



## Work and Idleness

Lesson Five • Matthew 25:14-30; Colossians 3:22-4:1

### Work Is Not a Four-Letter Word

*"The sluggard says, 'There is a lion outside; I will be killed in the streets!'"* Proverbs 22:13

*"The sluggard says, 'There is a lion in the road! A lion is in the open square!'"* Proverbs 26:13

## 1. What Is Idleness?

### Idleness Can Be...

#### ➤ Idle **HANDS**.

1. **SLEEPING** when you should be working. *Proverbs 26:14; 19:15; 6:9*
2. **REFUSING** to work diligently. *Proverbs 21:25; 26:15*
3. **PUTTING** work off because the circumstances are not ideal. *Proverbs 20:4; 13:4*

#### ➤ Idle **HEARTS**. *Proverbs 26:16; 28:1*

*"The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes Than seven men who can give a discreet answer."* Proverbs 26:16

*"The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion."* Proverbs 28:1

### Where Is Your Heart When You're Working?

Is it in your work **too much**, so it's an **idol**? Is it in your work **too little**, so you're **idle**?

Are you **worshipping while you work**? Is your heart is **FOCUSED** on **working for the Lord**?

### Three Ways We View Work as Nothing

#### ➤ Doing **NOTHING** at all. *Matthew 25:14-30*

This *kind of idleness* is always working hard at not working! But lazy people can be very busy people!

Busy **DOING** the *wrong things* at the *wrong time* for the *wrong reasons*! *Matthew 25:24-25*

Busy **GETTING** into *other people's business*! *2 Thessalonians 3:11*

#### ➤ Doing **SOMETHING** to get by.

### Doing Something to Get by Is "Working Without"

1. Without a sense of God's **FUTURE ACCOUNTABILITY**. *Matthew 25:14, 16-19*
2. Without a sense of God's **PRESENT PLEASURE**. *Matthew 25:21-30*
3. Without a sense of God's **KINGDOM REALITIES**. *Matthew 25:21-23*

### Four Kingdom Realities

- We will **STILL** be working in the Millennial Kingdom!
- We will be **REWARDED** in the future based on our present productivity for the King!
- We will be rewarded with **MULTIPLIED** kingdom responsibilities!
- We will be working for King with His **JOY** in His kingdom.

- Doing the **SAME THING** without joy.

### What Are the Fruits of Idleness?

Despondency, Joylessness, Complaining, Discontentedness, Laziness, Passivity, People-pleasing, Score-settling, Corner cutting, Monday-Dreading Gloominess

## 2. Working for the King Will **OVERCOME** Idleness!

### The King Commands and Commends Working Hard

- Right doctrine leads to the right kind of **HARD WORK**.

*“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.” 2 Thessalonians 3:10*

***Distorted Doctrine Leads to Idleness:*** Jesus is **COMING** or Jesus is **EVERYTHING!**

### Two Extremes to Avoid

***NO ONE*** leaving their present vocation for ministry and ***EVERYONE*** leaving their present vocation for ministry!

- Right doctrine leads to the right kind of **HEART MOTIVATION**.

**Working for the King Changes Everything!** *Colossians 3:22–4:1*

Don't be ***motionless*** and don't just go through the ***motions!***

**DO EVERYTHING** as for the Lord: *Work hard for the right person with the right purpose!*

### Whatever You Do, Do It with...

1. **LOYALTY:** *Work with a whole heart! (3:22a)*

♥ **Evaluation:** *Do I follow through on what I am told to do?*

2. **SINCERITY:** *Work with a sincere heart! (3:22b)*

♥ **Evaluation:** *Do I work on the inside like how I appear to work on the outside?*

3. **INTEGRITY:** *Work with a reverent heart! (3:22b-24)*

♥ **Evaluation:** *Do I work just as sincerely and diligently when no one is looking?*

4. **QUALITY:** *Work with a motivated heart! (3:23)*

♥ **Evaluation:** *Do I consciously and intentionally work for and seek to please the Lord in my work?*

5. **INTENSITY:** *Work with a believing heart! (3:24)*

♥ **Evaluation:** *Do I look for my reward and my promotions from the Lord in the future?*

6. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** *Work with an accountable heart! (3:25–4:1)*

♥ **Evaluation:** *Do I work like my work matters to the Lord to whom I am ultimately accountable for my work and my life?*

### Are You Idle in Your Work?

- ☐ Is your work merely a means to an end—a *place to serve your own ends*?
- ☐ Does your work totally frustrate you, so that you lose your joy in the Lord and forget you're working for the King?
- ☐ Does your work become divorced from your discipleship: *becoming more like Jesus*?

**RECOGNIZE** your idleness for what it is – *sin!*

**REPENT** of not working for the King with all your heart!

**RECOMMIT** to God's purposes for your job!

*“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.”*

***Your work matters to God, so work like your work matters to God!***