thank you so much for calling us."

I get a call from the driver. Guess what? I got the same thing: joy, and, frankly, with excitement and with a servant attitude about taking care of this. Again, it's not the most glamorous thing that we consider, yet the culture from which these people were treating me was amazing. I don't know where Boerman Septic or these individuals stand in their faith, but they've got Colossians 3: 23 figured out. The importance of what they were doing didn't matter; they were serving with a culture of excellence.

Leaders in the workplace, the culture starts and ends with you. Your attitudes, your behaviors, your words, your actions determine the culture of your workplace. What's more, that which you permit in the workplace, leaders, determines the culture in the workplace. There's something that we have to avoid, that we have to be careful about, and that is letting other petty things take importance over the culture of the environment that we're working in and that which we are trying to create as leaders in the workplace.

Here's the thing. Some people are chasing after these other petty things. In particular, employers are looking to a young generation and the talent, and they are trying to recruit and retain the young talent in the workplace. So, they are doing things like giving them beanbag chairs and free taco bars at lunch, trying to attract the young talent because they think that is what the young crowd wants. But, here's the thing, CNN Money reports that by the time the Millennial generation is 32 years old, they will have changed jobs four times. I'm from Generation X and we changed jobs two times by the time we were age 32. I'm looking around and I see some Baby Boomers and they're thinking, *I didn't change jobs four times my entire working career, maybe not even two times.*

What can happen is we can focus on these smaller things that seem important for making people happy in the workplace, but the problem is the first time the person doesn't like the salsa on the taco bar, they are out of there. What's far more important and the best way we can leverage our authority and the culture of our workplace is to emphasize the importance of the culture – working as a team to serve with excellence. And the folks that you're working for and the folks that you're working with are going to find far greater pleasure in the toil being part of a team serving in excellence, rather than the other petty things that we may think of.

You see, two things. One is they'll find much greater pleasure in that, but two is this is amazing job security. Let me show you what I'm talking about. This Boerman's driver, if I took him out of that job and I put him in any other job, you name it, his willingness and his ability to work from that culture is going to cause him success no matter where he goes. That's the best job security you can provide for anyone. It's creating that culture that they become accustomed to working in.

So, number one, it's not about the job and culture matters.

2. It's not about the deal. In the same way that the jobs look different, the deal looks different. We have all kinds of deals. You may think of the traditional deal like making a sale. You may think of a bid for a contract as your deal. Or how about this: a promotion in the company that you're in, that next step up. How about this? We're in Branson. Ticket sales, filling the theater, bodies through the turnstiles. Maybe the deal looks like that for you.

How about this? Ministries. The big donation that's going to sustain your ministries or the accumulative donation that might sustain your ministry. So, we have all different kinds of deals.

The other thing is we have these mission statements that are supposed to help us. Mission statements are this pie in the sky, happy, everything's great, this is wonderful, we're all awesome, and this is what we are going to do and this is how we are going to do it. You've read mission statements, you've seen them; most companies have them. They are supposed to be this benchmark from which we operate, okay? It's not about the deal because the deal is the micro level of our operations, it's the small things, this is down in the weeds, the deal is down here. It's not up here. If it's all about the deal, then suddenly, the mission becomes less important, the culture become less important, the way that we do things becomes less important because if it's all about the deal, then if this deal doesn't come through, then it's over, it's done. When we make it about the deal, here's what happens. If you make it about the deal, this thinking comes out: *It's not personal; it's just business*. It's not personal; it's just business because it's all about the deal, right? So, I would suggest to you that **business always involves people so it's always personal**.

I have to be honest, in Stone and Taney Counties, I've heard this a lot: "It's not personal; it's just business." I hear it in different industries and in different places. Let's just be honest. Some of us have said that many times. I would challenge you, follower of Jesus, if this is part of your work vocabulary, stack it up against scripture. Business always involves people so it's always personal.

Let's look at what scripture has to say about it. In James 3, this is what I believe "It's just business" looks like. ***14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*** This is what "just business" looks like. Business always involves people so it's always personal.

As you have your business dealings and you carry out the deals, you're going to leave behind you a trail of witnesses to your character and your integrity. Behind you is a trail of witnesses to your character and integrity and long after people forget the deal... You may have a lot of great deals, but long after they forget the deal, they will remember how you dealt with it. You leave behind you a trail of witnesses to your character and integrity.

