

## Sewing Parachutes

During World War II, thousands in factories across the United States constructed parachutes.

From the worker's point of view, the job was tedious. It required stitching endless lengths of colorless fabric, crouched over a sewing machine eight to 10 hours a day. A day's work produced a formless, massive heap of cloth with no *visible* resemblance to a parachute.



In order to motivate workers and keep them concerned with quality, the management in one factory held a meeting. Management informed workers each day of the approximate number of parachutes that had been strapped to the backs of pilots, co-pilots, and other “flying” personnel the previous day. They learned just how many men had jumped to safety from disabled planes as a result of their high-quality work. The managers encouraged their workers to see the big picture on their jobs.

As a second means of motivation, the workers were asked to form a mental picture of a husband, brother, or son who might be saved by the parachute they sewed.

That factory held one of the highest levels of quality on record!

The lesson? Don't let the tedium of each day's chores and responsibilities wear you down so you only see the “stitching” in front of you. Keep your eyes on the big picture. Focus on why you do what you do and who will benefit from your work, including those you don't know and may never meet.

You may not have all the answers to the question, “Why am I here?” but you can rest assured, the Lord does.

Ultimately, the Bible tells us we will be in heaven for eternity – and that is the biggest picture of all! God is preparing us for heaven, just as He is preparing Heaven for us. He is creating us to be the people He wants to live with forever as believers in Christ, His Son.

Whatever mundane tasks or trivial pursuits you undertake today, see them in the light of eternity. They will take on a whole new meaning.

*I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:2-3).*

– Beecher Hunter