

*Leading Lives That Matter: What We Should Do and Who We Should Be.* Ed. Mark R. Schwehn and Dorothy C. Bass. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2006. 545 pp.

*Leading Lives that Matter: What We Should Do and Who We Should Be*, edited by the husband and wife team of Mark Schwehn and Dorothy Bass, is a follow-up companion volume to William Placher's *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom*. The overall question asked by *Leading Lives That Matter* is how does a person define "significance" in his or her life and how does the modern Western worldview either contribute or deter from one's understanding of vocation. The bulk of the book revolves around various writers' examination of seven core questions of one's identity. First, are some lives more significant than others? Second, must one's job be the primary source of one's identity? Third, is a balanced life possible and preferable to a life focused primarily on work? Fourth, should one follow his talents as he decides what to do to earn a living? Fifth, to whom should one listen to when seeking advice on life decisions? Sixth, can one control what she does and becomes in life? And finally, how does one tell the story of his or her life?

While I would probably not recommend this book as a stand alone text, *Leading Lives That Matter* could be used in a college or seminary classroom as a sort of "casebook" for students to use as they worked through their own thoughts on vocation. The framework of the seven core identity questions in the book is important for confessing Christians to have a response to. That said, I would strongly recommend a complementary book on Christian vocational understanding; *Leading Lives That Matter* asks plenty of questions but answers few of them. As a warning, some of the language in the book (especially the screenplay for *Good Will Hunting*) is very coarse. One would need to be sensitive to his or her setting in this regard.

~ George M. Hillman, Jr.