Do competing noises bother anyone else? Do y'all know what I'm talking about? It's a lot of things going on and just distracting you from things you may be trying to pay attention to. Young moms know what I'm talking about. You can't focus on one thing because there is too much vying for your attention. We have a lot of competing noises in our life and in business as well. We're on social media and we're reading blogs about how to run a business. We have our trade journals. We read books, a lot of books on how to be successful, how to make the sale, how to make the deal. We even have friends that, for some reason, even though they're not in the industry, think they know exactly how you should be doing things sometimes, right? So, friends with input into how we should be doing things in business and how we should do things.

So, my question to you, as we have all these competing noises, is with all of the competing noises in your life, what holds your conscience captive? What holds your conscience captive as all of these things are vying for your attention and trying to help you run your business or help you conduct business?

Martin Luther was a great reformist. In the 16th Century, he was before the Holy Roman Emperor Henry the Fifth. Martin Luther recognized that the traditions of the church and, therefore, the people in it were being elevated to a level of holiness to that of scripture. He recognized that was wrong and he was teaching this thing called Sola Scriptura which means “by scripture alone.” Scripture is the solitary source of truth that we have. He saw the church being elevated and the traditions being elevated and he said, “No, that’s not right.” He said Sola Scriptura. He was standing before the Holy Roman Emperor and he was saying “You must take everything back. You must tell people you were wrong and you must take everything back that you’re teaching.”

Martin Luther says this and this is fantastic. *“I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture which is my basis. My conscience is captive to the Word of God.”*

You see, we’ve got all these competing noises and we’re reading lots of books, lots of blogs about how to run a business and, I believe, with all these competing noises... And while we are reading lots of books about how to run a business, we are overlooking the single most important book we need to be reading about how to run a business. With all the competing noises, does the Word of God have your conscience captive.

When I was growing up, we had one rule in the home. Young people are thinking, *Yes! They better choose it wisely because you only get one.* We had one rule in the home and that rule was do the right thing. It’s really simple. Do the right thing. James 4: 17 is where that rule came from. It says, ***If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.*** That catches all right? My parents knew that we were following the Lord and that the Word of God held our conscience captive so that one rule was all that was needed. What holds your conscience captive, especially with all the competing noises.

Lolly Daskal wrote an article on inc.com titled *The Seven Reason the Best Employees Leave Even When They Like Their Job.* I’m going to read number six to you. She says lack of trust is number six. *“Your employees have an advantage point for viewing your behavior and weigh it against your commitments. If they see you dealing unethically with vendors, lying to stakeholders, cheating clients, or failing to keep your word, the best and most principled of them will leave. The rest, even worse, will stay behind and follow your lead.”* What kind of authority are you leveraging?

Adam Donyes taught a couple of weeks ago on servant leadership. He said, *“Servant leaders leave an example worth following.”* It’s not about the deal.

So, point number one when we look at “What’s the grind all about?” It’s not about the job. It’s not about the deal.

3. It's not about you. Leaders in the workplace, those with authority in the workplace, it's not about you. This is hard because it can sure seem like it, can't it? If people are having to come to you for your opinion, for your permission, for your advice and you're having to make the call, it can sure seem like it's about you. When you are a central figure in the workplace, with that authority, it can seem like it's about you, but it's not about you.

Here's the thing also. When you are granted some level of authority... Your superior says you're getting this promotion or they need you to lead this group in this project or whatever authority is granted to you... or you have someone that comes into your store that says "I need you to educate me on this because I don't know anything about this..." When you are granted some level of authority, you should feel a bit of a burden.

Authority should bring with it a little bit of a burden and if it doesn't, you may need to check your pride. Authority can be a precursor to pride and as pride creeps in, we can start demanding respect. There are two kinds of respect. One is respect which is faked because it is demanded by a pushy boss. The other is respect which is naturally granted because it is commanded by a noble leader by their words and actions. There are two kinds of respect: that which is demanded and that which is commanded. Two very different types of respect that can be given.

Look at this picture of this turtle (picture of a turtle balancing on a fence post). I must be coldhearted. When I showed my wife this picture, she said, "Aww, there's a turtle on top of the post." I just see a turtle and he's on the post. She said, "Poor guy." And you guys feel the same way.

Alex Haley said, "If you see a turtle on top of a fence post, you can be certain that he had help getting there." True. That's pretty obvious, but very true. Those with authority in the workplace, leaders in the workplace, this is us, this is you. Anybody that has authority, you're on a fence post and you had help getting there. I'll bet if you look at your past, at the path to where you are, sitting on this fence post, you can come up with a long list of those that have helped hoist you up onto this fence post where you sit. It does good to check our pride to remember that we have had help getting to where we are up on this fence post.

