

Southern Adventist University
Knowledge Exchange

The Main Thing Devotional

Office of Ministry and Missions

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Made to Rule

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“And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth,’” Genesis 1:28, ESV.

Made to Rule by Serving

In the story of the beginning of our world, we see who God is and what He does. He is Creator and He reigns over His creation. Therefore, His first command to us as His created beings is essentially – be like me and do what I do. As image bearers we are made to rule just like God rules. This is what work is intended to be:

“Originally, work was designed to empower the prismatic relationship that we have with God, with each other, and with creation. Through our work, we worship Him, serve the needs of others, and care for the world around us. But when the man and woman turned from God as the source of their identity, they became something that they were never intended to be; and when they became something other than what God intended them to be, their work became something other than what God intended it to be as well.”^[1]

Perhaps you feel this all too well. Perhaps work (whatever it is that you do) seems more like a chore, a burden, or a kind of enslavement you’re just trying to survive, rather than something the means by which we experience loving relationship with God and with others and flourish in life. If this is true, there is good news!

My Bible tells me that Jesus “emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”^[2] What this means is that because of Jesus, we’re free! We don’t have to be driven to find our identity in our work, or driven to work out of obligation or duty. Instead, we fulfill our identity as His reflection and representation on this earth, by discovering our unique skills, passions, and gifts and then serving just as He served.

This week, as you make The Main Thing, the main thing in your life, may you come to realize the unique ways you reflect the image of God by serving through your gifts and skills.

Reflection

1. Read Psalm 8:5-6 – What does this teach you about God?
2. Read Mark 10:42-45 – What is the invitation God is extending to you personally?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 – What specific gifts and skills has God given you with which to serve those around you?
4. Discover more about your gifts and skills by taking [this brief quiz](#).

News and Resources

- Join us this Friday for **Vespers at 6:30pm or at 8:30pm in the University Church!**
- Find a meaningful sense of belonging by joining a student or faculty/staff LifeGroup today: [click here](#).
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.