

THE SLUGGARD

INTRODUCTION: I want to talk to you about a characteristic we all share to some extent or another. The characteristic of course is that of Laziness. We all have times when we are lazy. This morning I want to consider someone who is ensnared by laziness. The sluggard or slothful is related to the fool. In fact the sluggard is a fool who has made some particularly poor choices when it comes to directing or withholding his energy.

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SLUGGARD

A. DREAMS, SCHEMES, TALKS BIG PLANS -- BUT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING.

1. Prov 12:11 "He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding."
2. Prov 13:4 "The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat."
3. Prov 21:25 "The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour."

B. DOESN'T TAKE CARE OF WHAT BELONGS TO HIM

1. Prov 12:27 "The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious."
2. Proverbs 18:9 "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."
3. Ecclesiastes 10:18 "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through."

C. WON'T DO EVEN THE NECESSARY FUNCTIONS IN LIFE.

1. Prov 19:24 "A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom (plate), and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again."
2. Prov 26:15 "The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom (plate); it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth."

D. MAKE/FIND EXCUSES NOT TO WORK

1. Prov 20:4 "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."
2. Prov 22:13; 26:13 "The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets. . . . "The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets."
3. Prov 26:16 "The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason."

E. LIKES TO SLEEP AND REST FROM HIS WORK

1. Prov 19:15 "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."
2. Prov 26:14 "As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed."
3. Prov 10:5 "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING A SLUGGARD

A. DEBT (POVERTY)

1. Prov 12:24 "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."
2. Prov 10:4 "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."
3. Prov 20:13 "Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread."

B. SHAME AND DISGRACE Prov 10:5 "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame."

C. HUNGER Prov 19:15 "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."

D. EMPTY HANDED WHEN IT COMES TO ACCOMPLISHMENT -- DETRIMENT

1. Prov 20:4 "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."
2. Proverbs 10:26 "As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him."
3. Proverbs 15:19 "The way of the slothful *man is* as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous *is* made plain."

III. THE PROCESS OF BEING A SLUGGARD - PROV 24:30-34

A. OCASSION: 24:30 "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding"

B. CONDITION OF THE MAN'S BUSINESS/LIFE: 24:31 "And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down."

C. CONTEMPLATION: 24:32 "Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction." Observation – Consideration – I Learned Something

D. LESSON: 24:33-34 "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ³⁴ So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." It happens a little at a time..."a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep (Put off labor - Procrastination leads to ruin!)

IV. A STUDY IN CONTRAST

A. THE ANT: Proverbs 6:6–8 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: ⁷ Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, ⁸ Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest."

B. THE SLUGGARD: Proverbs 6:9-11 "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? ¹⁰ Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ¹¹ So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."

V. STEPS TO GUARD YOURSELF

A. START THE JOB RIGHT AWAY.....(assignments)....cf Abraham in Gen 22

B. FINISH THE JOB.....an unfinished task tends to stay that way.

C. LEARN TO FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES (HOUSE/SCHOOL/JOB)

D. WHEN YOU WAKE UP - GET UP!