

# LOVE:WORK

## Reflections and Prayers for a World at Work

You are not contained by my imagination  
You are not defined by my expectations  
You are not hindered by my disappointments  
You are not restricted to my ideas.

You are not controlled by my ambitions  
You are not bound by my abilities  
You are not measured by my resources  
You are not reduced to what I can comprehend.

You are not curtailed by my shortcomings  
You are not diminished by my mistakes  
You are not shaped by my assumptions  
You are not limited to what I can believe.

And yet you choose to call me yours.  
To make mine the hands and feet through which you might be present today  
Mine the lips through which you might speak  
Mine the life in which others might glimpse your presence.

So release your presence through me I pray  
That this clay jar might somehow display the treasure contained within.

**Amen**

You could have kept on walking when a woman touched your garment's seam;  
Compelled by the urgency of another whose voice was louder.  
Their need more public holding a position that would cause many to afford him more attention.

You could have kept on walking when you knew your power had done its work;  
Problem solved  
Mission accomplished  
Needs met  
Goods delivered  
Box ticked  
Case closed.

But you stopped, and chose to find the one whose petition you had unknowingly granted;  
To affirm her faith restore her dignity and declare her release.

You could have kept on walking but you chose to stop because you cared.

And in this world of deadlines and schedules where human endeavour is reduced to results and statistics, The fruit of your creation, a commodity to be costed and measured  
Help me to know when it is right to pause and engage with another because you have called me to care.

**Amen**

God of all being, you hold in your hands the farthest corners of the universe, yet your eye can see inside the tiniest atom  
You reign above the affairs of all humanity yet know us so well that even the hairs on our head are numbered.

Help us find strength when all around seems turmoil  
Not by making sense or grasping control but through deepening our trust in you and pointing others to that rock on which we stand.

May we find our certainty not by expecting to always understand but through the security of your presence in the midst of our confusion.

Let your cross still speak: The place where you touched the depths of human suffering yet opened to us the doorway to eternity.  
As we proclaim its message, we also bear its mark and so embrace reality with all its hope and pain.

**Amen**

**T**each me to pray Lord;  
To do more than place before  
you my own concerns and  
expectations;  
To seek help to accomplish more  
than simply what I have already  
determined;  
To assume more than simply my  
definitions of good  
are those to which you should  
comply.

Remind me that prayer is not an  
invitation  
for you to become involved in my  
agendas  
so much as one that I might  
accept  
to align myself with your intent  
and purpose.

Help me to hear your voice  
amidst the noise of this day's  
clamour;  
To align my routines according to  
your ways;  
To seek to see this world  
through the eyes of the one to  
whom all things belong.

**Amen**

**E**ver present God  
We reach out for you  
not to escape the troubles and  
tragedies of this world  
but to help us make sense of  
those we can  
and to find strength to bear  
those that we can't.

We struggle at times to  
comprehend  
the harm that we seem capable  
of doing to one another  
and we struggle no less to  
understand  
why at times, tragedies that are  
of no-one's fault  
inflict the pain that they do.

Today we pray for all who bear  
the brunt of that pain  
Those caught up in the stories  
that we all know about  
and those whose troubles are  
unseen  
but no less a challenge to bear.  
And we pray for ourselves  
for we are not untouched by the  
realities of this world.

And yet we thank you too  
that amidst the struggles that we  
face  
are glimpses of your goodness  
and grace  
moments of immeasurable joy  
and signs of hope

May we never be defined by the  
circumstances that surround us  
but who we are in you  
the hope that is contained  
in the Gospel that we share  
and the promise that is ours for  
eternity

Through Christ our Saviour and  
Lord

**Amen**

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