

PROVERBS ON LAZINESS & DILIGENCE

Summer 2021

Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible (1995).

The Sluggard

6:6-11 — Go to the ant, O sluggard; Observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer, or ruler, prepares her food in the summer *and* gathers her provision in the harvest. How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest”—Your poverty will come in like a vagabond and your need like an armed man.

10:26 — Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him.

13:4 — The soul of the sluggard craves and *gets* nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.

15:19 — The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

19:24 — The sluggard buries his hand in the dish, *but* will not even bring it back to his mouth.

20:4 — The sluggard does not plow after the autumn, so he begs during the harvest and has nothing.

21:25-26 — The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, for his hands refuse to work; all day long he is craving, while the righteous gives and does not hold back.

22:13 — The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside! I will be killed in the streets!”

26:13 — The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! A lion is in the open square!”

26:14 — *As* the door turns on its hinges, so *does* the sluggard on his bed.

26:15 — The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is weary of bringing it to his mouth again.

26:16 — The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can give a discreet answer.

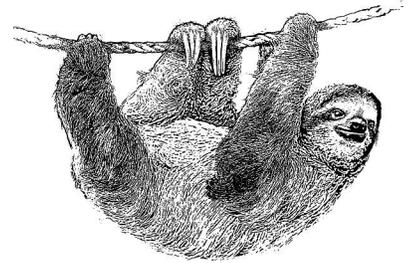
contrast...

24:27 — Prepare your work outside and make it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then, build your house.

24:30-34 — I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense, and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, *and* received instruction. “A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,” then your poverty will come *as* a robber and your want like an armed man.

Diligence vs. Laziness

- 10:4 — Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
14:23 — In all labor there is profit, but mere talk *leads* only to poverty.
18:9 — He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys.
20:13 — Do not love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes, *and* you will be satisfied with food.
28:19 — He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty.
12:24 — The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slack *hand* will be put to forced labor.
12:27 — A lazy man does not roast his prey, but the precious possession of a man *is* diligence.
19:15 — Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle man will suffer hunger.



No Shortcuts for Honest, Hard Work

- 13:11 — Wealth *obtained* by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases *it*.
20:21 — An inheritance gained hurriedly in the beginning will not be blessed in the end.
21:5 — The plans of the diligent *lead* surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty *comes* surely to poverty.
28:20 — A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.

More Wisdom on Work...

- 16:26 — A worker's appetite works for him, for his hunger urges him *on*.
22:29 — Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Human Effort or God's Blessing?

- 10:3 — The Lord will not allow the righteous to hunger, but he will reject the craving of the wicked.
10:22 — It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.

but...

- 12:11 — He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who pursues worthless *things* lacks sense.
12:14 — A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his words, and the deeds of a man's hands will return to him.

Bringing both together...

- 16:3 — Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established.