

WORK IS A BLESSING FROM THE LORD!

Why does the world demonize the idea of "work"? There is an internet article today that says people should only work 3 days a week when they reach the age of 40. This is according to a study made by experts, but I ask, "Who are these experts? And what are they experts of?" Over twenty years ago, most countries in Europe implemented a 4-day work week to give people more time for themselves. On the other hand, many Christians believe that work is part of the curse God gave man after Adam sinned. So when I wrote about the connection between work and savings to our faith, someone on Facebook objected and said that I am ignorant of the Bible and should try reading it. Sabi nya kasi when we were saved by grace, work is no longer required.

Why is it hard for people to accept that work is part of the blessing of the Lord? While we are saved by grace because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, He required us to "do business" in Luke 19:12-13, which means we need to work. In addition, the Parable of the Talent tells us that God expects us to be faithful with the things He entrusts to us, otherwise, He will take them away and call us wicked and lazy. To be wicked means to have a twisted mind, ibig sabihin, may sira ang bait mo!

May sira ang bait ng taong ayaw magtrabaho kasi they do not accept that work is the channel by which God will provide for them and give them abundance. When they work, they will earn so they can eat. When they work and save, they will have excess so that they will never beg or borrow. So too, when they work well, they will grow their abilities, and Matthew 25:29 says, "For to everyone who has (abilities), more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have (abilities), even what he does have shall be taken away."

I may not be an expert on anything, but from experience, I have learned that if I do not work, my family will go hungry. If I work only 3 days and spend to enjoy life for the rest of the week, my family will become poor. And as I read the Bible year after year, I know that while I am saved by grace, grace is only given to the humble. And the humble are those who recognize that we are mere stewards of the Lord's possessions, and as such, we need to be faithful and grow them so that we can be a blessing to the world. The apostle Paul, who taught about salvation by grace, said this in 2 Thessalonians 3:7-8, "For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you".

I believe one of the reasons why most countries in Europe are now bankrupted is because they only worked for 4 days to provide for their 7-day needs. I would always say, "When you stop working, you start spending!" So the more you work, the less time you have to spend but the more you rest, the more you spend the little you earn.