



27th February 2006

Welcome to

Wake Up Call

your weekly email support from WorkNet

Calling and Testing Five - Only One God

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This is the fifth and last in a short series on the testing of Jesus as He started a new phase of the work He was born to do. Wake Up Call will take a break next week.

There is an irony on today's world. We believe we are in a less religious society than we used to inhabit. Nowhere is this more obvious than in work. Religious prejudice is to be avoided, religious expression to be controlled and proselytising is seen as an unacceptable practice. The party line in most businesses is to keep religion out of work.

Yet our gods are everywhere. They are conceptual like success, promotion, status and respect. They are material, like big offices, desks, cars or teams. They are human, like heroes, role models or mentors. We want them, we want to be like them and we are prepared to sacrifice to get them or to please them. High stress levels arise when we feel we have offended anyone we really admire. We display all the attitudes of religion in a so-called secular environment.

We may not have one God but we don't have none. No one will say it but deep inside the working culture is a belief just as strong as any apostles creed. If I make this sacrifice of time, energy and resource I will obtain this reward.

There is nothing wrong with hard work to achieve honourable goals. But somewhere along the line the sacrifice becomes worship of the false god in order to obtain the desired reward. The double irony is that it based on a lie. The gods we serve cannot deliver the results we desire. There is even a third irony. In giving up the many gods for the One - in serving Him alone - we stumble across freedom, reward and satisfaction.

For Jesus, He was offered the very reward He hoped for, the possession of kingdoms of this world for Himself. The temptation is to try to obtain them by subjecting Himself to another kingdom. It is a lie upon lie. First, what good would it be to gain these kingdoms but have to bow down to the enemy and lose His soul? Second, in bowing down He would forfeit the very position He had just acquired. Third, the prize on offer from the enemy was not the enemy's to give. This is not a trap it is a web of deceit.

All very spiritual and theoretical you may observe. But ask yourself who you sacrifice to? Ask yourself what rewards are you after? Ask yourself what methods you use and who holds the focus of your attention?

Scratch the surface of your soul and is your motivation different to your colleagues? Is your heart beating in time with the rhythms of earth or heaven? There is only one God and we are called to worship Him and nothing and no one else. Some days that will mean letting go of unhealthy hero worship. Other days it will mean refocusing your personal ambition. Still other times it will mean

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being real and truthful - for worship and service mean the same thing. Some days it may mean giving up a benefit of yours for the benefit of others.

Every day it will mean you can't be bought, compromised or lured into a shady deal. Above all it will mean that you must try, however large or small the task, to find a way of doing it which reflects the God you serve. In other words you will try to find the way which promotes the way of love. Freud argued that life is about solving the problems of love and work. Sometimes these are the same thing. Who you love will determine how you work. Don't give in on that.

Work Well,

Geoff Shattock

Lent Starts On March 1st-Remember WorkTalk is an ideal study series for lent as it focuses on the cross of Christ. Why not use it as a personal programme this year?-see news for how to obtain your copy.

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Here is some Biblical background for your Wake Up Call

Matthew 3:16-4:11

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

" 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

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- We are looking for a venue and an audience to film the WorkTalk course in May/June if you can help please email worktalk@worknetuk.org
- **"Doing the work you were born to do" March 4th 2006. You can book your place now online. See [this link](#) now for details -we expect high demand for this conference so visit the page now.** If you are intending to come please book ASAP as it helps us plan for the right numbers.
- The [WorkTalk](#) course is based on the seven sayings of our Lord from the cross. If you haven't got your copy, you can order it now from our [on-line shop](#) and use it for your personal meditation as well as a learning programme.
- **WAKE UP CALL [ARCHIVES](#) HAS BEEN UPDATED THERE ARE NOW OVER 160 PAST EDITIONS**
- **Wake Up Call tips**-please don't reply to your Wake Up Call we do not monitor that address. If you want to contact WorkNet follow the contact link in your Wake Up Call. If you want to unsubscribe or change your profile (email or other details)-follow those links on the left hand side of your Wake Up Call -we are generally unable to update your profile for you but have made it very easy for you do do it online . Thank you.

Also remember to have a look at the Bible sections for the biblical background to your Wake Up Call

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