



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Labor Day is often seen as just another day off work with pay; but in many cases, we forget the importance of the economic and social contributions of American workers. We have a generation of grandparents who had worked only one job all of their lives. They worked hard with dedication, and the companies they worked for often realized the importance of showing their appreciation. It is a different atmosphere today. Young workers who enter the work force have an average of four to five years with a company before they move on. Today we are challenged with a high unemployment rate and corporate restructures which have resulted in jobs being phased out.

On this Labor Day, I would like to share with you about Joseph's story in Genesis 39. We are told in the first few verses that Joseph worked at Potiphar's "home office." We know several things from the story:

1. Joseph was a hard worker and his employer benefited from his work (verse 3).
2. Because of his hard work, Joseph was promoted to run the business (verse 5).
3. As a result of his success, Joseph was tempted to steal from his employer (verses 7-9).
4. When Joseph refused to do this thing, he was falsely accused and thrown in jail (verse 20). You might say he got a bad break!

If you've worked on a secular job, you may have had some bad breaks just like Joseph. As you struggle with the challenges of being a modern-day worker, you might be able to relate to Joseph's story. Your entire life may have been turned upside down because of the loss of your job. Like Joseph, you may have found yourself falsely accused. Maybe to increase profits, your job was phased out. Maybe you are a hard worker, but despite your hard work, you see employees who abuse the system promoted.

The story of Joseph might not seem like the kind of story

which will encourage you on this Labor Day; but it is the perfect story, because Joseph maintained a good work ethic in spite of his bad breaks. If you are fortunate enough to be working, you will often be challenged to do all that you can to keep a positive attitude and believe your difficult situation will ultimately work out. The truth of the matter is bad situations don't always work out in this life. Being a Christian doesn't always guarantee you a promotion. It doesn't mean that you will be viewed as the best employee on the job. In fact, you may be on probation right now while reading this article. You may have recently been fired. (I promise not to use the old cliché, "Be thankful no matter what!")

If you are employed, but unhappy with your current work situation, I want to ask you to quit working for your boss right now at the XYZ Company in corporate America. Instead, start working for the real Boss, Jesus Christ. Your circumstances may not readily change, but working for Jesus Christ will change you from the inside out. It will change how you approach your work on a day-to-day basis, and it will be a testimony for you that will speak so much louder than words. (This is why Joseph could have a positive work ethic.) No matter what the job might be, when we understand it is ultimately Jesus Christ for Whom we work, we will adopt a different perspective.

On this Labor Day, despite your circumstances, remember the following challenge to Joshua: *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.* (Joshua 1:9)

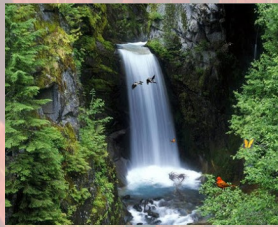
If it's still a little hard to wrap your arms around this, then over the next 30 days, talk to the Boss about it. Write me and let me know the outcome.

Be blessed as you celebrate this Labor Day!

Dr. L.W. Edwards



The Keeper of the Spring



The Handicapped Hamlet

Once upon a time, high above an Austrian village nestled in the eastern Alps there lived a quiet forest dweller. Many years before, this gentleman had been hired by a young town council-

man to clear debris away from the pools of water in the mountain crevices which fed the pristine spring flowing through the town.

With faithful, silent regularity, he patrolled the hills, removed the leaves and branches, and wiped away the silt that would otherwise have choked and contaminated the fresh flow of water.

The village soon became a popular attraction for vacationers. Graceful swans floated along the crystal clear spring, the mill wheels of various businesses located near the water turned day and night, the naturally irrigated farmlands yielded the finest produce, and restaurants prospered from their picturesque views of the waterfront.

Years passed. One evening the town council gathered for its semiannual meeting. As they reviewed the budget, one man's eye caught the salary figure being paid the obscure keeper of the spring. Said the keeper of the purse, "Who is the old man? Why do we keep him on year after year? No one ever sees him. For all we know, the strange ranger of the hills is doing us no good. He isn't necessary any longer." By a unanimous vote, they dispensed with the old man's services.

For several weeks, nothing changed.

By early autumn, the trees began to shed their leaves. Small branches snapped off and fell into the pools, hindering the rushing flow of sparkling water.

One afternoon someone noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint in the spring. A few days later, the water was much darker. Within another week, a slimy film covered sections of the water along the banks, and a foul odor was soon detected. The mill wheels moved more slowly, some finally ground to a halt. Swans left, as did the tourists. Clammy fingers of disease and sickness reached deeply into the village.

Quickly, the embarrassed council called a special meeting. Realizing their gross error in judgment, they rehired the old keeper of the spring, and within a few weeks,

the veritable river of life began to clear up. The wheels started to turn, and new life returned to the hamlet in the Alps.

This story by the late Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall contains a truth which rings true in the tiniest of hamlets and the greatest of nations: the quality of life and culture, the very wheels of society itself, turn as freely as that society embraces the Keeper of the spring.

A Hamlet in History

The nation of Israel has known times of abundant prosperity and abject poverty throughout its history. A casual study of Israel's early history in the Old Testament reveals a connection between the nation's welfare, its defeats, and its relationship to God. When she embraced God, Israel prospered from the wellspring of His favor; but when she rejected Him, she floundered like a freshwater fish in saltwater. Deuteronomy 28 explains why. The blessing of God is like an . . . >>> [Keep Reading](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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