

# REVERSE THE CURSE

## DEVOTION

### Thorns and thistles

Read Genesis 3:17-18.

God created us for a purposeful and powerful work—cultivating fruit and creating life everywhere we go in a way that glorified God. He entrusted man with this work as a distinct and holy gift. Adam and Eve enjoyed a perfect relationship with creation and with their role within it.

The only tree that God withheld from them was the very tree they couldn't resist. And when they claimed its fruit, the result was a chasm between mankind and our purpose on earth.

In Genesis 3:17-18, God explained that when Adam and Eve embraced death over life, it directly affected the work we do in this world.

The curse brought both individual and universal implications to our pursuit and enjoyment of "work."

Sin brought exhaustion to our daily labor where there should have been enjoyment.

The thorns and thistles of this world cut away at our purpose and attempt to choke out the fruit. But when Jesus entered the world, He shifted careers into callings—inviting fishermen to become fishers of men. Reversing the curse in our work begins by embracing a God who repurposes thorns and thistles and turns our mundane work into meaningful ministry.

### Reversing the curse

Though Jesus doesn't eliminate the pain of our daily labor, His resurrection brings new life into every realm, even redeeming our work and our relationship with creation.

- Romans 8:20-22 explains how creation itself has been broken and waiting for the reversal of the curse. Our relationship with the world around us has been strained, but all of creation knows and waits for God's work of redemption. Because God is reversing the curse, our world will see the result of its long-awaited hope.

- Exhausting labor is a result of the sin of man. Sometimes we find ourselves in a hard situation, and sometimes our own sinfulness makes things worse. As we reflect on Christ and consider His humility, we can recognize the impact our attitude and faithfulness can have, even in the most mundane or exhausting circumstances (Philippians 2).

- God originally gave mankind the gift of purpose, where the work of our hands was simple and satisfying, but sin's curse resulted in futility and frustration. To reverse that curse, God is once again giving His people purpose and divine fruit from the work of our hands. We walk with the assurance that God has a plan, and we once again have the hope that He has a distinct and valuable part for us to play.

### Keep talking

1. What can you observe about mankind's relationship with creation? How is it broken? How is God restoring that bond?
2. What's something meaningful you've accomplished? What are you doing when you feel the most alive?
3. Are you bored at work? Are you disengaged with your work-life? How can you connect your work-life to your spiritual walk?
4. Do you have a personal mission you're living out in your work-life?
5. What's one thing you can begin this week to turn the mundane of work into something meaningful?

**BIRKHEAD CO.**  
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

SINCE 1947



- SERVICE & REPAIR
- COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
- ALL HEATING & HVAC EQUIPMENT
- DESIGN SYSTEMS & REPLACEMENTS
- MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS
- AIR CLEANERS & HUMIDIFIERS

**TRANE**

*It's Hard To Stop A Trane.*

**WE REPAIR ALL  
MAKES & MODELS**

**FREE ESTIMATES  
FOR NEW INSTALLATIONS**

**SENIOR DISCOUNT**

**WWW.BIRKHEADCO.COM • 502-367-1212**

**24 HOUR  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICE**

**DELIVER SOME  
GOOD NEWS**

*Each week a team of volunteers delivers the Outlook to more than 500 rack locations in Kentucky and Southern Indiana and we need your help in these areas:*

**WEEKLY VOLUNTEER  
DOWNTOWN AREA (25 MILES)**

**SHELBYVILLE ROAD AREA (13 MILES)**

**SUBS NEEDED FOR VACATIONS,  
ILLNESSES, ETC.**



Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement.

**For more info, contact Dottie Koebel at 253-8660**