



#3 Don't Be A Sluggard!

1. DON'T BE A SLUGGARD!

A. He's sluggish and just can't seem to get **STARTED** on things – he keeps postponing and procrastinating

Proverbs 26:14 As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.

Proverbs 6:9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

B. He can't seem to **FINISH** things either – he isn't thorough

Proverbs 24:30 I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; 31 thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins.

Proverbs 26:15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.

C. He refuses to face the reality of work and makes ridiculous **EXCUSES** to avoid it

Proverbs 26:13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!"

D. He supposes that he is **WISE** but is actually self-deluded

Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer discreetly.

E. He doesn't realize that what awaits him is poverty and **LACK**

Proverbs 6:10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—¹¹ and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 20:4 A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

F. Frustration, restlessness, and dissatisfaction due to unmet needs and unfulfilled **DREAMS**

Proverbs 15:19 The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

Proverbs 21:25 The sluggard's craving will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work.

G. He is a disappointment and irritation to people who are relying on him, and sometimes even **HARMFUL** to them

Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.

Proverbs 18:9 One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

H. He may even be an embarrassment to his **FAMILY**

Proverbs 10:5 He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

2. DETERMINE TO NOT INADVERTENTLY RAISE YOUR CHILDREN TO BE SLUGGARDS

3. DO STRIVE TO BECOME A HARD-WORKING, DILIGENT PERSON, AND RAISE YOUR CHILDREN TO BE THE SAME

Proverbs 10:4 A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

Proverbs 21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! ⁷It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

4. DO DEVELOP A SOLID THEOLOGY OF WORK TO GUIDE YOUR LIFE

MY MAIN TAKEAWAY FROM TODAY'S MESSAGE:

A BRIEF THEOLOGY OF WORK

1. God Himself is by nature a Worker - **“GOD GOES TO WORK EVERY DAY”**

John 5:17 Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working.”

2. God created People in His Image, to also be Workers – **“GOD MADE US FOR WORK”**

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”

3. Work was part of God’s Original Design--before the Fall--and therefore possesses innate dignity and goodness – **“WORK IS GOOD”**

Gen.1:31 God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.

4. God created us to be His co-workers, reflecting Him by carrying out His various works in the world – **“WE GET TO DO SOME OF GOD’S WORK”**

I Corinthians 3:9 For we are God’s fellow workers.

***Creative work, Reconciling work, Sustaining work, Justice work, Mercy work, Enlightenment work, and more!**

5. The entrance of sin brought a curse which introduced a level of futility and frustration into our work – **“WORK IS HARD”**

Genesis 3:17 Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

6. Nevertheless, our work is important to God--both what we do and how we do it – **“MY WORK MATTERS TO GOD”**

Colossians 3:22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters...

7. Our work should result in benefit to others – **“I WANT MY WORK TO BLESS OTHERS AND HELP THEM FLOURISH”**

I Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

8. For the Christian there is no division between secular and sacred – everything is for God - **“JESUS IS MY BOSS”**

Colossians 3:24 It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

9. A rhythm of work and rest is essential – **“I NEED REGULAR REST IN ORDER TO WORK WELL”**

Mark 2:27 “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath.”

10. God’s work is multiplied through working relationships and through teaming up together in the local church – **“WE WORK BETTER TOGETHER”**

II Corinthians 1:24 ... we work with you for your joy.

11. Ultimately, all of our work is to bring glory to God – **“I WANT GOD TO LOOK GREAT THROUGH THE QUALITY OF MY WORK”**

I Corinthians 10:31 “...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”