

“WORK: Redeeming Our Labor” - Blog #7

Lindsay, Stay-at-home Mom



This blog series is a part of our sermon series “WORK: Redeeming Our Labor”. We hope this set of interview style blogs is encouraging to our church family as we strive to be faithful in our labors and put our vocation into the story of God, for His glory, our good, and the benefit of the world around us.

**Answers have been lightly edited for grammar and spelling.*

1. Tell us what you do and how long you've been doing it.

I've been a stay-at-home mom to our 15-month-old daughter Harper for the last year.

2. What are some of the highlights or things you enjoy about your job?

I adore Harper-- she genuinely brings me joy. It is a privilege and gift to spend day in and day out with her and I love that I get to invest the majority of my time in tending to her physical and spiritual health. It's so sweet to watch her grow, and when she learns a new skill or concept I don't know who is more proud-- her or me! I also love the ways staying at home with Harper allows me to be involved at Citizens. I am a part of our Teaching Team each week, teach/lead Bible/book studies, meet up with women one-on-one, and go on play dates with other families in our church. I feel like I get the best of both worlds, getting to stay at home with Harper while also getting to be active in ministry.

3. What are some of the more frustrating parts of your job?

Most of my days are filled with monotonous tasks and I really have to fight to think rightly about the never-ending changing of diapers, making/cleaning up of meals, etc. I am tempted to believe that a certain job title or salary would give me a higher sense of worth/value. I have to fight to remember that I don't need

to derive worth/value from others by earning a certain salary or holding a certain job title. My worth and value are derived from being a child of God (whose love and grace I also don't earn). God has been exposing these deep roots in my heart through the routine, mundane, and seemingly small tasks of motherhood.

4. How do you see your work as "joining God in cultivating the world?"

Every Moment Holy has a liturgy for changing diapers that has given me such a helpful perspective on this. Here is an excerpt:

"This act of diapering-- though in form sometimes felt as base drudgery--might be better described as one of ten thousand acts by which I am actively creating a culture of compassionate service and selfless love to shape the life of this family and this beloved child. So take this unremarkable act of necessary service, O Christ, and in your economy let it be multiplied into that greater outworking of worship and of faith, a true investment in the incremental advance of your kingdom across generations. Open my eyes that I might see this act for what it is from the fixed vantage of eternity, O Lord-- how the changing of a diaper might sit upstream of the changing of a heart; how the changing of a heart might sit upstream of the changing of the world."

5. How does the gospel of Jesus impact your work?

Kids are really needy, and this has exposed the selfishness of my heart at new levels. It can wear on you, especially when the person you're serving is a toddler who doesn't know how to express gratitude for your sacrifices. But parenting is a picture of the gospel in that I am sacrificing myself for the good of Harper, despite her inability to deserve it or pay me back. I am growing to cherish this unique season where Harper is so needy (as babies are by God's design!), and to be grateful for the fruit it is bringing about in my own life. But as I love and serve her imperfectly, I also grow in awe of God's perfect love and sacrifice for His people. In my short-comings as a mother the gospel offers grace and freedom because there are no short-comings in Christ and His finished work on the cross.

6. What are some current prayer requests you have with your job?

Honestly, pray for Harper's salvation. That is our number one goal/hoped outcome of our parenting and therefore my "job" in this season. Also pray for discernment to know how to discipline in a way that reflects the gospel.