

*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## Thankful...for the Construction?

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The other day, I honestly confessed to the Lord my **discontentment** with the **construction** going on behind our home.

The back view used to be **gorgeous**:

Cows came up to the property line. Birds nested in **tall trees** whose roots dated pre-Civil War. We had taken down our back fence years ago, simply to **enjoy** God's **daily display of beauty**-- squirrels, cardinals, coyotes and bobcats.



**Not anymore.**

The land has been sold, and every inch of it is  
**uprooted** and  
**under construction.**

Instead of waking to doves cooing, we're now greeted daily by machines revving their engines at 6:45am. It's constantly loud and **bothersome**. The **dust and dirt** in our home has doubled, and the **beautiful, rustic view out back is gone.**

*Forever.*

It's one

big

**inconvenient,**

**ugly mess,**

and **I don't like it.**



Whew. After getting all that out and **dumping** it on the Lord in prayer with Him the other morning, our communication together went silent, and a cathartic relief filled my heart.

Then came His still small voice:

*Leanna, what used to be where your home now rests?*

"Open pasture," I answered.

*What view did your neighbors across the street once have, before your home and all the homes on your side of the street were built?*

"...Beautiful, open pasture," I said, suddenly feeling a bit small.

*Leanna, your neighbors across the street endured the same inconveniences so that you could have your beautiful home.*

***Are you willing to do now for your future neighbors as your current neighbors once did for you?***

There was a twinge in my **heart**. Of course my answer was Yes.

He waited,  
as I processed  
the **bittersweet conviction**  
of His Holy Spirit.

*"Will you be **thankful** unto Me in **all** things?  
Including this **construction**?"*

"Yes, Lord."

I was temporarily satisfied with my answer, until He took me a step **further** and **deeper**. He called to mind how His word summons us to not only be **thankful** 'IN all things,' but also 'FOR all things.'

**Yikes.**

"Really?" I now asked myself out loud.  
"Am I *really* **thankful** FOR this?"

It's  
**loud.**

It's  
**inconvenient.**

It's  
**ugly.**  
It's  
**dusty and dirty.**  
It has **destroyed**  
what was lovely in *my* world.

But it's for the betterment of **others...**

**Others** whom I've not met.

**Others** whom I may never meet.

**Others who will benefit from my being inconvenienced.**

## CHALLENGE:

Imagine a world where no one was willing to be **inconvenienced** for the blessing of **others**. That's a scary thought.

What if I **pray** for the construction workers and my future neighbors, **instead of complaining** about the noise?

What if I **thank the Lord** all day **for** the **uprooting** and the dust, **trusting my God** to indeed be the faithful, good Father He is?

Has God permitted something **bothersome,**  
**inconvenient,** and  
**messy** in *your* world?

I realize our seasons of suffering can range from simple to more complex, but whatever our difficulty or heartbreak, I'm convinced Jesus desires to use these things to do a

**deeper,**

**personal,**

more **meaningful work** of **construction**

*in our*

**hearts...**

**While blessing others** as a result.

And *for* that I am indeed **deeply**  
and **sincerely**  
**thankful.**

*"Therefore do not be unwise,  
but understand what the will of the Lord is...  
giving thanks always for all things  
to God the Father  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
Ephesians 5:17, 20*

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