We all have our favorite songs. One of my recent favorites is “Blessings” by Laura Story; I also like “Beautiful Day” and “You Lead” by Jamie Grace. But there’s one song that’s never been my favorite. Actually, it’s been one of my least favorite songs: “Take This Job and Shove It.” Written by David Allan Coe, it was made famous by Johnny Paycheck in 1977, becoming a number 1 hit atop the country music charts for two weeks. It isn’t played often these days, but when I hear it, I’m disheartened that there are people who don’t appreciate their jobs.

When someone is without a job and trying to get one, he generally displays a great attitude. He wants his prospective employer to be convinced that hiring him would be a very good decision. The interviewer (normally the boss) makes a judgment on how honest and sincere the candidate is and how well he would do the job—now and in the future. And when successful, the new hire appreciates getting the job and that appreciation shows in his attitude...at least at first. If it’s genuine, it will stay true throughout his tenure with the employer. If not—well, it can shift and he can become like the main character in Coe’s song.

In the current economy, there may not be too many people in the workforce who feel this way—or would dare to say anything like that if they did. I think it’s a shame that people could feel that way about their jobs. There can be many reasons to feel bad about work, but there are also many reasons to feel good.

The main character in the song expresses his displeasure with some of the other workers. Who hasn’t had the occasion of working with someone they don’t get along with? Have you ever given thought to what has occurred in her life to make her that way? Maybe she needs someone to talk with her, ask her how she’s doing, and be a friend. Maybe you can seize the opportunity to change your attitude toward someone who needs your friendship.

One way to look at a job: “It’s terrible. I’m underpaid, overworked, and not appreciated. Staying here is a waste of my time and talent. I’m leaving. Let someone else have this job who will be as miserable as me. I’ll find a job where I’ll be more appreciated and paid a decent wage.” The trouble is, sometimes that attitude can follow someone from job to job. That’s a tragic waste.

One nice thing about jobs in America is that if you don’t like yours, you can quit and try to get another job. In some countries, that isn’t an option.

A job can be a wonderful blessing. It’s an opportunity to put your God-given talents to work. In our industry, we supply one of the most important basic needs—water. The quality of life in this country is made possible by a reliable supply of clean drinking water for our citizens.

Many of my coworkers throughout my career have had a very positive attitude about their jobs. Sure, the pay could have been a little higher and a few more words of thanks could have been expressed after an all-night effort to restore water supply to a neighborhood, but inside they know their work is important. And so is yours. Without clean, safe water, our customers’ lives wouldn’t be as good as they are. For many in our industry, knowing that simple truth supplies a wealth of satisfaction.

If you have that satisfaction, know that I share it with you. Moreover, know that it is a beautiful blessing to be grateful for each day.