

THE SLUGGARD

PROVERBS 20:4

Text: Proverbs 20:4

Proverbs 20:4

⁴The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

Introduction:

We have here a vivid picture of the sluggard. Webster defines the sluggard as: A person who is habitually lazy.

The Bible uses a couple of words which have the same meaning: Sluggard and Slothful.

The Bible has much to say about the subject.

Notice:

1. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SLUGGARD

A. Makes Excuses

Proverbs 22:13

¹³The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

Proverbs 26:13

¹³ The slothful *man* saith, *There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.*

Proverbs 20:4

⁴ The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

B. Refuses to Work

Proverbs 20:4

⁴ The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

Proverbs 21:25

²⁵ The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

C. Loves Excessive Sleep

Proverbs 19:15

¹⁵ Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Proverbs 26:14

¹⁴ As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed.

Proverbs 6:9-10

⁹ 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:

D. Unteachable and Careless

Proverbs 6:6-9

⁶Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: ⁷Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, ⁸Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest. ⁹How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

E. Is Irritation to Others

Proverbs 10:26

²⁶As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.

F. Too Lazy to Take Care of Himself

Proverbs 12:27

²⁷The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious.

G. Is Wasteful

Proverbs 18:9

⁹He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SLUGGARD

A. Becomes a Servant to Others

Proverbs 12:24

²⁴The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

B. Life Full of Troubles

Proverbs 15:19

¹⁹ The way of the slothful *man is* as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous *is* made plain.

C. Becomes Poor

Proverbs 13:4

⁴ The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 20:4

⁴ The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

Proverbs 24:30

³⁰ I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

Proverbs 24:34

³⁴ So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

3. THE CAUTION (2 THESSALONIANS 3:10)

2 Thessalonians 3:10

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

4. THE CURE

A. Get Up

Proverbs 6:6

⁶ Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

B. Go To Work

2 Thessalonians 3:10

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

C. Work Heartily or Diligently

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴ Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

That means that nothing—not your circumstances, discomfort, or anything else—makes any difference. You do your best and work hard, because in all that you do, it's the Lord Himself you are serving.

Close:

If you are able to work we should be thankful, and work hard.

Not everyone can work, and we should try to take care of them the best that we can.