

# JESUS, THE CARPENTER

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Mark 6:1-6 (text. v. 3—a small glimpse of Jesus' life in his parent's home)

Today we will “walk with Jesus” in His occupation as a carpenter. He was a carpenter for about 15 years before he was a preacher for 3½ years.

Several significant things about Jesus' occupation as a carpenter:

## I. His PREPARATION as a carpenter.

➤ Raised in the home of a carpenter. It was a custom among Jewish fathers to teach their sons their skills.

### A. Man of the common people.

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Jesus did not meet the Jew's idea of the Messiah. They expected the Messiah to come as a conquering king and re-establish the Kingdom. Jesus did not come as a King—He came a humble a carpenter. Why? To identify Himself with the common laborer.

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1. As a carpenter Jesus came to understand people's burdens and needs. He knew what it was like to work and to be tired.
2. Were all His customers easy to get along with? Did people notice anything special about His workmanship?
  - You can be sure His workmanship was second-to-none in Nazareth— ***“He hath done all things well”*** (Mk. 7:37)

### B. Merit of manual labor. Jesus was not lazy. He was a workman!

1. Work is a sacred responsibility before God (Ex. 20:8-9).
  - As a carpenter, Jesus shows us that any honest profession can be carried out for the glory of God.
2. It doesn't matter what you do in life, as long as it is honorable work and you remain faithful to God.

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An epitaph on a tombstone in Great Britain reads: "Here lies Thomas Cobb, who mended shoes to the glory of God, for 40 years." Amen! We can mend shoes to the glory of God.

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## II. His PROFESSION as a carpenter.

➤ Two parts of a carpenter's job:

A. Carpenters BUILD new things. Jesus often referred to items that involve a carpenter's work.

- Jesus said His "yoke" was easy (Mt. 11:29). Using His carpentry skills, He could make a yoke that was easier for an ox to pull a plow.
  - Jesus talked about a man putting "*his hand to the plough*" (Luke 9:62). He would know how to make a plough easy to hold.
1. Jesus is a BUILDER. He built the universe. John 1:3—"*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*"
  2. He is building His church (Mt. 16:18).
  3. Today He is 'building' a heavenly mansion for us (John 14:1-3).
  4. By contrast, Satan is a destroyer. John 10:10: "*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...*" Revelation 9:11: "*...the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon*" ("destroyer").
  5. A key word in Paul's epistles is "*edify*"—"to build up." You are either working with Jesus in building, or working with the devil to tear things down.

B. Carpenters REPAIR broken things.

➤ A broken chair or table.. damaged dresser/cabinet... Who do we call? We call a carpenter to repair the damage.

➤ In the same way, people brought their broken lives to Christ and He would repair them just as He does today.

1. Isaiah's prophesy of Christ—"*A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax [a smoldering wick] shall he not quench...*" (Mt. 12:20).
2. Here is a reed that has been bent over and it's about to break off and die. The Bible says Jesus does not go out there and

and break it off so it dies. No, "*a bruised reed shall he not break...*"

- 3 Here's a lamp with it's wick burned down and just about to go out. Jesus Christ does not blow it out! No, a "*smoking flax shall he not quench.*"
  - We are like that bruised reed! We're bruised through the trials of life. Christ, the Carpenter comes and repairs us!
  - At times we may be like the smoldering wick. All that is left is a faint glow coming from smoking embers. Jesus does not blow that little flame out! No, He comes and keeps our fire burning.

### III. His PERSPECTIVE as a carpenter.

➔ How does a carpenter think?

A. The carpenter sees the POTENTIAL in the wood.

1. He looks at a piece of wood differently from the way most people see the wood. Most people would look and say, "It's got knots in it; it's got cracks in it; it's got ink on it where they stamped it at the lumber yard." Perhaps it's bowed.

➔ A carpenter says, "I can glue those knots back in... That crack can be fixed and that warp can be taken out with a planer." The carpenter sees the potential of the wood—not the problems of the wood!

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I read old weather beaten barn sidings is in great demand today. Some would look at wood like that and say, "That's worthless." That's not the way carpenters see it.

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- ➔ A carpenter says, "I think I can use that." We go out behind a factory and there's some old wooden crates being thrown away. A carpenter would think, "I wonder what I could make out of that discarded old crate."
- ILLUS: Coin box I made out of scrap wood at Systematic.
  - ILLUS: Pulpit built by Brother Turk.

2. Jesus Christ looks at us today—what does He see? He sees our potential! He knows which tools to use to bring out our potential. He knows our rough spots that need to be sanded down. He knows when we need to be polished.
- B. The carpenter has a PLAN.
  - C. The carpenter is PATIENT, seeing the work through to the end.

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Someone has imagined the carpenter's tools holding a conference. As the meeting started, Brother Hammer was asked to leave because he was too noisy. The Hammer answered, "If I leave, Brother Nail must go also. You have to keep pounding him on the head to get him to do anything."

The Nail spoke up. "If I leave, Brother Planer must leave too. All his work is on the surface. His efforts have no depth."

To this the Planer responded, "Brother Ruler will also have to leave, because he is always judging and measuring folks as though he were the only one who is right."

Brother Ruler complained to Brother Sandpaper, "You ought to leave too because you're just too abrasive." The Sandpaper criticized the Brother Saw, "You're too much of a 'cut-up.'"

Finally, in walked the Carpenter of Nazareth to begin His day's work. He went to the bench to make a pulpit from which the gospel would be preached. He used the hammer... nail... planer... ruler... sandpaper, and the saw. After the pulpit was finished, Brother Saw arose and said, "Brethren, can you see we are all co-laborers together in the hand of the Lord."

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#### **IV. His PASSING as a carpenter.**

- Jesus died a carpenter's death. He was crucified with the tools of a carpenter—a hammer, nails, and wood.
- A. Jesus was nailed to a tree He created—"*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree...*" (1 Pet.2:24). I wonder how many times our Lord carried trees back to the carpenter shop

and trimmed them, cured the wood, cut the boards and planed them?

B. ***Jesus Built A Bridge*** (by Phil Cross)

One day they nailed the carpenter to a rugged tree,  
Thinking He would never build again.  
There they held Him through His hands and feet,  
Still He carried out the master plan.

Jesus built a bridge to heaven,  
So that we could have a way up to Him.  
Jesus built a bridge, the only way He could.  
With only three nails and two pieces of wood,  
With one rugged cross, Jesus built a bridge.

: Jesus, the Carpenter, (1) Demonstrated the value of honest work; (2) Is able to build and repair lives; (3) Sees the potential in us; And (4) Died a carpenter's death on a wooden cross to redeem us from sin.

When the emperor Julian was on the march to Persia, some of Julian's soldiers captured a Christian and tormented him in brutal sport. One soldier scoffed, "Where is your carpenter God now?"

The prisoner looked up through pain and blood, and answered, "Where is my carpenter God now? He is in heaven building a mansion for me and building a coffin for your emperor." The emperor, Julian, died shortly thereafter in Persia.