



2015 Curricular Integration Workshop

Old Testament

As a starting point for thinking about where work and the economy might arise in classes, the table facilitator (Tim Finlay, Azusa-Pacific University) provided these “touchpoints”:

Work, wealth, poverty, diligence and sloth in the Wisdom Literature

Laws regarding property

Narratives of the building of the tabernacle, first and second temples, and associated artifacts

The picture of work in the Messianic Age

Women at work in the Old Testament

What do people buy and trade in the Old Testament?

The faculty at the table brainstormed these additional “touchpoints”:

The sheer pervasiveness of preaching against economic sins in the prophets.

Laws and teachings concerning the marginalized (orphan, widow, stranger etc.).

Imperatives deriving from YHWH’s character (laws concluding with “I am YHWH” etc.).

Sabbath laws—the work and rest balance.

The motive statements—blessings for obedience in exhortations and the parenetic quality of Deuteronomy.

Environmental Stewardship—humans, contra Malthus and Paul Ehrlich, are an integral part of creation.

Slavery—sexual slavery is a major issue in the U.S.A. and other countries today.

The work of the mind—Solomon’s interest in categorizing animals and plants; the work of scribes etc.

Free-will offerings [including the narrative where they stopped collecting offerings because they had received enough].

The Shema [Deut 6:4-9] as beginning with internal conversion and moving to external actions.

The extensive discussions of distribution of land to tribes and individuals in Joshua, Ezekiel and elsewhere.

Seeking the *shalom* of the city.

The People of God as God's own special treasure.