



The Ray Edwards Show, Episode 356

The Lazy Way To Riches

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Female Announcer: Coming up on *The Ray Edwards Show*.

Ray Edwards: What do you do when you have free time and you're not accountable to anybody, you can just do whatever you want? What is it you end up doing? Not what you think you should do. Not what you think is a good idea. Look back over the last year and think about, what did you do in your free time? You're listening to *The Ray Edwards Show*, Episode 356, *The Lazy Way to Riches*.

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Male Announcer: *The Ray Edwards Show*. This is the podcast for prosperity with purpose.

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Ray: Yes, *The Lazy Way to Riches*. The title is designed to provoke you a bit to be not a quite clickbait but certainly attention-getting. I think it's going to attract two different kinds of people. I think there are two groups of people and you probably fall into one of these groups. Group A thinks that title is ridiculous and is listening because they want to tear apart my ideas. Group B thinks that idea is fantastic, wants to know how do I do it. The actual truth of the content of this show falls somewhere in the middle.

Look, I got this theory that if you work hard and you enjoy your work and it's fulfilling and you have fun doing it and it gives you a sense of value, it's not really work. When we say work, don't you think of difficulty? Don't you think of efforts, sweat on your brow, grinding away back to the salt mines? These are things I used to say back when I had a job. I'm not saying jobs are bad. I'm saying you need to have the job that makes you happy. If you have the works, the business or the job that makes you happy, then it feels good.

It feels like you're cheating almost like you're just being lazy. This is what I'm talking about. I'm talking about doing the work you were designed to do and that makes you feel good, which almost feels the same as being lazy. Except if you're lazy, eventually, you'll be very dissatisfied with that and you get to work. Just remember this. If it feels bad doing your work, you're doing it wrong or you're doing the wrong work.

Male Announcer: Does anyone want to live a life that is long and prosperous? Spiritual foundations.



Ray: I'm going to use the Joseph Prince pronunciation and point you to Colossians 3:23 and 24. This is from the *New International Version*, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for human masters since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." This I believe describes what I was talking about at the beginning of the episode. Being so in love with the work you're doing and so in love with the people you're doing it for that it feels like you're doing something divine.

You're creating something that you want to be pleasing to God. It makes me think of the movie, *Chariots of Fire*. I don't know if you remember seeing that movie back in the day when Eric Liddell, I believe his name was, the Olympic runner who was a believer in Christ and wouldn't run on Sundays, actually said about running. He was asked, "Why do you run?" This is a true story. His answer was, "Because when I run, I feel the Lord's pleasure." That's astonishing and we should be grateful for it and I think we can all enjoy it. That's what this show is about today.

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Ray: By the way, this episode of *The Ray Edwards Show* is made possible in part by the Prosperous Business Academy, where we take the ideas in the show and turn them into practical application that can change every part of your life, faith, fitness, family, finance, fun, friends, and fulfillment. Come join me inside the Prosperous Business Academy. Go to rayedwards.com/join.

Male Announcer: Now, our feature presentation.

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Ray: Ray, what is the point of today's show exactly? Just tell me that if I don't have a job I love that I need to do something about it, I already do that. Actually, today's show is an opportunity to share with you five reasons why I believe doing your life's work might feel like you're being lazy because it's fulfilling. When we think of being lazy-- Now, get me, understand me. I'm not saying that laziness is equals fulfillment. It does not.

It equals boredom and depression and anxiety for most people. What I am saying is that the way we usually think about the word "lazy," we think it means living a life of leisure, with plenty of leisure time like retirement. Most retired people who go from a busy life that is fulfilling and challenging to a life of just sitting around playing Backgammon and staring at the grass while it grows and walking the dog and trying to invent things to do, most of them will tell you, "That's not very fulfilling. It's not very enjoyable. It's not very pleasurable."

If you're doing your life's work, it means you're busy, you're engaged, you're creating value, you're involved in the things in your zone of genius that makes you come alive. When you do it, time disappears. You could do it all day long and not realize the day has passed already. That's what I'm talking about. Your life's work, the work you are designed to do. I'm actually retitling this section right now on the fly. I'm

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calling it, *Five Reasons Why You Must Do Your Life's Work If You Want to be Fulfilled.*

Number one, your life's work is the work you're naturally drawn to. You don't have to think about this. You don't have to take a passion test to figure out what your passion is. You already know what your life's work is or at least you have an inkling of the area, the domain in which it lies because this is what you do when you have free time. This is what you naturally gravitate toward. When you have an afternoon, you just think, "I'm going to go garden." That's a hint.

If you think, "I'm going to go hiking," that's a hint. If you think, "I'm going to go practice the agility drills with my dog," that's a hint. If you think to yourself, "I'm going to go watch a great film," that's a hint. These are all clues that we don't have to think very-- We just look at our behavior. Look at your behavior. What do you do when you have free time and you're not accountable to anybody, you can just do whatever you want? What is it you end up doing?

Not what you think you should do. Not what you think is a good idea. Look back over the last year and think about, what did you do in your free time when you didn't know anybody was watching, even yourself? That is a big clue about where your life's work is. Now, in the case of watching a great film, it might be that you want to write films. It might be that you want to direct them. It might be that you want to be a cinematographer. It might be that you want to act.

It could be many different manifestations in that same area, but it's a big clue to discover what you're drawn to. Reason number two why you must do your life's work in order to feel fulfilled. Your life's work comes easy for you while it seems difficult for others. Now, why does this leave you feeling fulfilled? Because you're creating value in an area that is regarded as value by other people.