Here's the other thing I add to Mr. Haley's comment. If this turtle wants to go anywhere else, he's going to need some help because if he tries to get there on his own, it's going to be a pretty ugly landing.

Let's look at what scripture has to say about "It's not about you." In Philippians 2 says, ***3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*** Count others more significant than yourselves, looking also to the interest of others. There are a lot of others around us in the workplace. There is a lot going on around us in the workplace and if we are not perceptive, we will miss it.

Let me show you what I mean by count others more significant than yourselves and looking out for the interests of others. If you are more concerned about your retirement plan than you are about being a part of this team that you're leading and helping them to lead out, serving with excellence in a culture of excellence, then you are counting yourself more significant than others.

If you're thinking more about your next promotion, the next rung on the ladder than you are realizing there are a lot of people around you that have physical needs, emotional needs, spiritual needs, and you are not perceptive to these, but you're thinking more about the next job promotion, you're considering yourself more significant than others.

If you're more concerned about your reputation and what you might look like than you are to take care of some jobs around the workplace that you might think of as below yourself... "There are people that do this; this isn't something I do," then you are counting yourself as more significant than others.

You see, it's not about you and as we ask this question again... "What's the grind all about?" It's not about the job. It's not about the deal. Leaders and those with authority, it's not about you.

4. It's about people. The grind is about people. Business always involves people so it's always personal. Let's look at what Ecclesiastes had to say. We looked at earlier. I told you to highlight this and this was why. We were going to come back to it. Ecclesiastes 3: 11. Right in the midst of this passage that we just read about the grind, about work and that work is a blessing, it says this: ***11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart...*** Why is that? It's because it's all about people. Guess what? People are eternal. God has planted into our hearts eternity so we understand... It's hard to comprehend, it's hard to get our minds around eternity, but we get it. We know what forever means and God planted that there in the midst of this passage about the grind so we understand what the grind is about and it's about people. Why? It's because people are eternal.

The Civil War of the United States ended in the spring of 1865 and it's estimated that about six or eight battles were fought after the official end of the Civil War. Isn't that crazy? Can you imagine? Especially being on the winning team and finding out you just fought this blood battle and you had already won the war. I get it; information didn't travel as fast. Abraham Lincoln didn't have a Twitter account like Trump does, so he couldn't get that information out there quickly to know they had won the war and could stop battling.

Here's the thing. Christians, followers of Jesus, every day, we fight battles in a war we've already won. Every day, we are fighting battles in a war we've already won.

Ephesians 6 say this: ***12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*** What does that look like in the background of what's going on in our job and in our life. In the background, there are battles that are being fought that we're involved with every day. It's in the background and we don't see it, but it plays out in our interactions with other people every day.

If you were here last month and heard Alex Himaya preach, he ended his message with a powerful prayer over all kinds of evil that exists. He went on and on and on and as we went on, he mentioned evils that I didn't even realize existed. He went on and just declared victory over these evils. He prayed over a spirit of fear, bitterness, self-pity, self-hatred, racism, greed, gluttony, lust, idolatry, jealousy, and he went on and on and on.

Now Alex Himaya is great; I think he's fantastic. He's a great pastor, he has a large healthy church in Tulsa, Oklahoma that he leads. He speaks all over the United States, but he was not able to pray that prayer and declare that victory because of any of that, but because of one thing. He has received Jesus and therefore has the Holy Spirit. He was able to declare victory over all of those spirits of evil because he has the Holy Spirit in him. The same power that raised Christ from the grave, he has that to declare the victory.

5. All Christians have authority in the workplace. Every single one of you that has Jesus has the Holy Spirit, and therefore you have authority in the workplace. I want you watch a video clip of one of my favorite scenes of any movie of all time.

[video plays]

I just love that. Isn't that awesome? That's so good. If you've never seen that before.... Indiana Jones is standing there and this other guy looks like a bad dude. Indiana Jones is in trouble. He is in some deep septic. He's facing an evil that looks really mean. The thing is, that evil doesn't realize that he's brought a knife to a gunfight. Literally, he's brought a knife to a gunfight.

Christians, this is how we have authority in the workplace. The enemy is picking fights with us, he's picking battles with us in this Ephesians 6 realm and he's swinging this knife all the time and he's brought a knife to a gunfight. We've won the war. This battle? It doesn't matter. By the way, I've got a gun and he's got a knife.

