

DUMB AND DUMBER: THIS IS YOUR WAY OUT OF LIONS, ANTS, AND SLACKERS

PROVERBS 6:6-11; 26:13-16



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“THINK SMALL, THEN THINK BIG. YOU CAN’T THINK BIG UNLESS YOU FIRST THINK SMALL.” – ADRIAN ROGERS

Slacker (noun): informal “someone who tries to avoid working.”

Proverbs 6:6-11

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷ Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸ she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. ⁹ How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? ¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹ and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 24:30-34

I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, ³¹ and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. ³² Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. ³³ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ³⁴ and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

Proverbs 26:13-16

The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!” ¹⁴ As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. ¹⁵ The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. ¹⁶ The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

Proverbs 13:4

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

Proverbs 19:24

The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.

Proverbs 21:25-26

The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. ²⁶ All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

Theology of work

- 1) Work is a gift from God that **predates** the Fall...work is a good thing!¹ – Genesis 2:15 *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

2) Work **aimed** at the glory of God can help us resist the temptation to join in the rat race – Proverbs 23:4 *Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.*

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- 3) Work gives us a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction (not to be confused with identity).
- 4) Work can keep us out of **trouble** – Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*
- 5) Work enables us to be generous – Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*
- 6) Work enables us to influence the culture.

Dangers of idolizing work

- 1) We seek our identity and **security** from our work.
- 2) We **sacrifice** family for what is supposed to be for the family – Proverbs 23:4-5 *Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist.* ⁵ *When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.*

Theology of Rest

- Rest reminds us of heaven – Revelation 14:13 *And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"*
- Rest follows God's example: Work, then rest – Genesis 2:1-3 *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.* ² *And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.* ³ *So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.*

Exodus 23:12

Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.

- Rest is an act of **faith**.

“The essential goodness and God-giveness of work means that we must not dichotomize work as an evil necessity and leisure as where we find pleasure and self-fulfillment. To demand that leisure compensate us for working hard is to ask too much of it. Work when done for God’s glory and the good of others has a measure of inherent reward. Leisure is not the reward we get for work; we do not earn it. Work and leisure are both gifts.” – John S. Hammett²

¹ Hard work is not to be confused with the slave labor so prominent in the Greco-Roman world (Revelation 21:4).

² John S. Hammett, “Human Nature,” in Daniel L. Akin, ed., *A Theology for the Church* (Nashville: B&H, 2007), 397.