



#51

Theme: “Toil - Deserves Respect”

Scripture: Proverbs 13: 4

“The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.”

A Thought: “Oh my gosh, it is so hot!” The ad nauseam refrain from the lips of so many folks experiencing the dog days of summer. Truth be told - it was muggy and hot! But, whoa...get a grip! We are talking about three weeks of uncomfortable weather as opposed to the relentless sun-beating summers in India, Bangladesh, New Orleans and our nation’s capitol. The genesis of this essay occurred when I was watching three gardeners hard at work digging holes, trimming bushes, cutting grass in the hottest and muggiest day of the Olympic summer. Underneath their wide brim straw hats were beads of sweat streaming down their brown faces. Their callused hands wet with sweat gripping the lawnmower, shovel and or edge trimmer. Moving quickly and orderly to meet or surpass their daily goal of twenty houses and or before the sun sets. Meanwhile folks are rushing to and from their respective cars to quickly turn on the AC. For many of us the three men were a blur in our conscience and once the AC hit us square in the face we never look out the car window and gave a second thought to those men. Well, I did. The Bible and our Lord reminds us constantly of the souls who work our fields, our yards, wash and fix our cars, deliver our mail, cook and serve our food. 1Thessalonians 5:12a (NIV) *“Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you....”*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Do you glorify God by being a conscientious worker? Is this important?
- Have you had conversations with your children about the contributions of workers they see day to day e.g., farm workers, gardeners, mail carriers, laborers, restaurant cooks and servers?
- What does God say about employment and hard work? Search the scriptures on the importance of being self-reliant and respected.

Scriptures to read:

- Genesis 3:17-19; Psalm 128:2; Proverbs 13:4, 28:20; Matt. 5:14:16
- Romans 4:4; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Corinthians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-10; Colossians 3:23-24;

Quote: Thomas Edison.... *"Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."*

Bottom Line: One thing I had in common with my sister is that we both shared chores. We did the dishes, washed the porch and kitchen floors and raked the dirt in front of our house (we did not have a lawn). We had our moments and many times we fell short of accomplishing our duties. Either my dad or mom straightened that out and very quickly. By osmosis I learned that I was a member of a family and it quickly taught me about the importance of responsibility, self-reliance and personal satisfaction. I carried my parent's teaching throughout my work life. Years later as a teenager my father always took time to point out the farm workers toiling the fields of Orange County that hugged the San Diego Freeway. Gents...our duty is to educate our young ones to respect those who work hard and long hours to make a living. A child once asked his father..."who do we thank." The father responded, "Manuel... Manual Labor!" 1Thessalonians 4:11-12 (NIV) *"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, 12) so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody."*

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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