

The Mystery of the Trees

I read recently about two trees growing a short distance from a stream in New Mexico.

One of them was sturdy and rich with leaves, while the other was smaller and less attractive. Over the years, the owner of the property wondered why the two trees should have such a different quality and appearance. Unable to find the answer, he dismissed the puzzle from his mind.

One week, while digging near the trees, his shovel struck something hard. When uncovering it, he solved the mystery of the trees.

Years earlier, someone had buried large slabs of a stone wall in the spot. The underground wall prevented the roots of the frail tree from reaching the water in the stream. But there was no wall between the flourishing tree and the water.

The lesson for us?

Work is a noble thing. Even in the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam a job – “to tend and keep it.” However ...

God means for us to have one day a week in which we worship and visit friends and relatives, take a nap, go bicycling with our families and do whatever it is that helps us refresh and rekindle our minds, our bodies and our spirits.

Benjamin Franklin was history’s greatest source of “early to bed, early to rise” advice, yet he himself liked to stay up late playing chess or chatting with friends. He whiled away hours tinkering with kites, bottles, keys and stoves. After introducing the first bathtub to this country in 1790, Franklin spent many hours inside his own, soaking and reading.

We need time to relax with our families and friends, and we need a time to worship God. That most prolific of all poets, Anonymous, once put it like this:

*Take time to **laugh**, it is the music of the soul.*

*Take time to **think**, it is the source of power.*

*Take time to **play**, it is the source of perpetual youth.*

*Take time to **read**, it is the foundation of wisdom.*

*Take time to **pray**, it is the greatest power on earth.*

*Take time to **love and be loved**, it is a God-given privilege.*

*Take time to be **friendly**, it is the road to happiness.*

*Take time to **give**, it is too short a day to be selfish.*

*Take time to **work**, it is the price of success.*

*Take time for **God**, it is the way of life.*

(more)

Jesus, at one point in his busy ministry, said to His apostles:

“Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.” (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat) (Mark 6:31 NASB).

– Beecher Hunter

