

BUILT DIFFERENT:

When You Do the Lord's Work

May 17, 2026

Message Summary.

Jesus saved us *from* sin, and He saved us *for* service. Doing the Lord's work often includes sacrifice, difficulty, and perseverance, and also leads to purpose, joy, and eternal impact. Christians are called-out people, empowered by Christ in us, the hope of glory. Rather than chase comfort, approval, and success, followers of Jesus are called to endure differently, love differently, and serve differently because Christ is working through them.

Key Scripture Summaries.

Colossians 1:24-29 | Paul rejoices in suffering because God uses it to advance the gospel and mature believers in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 | Our present troubles are temporary compared to the eternal glory God is preparing for us.

Philippians 3:7-10 | Paul counts worldly success as loss compared to knowing Christ and sharing in His sufferings.

Galatians 2:20 | The Christian life is no longer self-centered; Christ now lives through us.

Start Talking.

1. What's a responsibility or project you thought would be easier than it was?
2. Have you ever wanted to quit something meaningful because it became difficult?
3. When you hear the phrase "doing the Lord's work," what comes to mind?

Start Thinking.

- Paul says he rejoices in suffering (Colossians 1:24). Why is that difficult for us to understand in modern culture?
- Why do you think many Christians settle for being saved without stepping into their calling?
- From the sermon: "Jesus is the steak; everything else is steak sauce." What are some "steak sauce" pursuits people often prioritize over Jesus?

- How can suffering sometimes deepen our relationship with Christ?
- What's the difference between serving God out of obligation versus purpose?



Start Sharing.

1. Where do you currently feel stretched, discouraged, or tired in life?
2. Have you ever seen God use a difficult season in your life to help someone else?
3. Which part of the sermon challenged you the most (Tough times don't last, Christ-like love means sacrifice, or You are rooted in your purpose)?
4. Where are you most tempted to live comfortably instead of courageously?
5. Is there an area where God may be calling you to step off the sidelines and serve more intentionally?
6. What would it look like for Christ in you to become more visible this week?

Start Praying.

Jesus, thank You for saving us from sin and for purpose. Forgive us for settling into comfort when You've called us into mission. Give us strength when life feels hard, courage when sacrifice costs us something, and faith to trust that You are working through us. Help us live boldly, serve faithfully, and remember that only what's done for You will last. Amen.

Start Doing.

- Identify an area where you've been resisting God's calling and take a step of obedience this week.
- Begin serving consistently somewhere: in church, your community, or your home.
- Share your faith story or invite someone to church this week.
- Ask yourself regularly: "Am I living for temporary comfort or eternal purpose?"
- Memorize Colossians 1:27: "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*"