

July 25, 2020

O God, Bless all those who have very responsible jobs to to-day: ... Lawyers who interpret the law ...

*Prayer in the Morning*

I must say that I smiled when I prayed for “Lawyers who interpret the law” in this morning’s prayer.

I practiced law for 12 years before going to seminary. However, I don’t believe I’ve ever prayed for lawyers as a profession. I would be surprised if many of you have prayed for lawyers. Should we be praying for lawyers?

Perhaps we should pray more for the occupations and institutions of our society. Praying for doctors, teachers, and politicians; or waiters, bakers, and brewers; or school boards, city councils, and county commissioners.

So much of our ministries are shared through our occupations. The work we do is typically something about which we are passionate.

There is a television show called Undercover Boss where people are doing some of the most disgusting, dangerous, and sometimes mundane jobs. A few of the people on Undercover Boss were disgruntled and angry but most of them saw their work as something that bettered their community and they did all their jobs with passion. The salary didn’t matter, it was about doing their job passionately.

During seminary, I worked at a Social Outreach Agency. One of the “jobs” I did was to teach Middle School students how to get and retain a job.

The students were assigned a variety of jobs throughout San Antonio. One student was assigned to a Community Center for some of the older people in that area of town. When I went to the job site to check on him, he told me his boss gave him the job of janitor. I was getting ready to sympathize with him for this blah job when he shocked me by saying – “this is a great job!” I asked him why it was great and he told me that his boss trusted him. His boss gave him a job and trusted that he would do it without following him around. The student told me, “I know that I can do this job and provide for a family (when I have a family).”

We are called to live our lives with passion in doing the work God has given us to do. Every job is crucial to the functioning of our world. It is similar to what Paul told the people of Corinth about the body of Christ: “If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.” 1 Corinthians 12:17-20 Many jobs, yet one community.

The bottom line is that we need to give thanks for one another and for the things we do to enable our community to function.

We should pray for and give thanks for volunteers, for encouragers, for laborers, for essential workers, for professionals, for government workers, for law enforcement, for parents, for sea captains, for doctors, scientists, preachers, politicians, small business owners, ranchers, cowboys,

inventors, salesmen, plumbers, electricians, miners, cooks, astronauts, and for all the different jobs we do even lawyers.