What does that look like in the workplace? How does Satan swing his knife in the workplace? He stirs up dissension among the co-workers, among the company, among all of the employees and employers. He's swinging his knife as he's planting seeds of gossip throughout the workplace. He's creating deceit to lie and cheat either within the company or even to your competitors. He's swinging his knife to create dissatisfaction. "They don't appreciate me around here." "I'm not appreciated." "I haven't had the promotion I should have gotten a long time ago." "People don't appreciate me around here."

He stirs up discouragement. "I'm not near as far along in my career as I thought I would be." "I'm not doing near the things or as much as I thought I would be." There's Satan, like an idiot, swinging his knife. And, Christians in the workplace, you see him swinging this knife and he's picking this fight and you end it because you pop him with a single round right between the eyes.

So, what does that look like in the workplace? We declare, in Jesus' name, that we will not propagate gossip. We declare, in Jesus' name, that we are going to act with integrity; we're not going to cut corners, not going to cheat, and we're not going to lie. We declare, in Jesus' name, that we are going to stay faithful to our spouses. How about that knife? We are going to stay faithful to our spouses, not only in our actions, but also in our thoughts and our words because we are around people of the opposite sex quite a bit. We declare, in Jesus' name, that Satan is powerless, that he's brought a knife to a gunfight, and he can't win. Christians, this is how you leverage your authority in the workplace.

And when we live like that, it looks different. We've all seen the championship game. We love sports in our country. We love the championship game where you see the two teams. One is dejected in defeat and the other is elated in victory. You know the scene that I'm talking about. Here's a picture of what it might look like. Something you're familiar with is the team that has won the championship; it's over. They've had the last out, the game is over, and the victory is theirs. I used the Cardinals because I couldn't remember who won the World Series last year. Okay... It was the Cubs. But then the Cardinals have won so many that a picture was really easy to find, so... It's the Cardinals; they've won a lot of World Series.

They've won, it's over, the victory is theirs. You don't see the Cardinals or the Cubs in their locker room after a championship win, tip toeing out, looking back out on the field to double check the scoreboard. It's done and they are celebrating in victory.

Christians, this is how we should be living – in victory over the evil and victory over these fights that the enemy tries to pick with us – because it's over, we've won.

What happens is other's take notice. When we are living like this, it looks weird. If these guys acted like this all the time... But, if we act like this as followers of Jesus in the workplace, with victory over all kinds of evil, people take notice. And you'll get one of two reactions. One is they are a follower of Jesus and they know and they recognize the victory in you and they know the hope that is in you and they will follow your lead. Servant leaders leave an example worth following. Or the second is they don't and they say, "Why in the world do you act like this? I don't get it. I don't understand why. You could have taken your competitor out. You could have cut this one corner of integrity that everyone else in the world would have done and you would have taken them out and you would have launched your company into success." "You could have had that promotion. You could have thrown that employee under the bus, the same one that's been dogging you your entire time here at this career. You could have done it and everyone would have expected it. Why don't you? Why don't you act like everyone else?"

Here's the thing also. When we act in that way, when we conduct our business in that way, with vile practices, when you lay your head down at night, you're going to wonder who's going to stab you in the back tomorrow because you're playing the game with a knife. But when we conduct our business with integrity and as God has designed, we will lay our head down at night, thinking it doesn't matter what tomorrow brings because we know God has our back. Conducting business his way with integrity.

So, people will say, "Why are you acting like this? I don't get it." When they do, you get the opportunity to live out 1 Peter 3: 15 – ***15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...*** Boy, isn't that key. They don't get it. They don't get why you act like you do. And when you answer it, you have to answer with gentleness and respect.

That's one of the reasons I love coming to church on Sunday. We gather with a body of believers in victory. We come together here at Woodland Hills and we live out the five purposes of the church: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. And that's us celebrating every Sunday as

we come together and even throughout the week. It's our winning locker room. It's so fun to be around a body of believers celebrating a victory that we already have, knowing that enemy doesn't stand a chance, even though he's flailing his silly little knife around. You see, the sting of sin is death and the power of sin is the law, but thanks be to God who gives us the glory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We win. Death is swallowed up in victory. Oh death, where is your victory, oh death where is your sting. We win. There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ for the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. We win. Because I am sure that neither death nor life nor angels nor rulers nor things present nor thing to come nor powers nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We win.

The enemy has his own locker room, right? And he must hang his head in shameful loss simply at the mention of the name of Jesus. Christians, you have authority in the workplace. Leverage that authority. Christians, you have authority in the workplace. Leverage your authority in a way that helps the entire workplace win.