

## When you wonder why your days are so filled with drudgery

Why are your days filled with endless work, irritation, confrontation, and even discouragement?

God has an explanation for you in His Word. In Genesis 3 God explains how Adam and Eve disobeyed Him. They listened to the devil's temptation. God then cursed the devil. He also put Adam and Eve under daily discipline. What does "daily discipline" mean? God's discipline was endless work and frustration: "*In toil you shall eat of [the ground] all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread,*" (Genesis 3: 17-19). Because of Adam's sin you, too, "*by the sweat of your face... shall eat bread*" (Genesis 3:19).

Why did Adam and Eve need God's blessing of daily discipline? Their sin of disobeying God resulted in a ruined earth. They would no longer naturally desire to love and please God. They found themselves outside of Eden. Only through difficulties and suffering could God get Adam and Eve to turn to Him for help. HOW ARE YOU PART OF GOD'S DISCIPLINE OF ADAM AND EVE?

In His Word, God says that through the seed of Adam you have inherited his spiritual DNA. This means you actively participate in Adam's original sin of disobedience. "*Through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners,*" (Romans 5:19).

Because you participate in Adam's disobedience and sin, your strongest desire is to not worship and serve God. Therefore, God is disciplining you just as He disciplined Adam and Eve - through daily drudgery. Through this daily discipline God lovingly draws you toward Himself. HOW GOD USES YOUR EVERYDAY DRUDGERY AND WORK TO BLESS YOU!

Here is Good News for you! God, through the Gospel and the Sacraments, changes your sense of daily drudgery into daily blessings. In His gracious discipline, God takes the initiative to remove you from the devil's control and "exercise" you in His gift of faith. God is exercising you when He permits daily struggles to come into your life.

Luther explains: "*God allows us to be tempted that He may have an opportunity for satisfying, comforting, and filling those who have been emptied of all strength and stripped of all help,*" (Luther's Works, vol. 6, p. 357).

Luther also says: "*For when there is peace and quiet, we do not pray. Nor do we meditate on the Word, but we treat the Scriptures and all things that belong to God coldly or finally slip into fatal smugness,*" (Luther's Works, vol. 8, p. 7).

GOD TURNS HIS DISCIPLINE INTO BLESSINGS FOR YOU!

Let God give you a new and more positive view of life. Your daily work, drudgery, conflicts, and tears are indeed part of His punishment for your participation in Adam's sin. Yet, in His grace, God then uses these events as His discipline and your blessing! The next time you feel burdened, or even afflicted, consider this challenge as God firmly saying, "*Get up! It is time for Me to 'exercise' you in Word and Sacrament! It is time for Me to bless and strengthen you!*"

Luther also explains how God graciously exercises and strengthens you through your daily work and burdens. He says, *“For this reason, God acted rightly and properly when He has permitted us to remain in a state in which we must fight and wrestle with sins, death, the devil, the world, the flesh, and all sorts of temptations, so that we are obliged and compelled to seek and desire His grace, help, Word, and Sacrament. Otherwise, if this were not the case, no human would be at all likely to inquire either after His Word or after His Sacrament, or seek either grace or help. But now that such hounds, yes, devils, are after us and pursue us, we must indeed become more alert and, as a hunted deer longs for fresh water, we too should cry out for God, as Psalm 42 [:1] says’. In this way, our faith will become well EXERCISED, experienced, and strong, and we shall abide and become established in Christ,”* (Luther’s Works, vol. 38, p. 128).