

Why Did Adam Work in the Garden?

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Why did Adam work in the Garden?

- Not because God needed help to boost His apple production. (There was abundance)
- Not because Adam needed to put food on the table. (He was surrounded by it)
- Not to earn money to pay the mortgage or buy Eve a new dress! (Money, houses and clothes did not exist)
- Why, then? (Why did Jesus work in a carpenter's shop?)
- To spend 'quality time' with his Father, work alongside him, have fellowship with him, learn a skill and how to be a man, and grow and become fully the person he was created to be.
- So Adam is defined by his relationship with God, not by his work.

Jobs become redundant, not people.

- We are not defined by our (*paid or unpaid*) work, either.
- So, we are not diminished, just because a particular piece of work happens to come to an end.
- ***In fact, we are chosen and precious:***
- “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God.” (*1 Pet 2.9*)
- “You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.” (*Jn 15.16*)
- “The hairs on your head are numbered: you are worth more than many sparrows.” (*Mt 10.31*)

Anger is Normal...

(part of the process of grieving for loss)

Be angry, but do not sin – let no evil talk come out of your mouths. *(Eph 4.29-32)*

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses *(Heb 4.14-16)*

...But we march to a different drum

- Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another as Christ has forgiven you. *(Eph 4.32)*
- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. *(Rom 12.1-2)*

No Worries (no point!)

(But 30 seconds allowed for panic)

- Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink ... can any of you by worrying add a single hour to the span of your life? *(Mt 6)*
- Do not worry about anything, but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your heart and mind through Jesus Christ. *(Php 4. 6-7)*

No Fear (no need!)

- Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. (*Lk12.32*)
- Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine. (*Isa 43.1*)
- Do not be afraid, just believe (*Mk 5.36*)
- The phrase "do not be afraid" occurs 89 times in the Bible!

If God seems far away, who moved?

- Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand hold me fast. *(Ps 139.8-10)*

What we want, or what we need?

- “I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and all my goods.” But God said to him, “You fool!” *(Lk 12.17-20)*
- Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have. *(Heb 13.5)*
- I have learned to be content with whatever I have: I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. *(Php 4. 12-13)*
- My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever and ever. *(Ps 73.26)*
- Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. *(Mt 6.19)*
- If you then who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him? *(Mt 7.11)*

Where is our heart? New beginnings

- “Since this is your heart’s desire and you have not asked for wealth, riches or honour, nor for the death of your enemies, but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given to you. And I will also give you riches and honour such as no king before you ever had.” *(God’s word to Solomon at the dedication of the Jerusalem Temple, 2 Chr 1.11-12)*
- Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. *(Mt 6.33)*
- Your Father knows that you need them. *(Lk 12.30)*
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled. *(Mt 5.6)*

Do we trust Him really?

- God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.
(1 Cor 1.25)
- He cares for those who trust in Him *(Nahum 1.7)*
- See, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious: and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.
(1 Pet 2.6)
- Trust in the Lord with your whole heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. *(Prov 3.5-6)*
- Commit your way to the Lord: trust Him and He will act.
(Ps 37)
- "Trust God" appears 43 times

His promises are good and true: the One who promises is faithful

- I know the plans I have for you, plans to give you hope and a future, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. *(Jer 29.11)*
- Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. *(1 Pet 2.7)*
- Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you. *(Ps 55.22)*
- We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God. *(Rom 8.28)*

If God is for us,
who can be against us? *(Rom 8)*

I can do all things through Him who
strengthens me. *(Php 4)*

So I saw that there is nothing better
for a man, than to enjoy his work. *(Eccl 3.9)*