



## EPISODE 9

**IMAGE: BUILDER**

If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,  
and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land  
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring whose waters never fail.

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;  
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Isaiah 58:9-12 NIV

The Common Good: We have a calling to actively work  
for the welfare of our whole community.

The common good involves more than our jobs, but it's  
not less than our jobs. Like the reconstruction of the [Old  
Copley Hospital](#) as a new suite of offices and residences  
in downtown Aurora, Illinois, renewal in a community  
takes many people doing their everyday jobs well.

"[M]any young people see the process of career  
selection more as the choice of an identity marker than  
a consideration of gifting and passions to contribute to  
the world. . . . today young people are seeking to define  
themselves by the status of their work.

"What wisdom, then, would the Bible give us in choosing  
our work? . . . because the main purpose of work is to  
serve the world, we would want to choose work that  
benefits others. We have to ask whether our work or  
organization or industry makes people better or appeals  
to the worst aspects of their characters."

Timothy Keller<sup>7</sup>

**JESUS AS THE BUILDER**

The Greek word for "carpenter," *tektōn*, can also be  
translated as "builder," someone who would work on  
construction or restoration projects.

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

How does my everyday work build up my community?  
(It may be indirect, like in Chris's example of working at  
a mortgage company.)

Inasmuch as I do have a say about how my work affects  
the community, how can I pursue the Common Good?

If I'm considering a change in my work, how can I  
consider not just the benefits to me, but also what my  
job does in the world?

How can I welcome Jesus as the builder who repairs my  
heart?