How much fun is it to do something that you think is really important, spend lots of time on it, and then to have everybody who sees it or encounters it disregard it, dismiss it, walk on it, treat like trash? That feels terrible, doesn't it? When you do something that is easy for you, it's like I write, copy and it comes pretty easily to me. Other people marvel at it and talk about how difficult it is for them, how valuable what I'm doing for them is. It makes me feel fulfilled because I'm living on purpose. I'm doing what I'm supposed to do.

What about you? What is that thing in your life that people tell you, "Man, you're so good at that"? You usually answer by saying, "Well, this is easy. Anybody can do this." Don't be so quick to say that next time. Stop and think about what they're telling you. Reason number three you must do your life's work in order to feel fulfilled. Your life's work feels like play, not toil.

There's a story in the Christian Bible about paradise, the Garden of Eden, and how the human race sinned and God expelled them from the garden and cursed the Earth because of their transgression. Many people think that work was part of that



curse, but it's not. There was work in paradise before the fall of humankind. Afterwards, part of the curse was that it would be by toil, by the sweat of your brow where you earn your living.

Now, whether you believe that story is literally true or you think it's a great story or great mythology, that's your decision to make, but the point remains the same. True work that we're destined and designed to do, that we're aligned to do, that we love to do does not feel like toil. It feels like fun. Reason number four why you must do your life's work in order to feel that sense of fulfillment. Your life's work is what you can't stop thinking about when you're supposed to be vacationing. [chuckles]

I read this story by Seth Godin, who is-- I'm going to probably butcher the story, but this is how I remember it. He was on vacation and he got up early in the morning and he went to the email station in the hotel. Somebody was watching him and made the comment, "Boy, can't you even stay away from your work while you're on vacation? That seems terrible." Seth's reply was, "Why don't you think about having a life you don't have to run away from, doing something you don't have to escape from?"

If you find yourself on vacation at the beach, for instance, thinking about that book that you're writing or thinking about that speech you're going to give or thinking about that design you're working on and that makes you feel good, that is a hint. That is a clue that you're on track with your life's work. Now, if you're not doing the thing that you think about all the time, if your job is to drive a delivery truck, but what you think about all the days and all the hours that you're driving the truck, what you think about is doing pencil sketches and drawing and painting, then it's pretty clear to me your life's work is to be an artist.

You might want to consider getting started with some art. You don't have to quit your job and go live in a box under a bridge and be a star or an artist. In fact, I completely recommend the inset. Use some common sense to make the transition, but you can start today by just picking up a sketch pad and a pen or a pencil and start drawing. You're probably doing it already. You're probably doodling in the margins during meetings or in your Moleskine notebook.

People think you're writing down brilliant thoughts. You're really drawing cartoons. I have a friend who is a copywriter and I didn't realize that she'd had this desire to be a cartoonist for so long. Now, she's drawing cartoons for *The New Yorker* and loving every minute of it. I think that is so completely awesome. That's going after your life's work. Let's just say she's over 25 and she's got a little experience behind her and she's doing this thing. That inspires me.

It doesn't matter whether you're 25 or 55 or 85 and you've just discovered, "Ah, this is the thing I was made to do." Just go do the thing. Do what it takes to do it. Don't let anybody discourage you or stop you or tell you you can't do it or tell you that it's dumb. It's not dumb. It's what you're made to do. It's what's on your mind when



you're on vacation. It's what's on your mind when you're taking a walk with the dogs. It's what you're thinking about after dinner. Pay attention to those signals.

Reason number five why you must be doing your life's work in order to feel fulfillment. Your life's work is the work that most satisfies you. The reason is, I believe, God designed you to do this particular work. You're designed in such a way that you're drawn to it, you enjoy it, you're talented at it, you develop skill in it. You maybe have a little bit of obsession about it. It's not a bad obsession. It's a magnificent obsession.

I believe that God designed us each with a desire deep in our heart to do a certain thing over here. There's a certain mission that we're on. Part of the delight of being a human is we get to discover what that mission is. That process of discovery is in itself delightful. There's a proverb that speaks to this matter. It's Proverbs 25:2. That verse says in the *New Living Translation*, "It is God's privilege to conceal things and the king's privilege to discover them."

The *English Standard Version* says, "It's the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out." What does this mean? I believe it means this. First of all, we have to remember that if you are a believing Christian, and according to the New Testament, we are a people who are kings and priests, all of us. When He's referring to kings, He's referring to us. I think it could be read like this, "It's God's privilege to conceal things and it's our privilege to find them."

Think of it like an Easter egg hunt. He has not hidden things from you. He has hidden things for you. Think of the delight you have when your kids were young and you would hide those eggs and you'd put them in obvious places. Even if the kids didn't see them, you nudge them and say, "What's that over there on that stump? That looks like something pink. What is that?" Your child will be delighted, run over and squeal and pick up the egg, and you're just delighted that they found the egg.

You weren't hiding it to keep it from them. You were hiding it so they could have the joy of discovering it. That's what I think finding your life's work is like. That's why I think it's so satisfying when you do because God designed you for this. You were made for this. You were born for this. How do you discover your life's work? Well, that in itself can be a lifetime pursuit, but it's one I suggest you try to enjoy.

A couple of books that I will recommend that you check out are both from my friend Jeff Goins. One is called *The Art of Work* and the other is called *Real Artists Don't Starve*. I recommend reading both those books. If you like today's show, subscribe at Apple Podcasts for your favorite podcast directory. Leave us an honest rating and review. We appreciate that and share it with your friends. We appreciate that as well.

Here's this week's quote worth note. This is from Jeff Goins who said, "Serving people is the best way to earn influence." Hmm, that's a good word right there. Until next time, may the Lord bless you and keep you. May He make His face shine upon



you and may you enjoy long life and prosperity. Peace to you and peace to your house.

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