

Jesus the Working Man

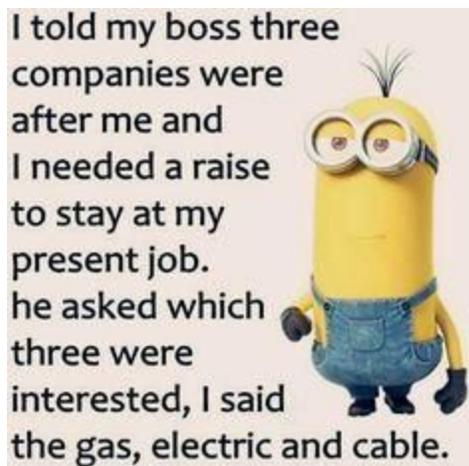
Series: Summer Encounters: Snapshots from the Life of Jesus

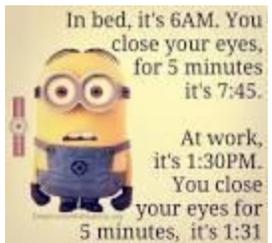
Mark 6:3 (1720)

Steve Wood

September 3 (Labor Day Weekend)

Labor Day *Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.*





I. Work was God's idea from the beginning

a. God assigned work in the Garden of Eden before the fall

Genesis 2:15 NIV *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

b. Yet when sin entered the world, work was deeply affected

Genesis 3:17-19 NIV *“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

c. Jesus worked a “blue collar” job for many years

Mark 6:3 NIV ³ *Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.*

II. Jesus died to redeem everything, including our work

a. Work becomes oppressive apart from God's redeeming hand

Ecclesiastes 2:21-23 NLT ²¹ *Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. ²² So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? ²³ Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.*

Luke 12:21 NLT *“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”*

James 5:3-4 NLT *The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment. ⁴ For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.*

b. Your work becomes a vital part of Christian witness

Ecclesiastes 2:22-25 NLT . ²² *So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? ²³ Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless. ²⁴ So I decided there is nothing better than to enjoy food and drink and to find satisfaction in work. Then I realized that these pleasures are from the hand of God. ²⁵ For who can eat or enjoy anything apart from him?*

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 NLT ¹¹ *Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. ¹² Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live...*

c. We will be richly rewarded for working with purpose

1 Thessalonians 4:12 NLT ¹² *Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live and you will not need to depend on others.*

Colossians 3:23-24 NLT ²³ *Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.* ²⁴ *Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.*