



My Job & God's Story

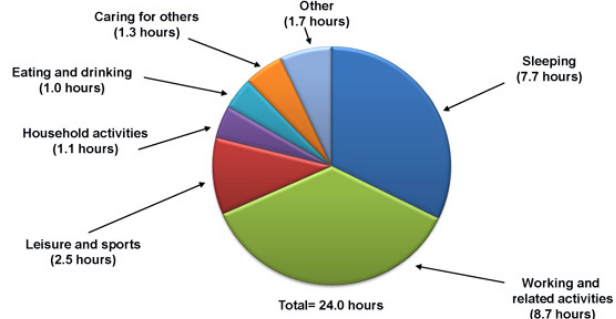
How the Gospel Shapes Our View of Work / Part 1

Lesson 1

Fulfillment, Frustration, and Following Jesus at Work

"This job that takes up so many hours of my life and so much of my mental space, that frustrates me to no end sometimes and gives me great joy at other times—what does it all finally mean?"

Time use on an average work day for employed persons ages 25 to 54 with children



NOTE: Data include employed persons on days they worked, ages 25 to 54, who lived in households with children under 18. Data include non-holiday weekdays and are annual averages for 2013. Data include related travel for each activity.
SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, American Time Use Survey

My Job and God's Story: How the Gospel Shapes Our View of Work

1. God CREATED work to be good!

"In the beginning God worked, we worked, and it was ALL GOOD!"

► **GOD** at work in Creation – Genesis 1:1, 31-2:3

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"...all that He had made...His work which He had done...His work which He had done...His work which God had created and made." Genesis 1:31-2:3

Words Used to Describe God at Work

1) **SUCCESSFUL** work: "which He had done" (2x); "all that He had made...and made" (2x)

2) **SKILLFUL** work: "work" (3x); "all His work" (2x)

3) **SUPERNATURAL** work: "created"

- There are aspects to God's WORK that we CANNOT do, but the point is that this mighty God who created everything out of nothing also WORKS LIKE WE DO – no matter *how important our work is* or *how insignificant our work may seem!*
- In a biblical view of work – no job is too small or insignificant to not be called **SKILLFUL & SUCCESSFUL** in God's eyes!

Ways God Enjoyed Working

“God **SAW** all that He had made, and **BEHOLD** it was very **GOOD!**” Genesis 1:31

“By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He **RESTED** on the seventh day from the work which He had done.” Genesis 2:2

“Then God **BLESSED** the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He **RESTED** from all His work which God had created and made.” Genesis 2:3

➤ **PEOPLE** at work after being made in God’s image – Genesis 2:5, 15-25; 1:26-30

1) God gave humanity the work of cultivating and caring for King’s **GARDEN-PARADISE** in Eden!

- God **put** Adam in His Garden-Paradise as a **place of peace, protection, and pleasure** in His **presence!** (2:8, 15a)

After the preparation of the garden in Eden God placed the man there, to dress it and to keep it. [Put] merely expresses removal thither, but the fact that the man was placed there to lead a life of repose, not indeed in inactivity, but in fulfillment of the course assigned him, which was very different from the trouble and restlessness of the weary toil into which he was plunged by sin. In paradise he was to dress the garden; for the earth was meant to be tended and cultivated by man, so that without human culture, plants and even the different varieties of corn degenerate and grow wild. Cultivation therefore preserved (“to keep”) the divine plantation, not merely from injury on the part of any evil power, either penetrating into, or already existing in the creation, but also from running wild through natural degeneracy. As nature was created for man, it was his vocation not only to ennoble it by his work, to make it subservient to himself, but also to raise it into the sphere of the spirit and further its glorification. This applied not merely to the soil beyond the limits of paradise, but to the garden itself, which, although the most perfect portion of the terrestrial creation, was nevertheless susceptible of development, and which was allotted to man, in order that by his care and culture he might make it into a transparent mirror of the glory of the Creator.

Keil, C. F. and Delitzsch F., *Commentary on the Old Testament*

- God **put** Adam in His Garden-Paradise for a **purpose**: to **cultivate, care, control, and conquer** God’s abundant blessings. (2:15; 1:26-30)
- God **put** Adam in the Garden Paradise for a **purpose** with a **partner**. (2:18-25)
“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; will make a **helper suitable** for him.’” (2:18, 20)

2) The work God gave humanity was **GOOD...as long as God was the center of it all!** Genesis 1:26, 31

“The impulse to work and to make the rest of the creation serve human ends began with the first man’s job in Eden.” – C. John Collins

- **DELIGHTFUL** & Satisfying
- **MEANINGFUL** & Significant
- **PURPOSEFUL** & Strategic

2. But work was good only as long as God was at the CENTER of it and our lives!

Genesis 2:15-17 reveals...

- Our **purpose** in work is to **worship and obey** the God who is at work in our work! (v. 15)
- Our **liberty** in work is to **enjoy the fruit of our labor** in the presence of the God who made it fruitful! (v. 16)
- Our **priority** in work and all of life is to **trust and obey the LORD who is the King over it all BECAUSE...** (v. 17)

Working for the King Changes Everything!

And so, in the beginning, God worked, we worked, and it was ALL GOOD!

And then...one day...

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.” Genesis 3:1