

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **"Dignity is found in a hard day's work." Agree or disagree.**
 - a. (Answers may center on creating value, especially creating value for others, feeling needed and worth while, etc.)
2. **"We make a huge mistake," argues Charles Murray, "if we expect happiness to correlate on a one-to-one basis with money." Certainly, enough money to meet basic needs is necessary to be happy. What does work contribute to being happy?**
 - a. (Answers may center on the sense of purpose work provides. This is motivational and provides a sense of dignity. Feeling that one's contributions matter builds self-esteem.)
3. **Charles Murray claimed that the happiest lottery winners are the ones who keep working. Similarly, billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett still work. What do we get from work in addition to money? Would you quit working if you won the lottery?**
 - a. (Answers will vary.)
4. **President Franklin Roosevelt said, "The lessons of history...show conclusively that continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration." How did this appear in the cases shown in the piece?**
 - a. (Answers may center on the guilt recipients felt because they'd rather be working. Also the time wasted trying to constantly game the system so as to not lose benefits if they earned more money.)
5. **Persistence plus opportunity equals redemption. What are ways we can increase opportunities for the poor to move up economically?**
 - a. (Answers will vary, from assistance, to increasing education and skills.)
6. **"Poor people are not liabilities to manage," argued Arthur Brooks, "they are assets to develop." Does our current system help them develop?**
 - a. (Answers will vary.)