

Wisdom and Respect

Proverbs 24 pt 5

"I went by the field of a slacker and by the vineyard of one lacking sense."
-Proverbs 24:30

Making an observation, what are some characteristics of people who are lazy?

*Procrastination

*Avoidance of E_____

*Lack of Initiative

*Excuses & J_____

*Low energy

*Indifference to I_____

"Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today because if you enjoy it today,
you can do it again tomorrow."

● **Wisdom and Respect pt 5**

28-29 Don't testify against your neighbor without cause. Don't deceive with your lips. Don't say, "I'll do to him what he did to me; I'll repay the man for what he has done."

What is the main idea and commands of this verse?

*False t_____

*Taking r_____

➤ **Three Commands to watch our words:**

#1 Don't t _____ against your neighbor without c _____.

Testify: To be, to rise, to stand up; courtroom setting, make a statement under oath, to express personal conviction, or serve as evidence.

The writer is saying, the only reason we should speak against someone is if there is a good and righteous cause to do so.

What is an example of a righteous cause?

*Injustice

*Loss of I_____

*Corruption

*Depending upon the circumstances of the case, there should always be substantial
e _____ to shed light on the truth.

➤ **Deut. 5:20; Proverbs 12:17**

How should we treat our neighbor? _____; Mark 12:30-31

#2 Don't d _____ with your I _____.

Deceive: To entice, persuade, seduce, allure, flatter

This term is often used in a negative sense, indicating deception or enticement.

What are some ways people use deception today?

*To get people to s_____

*To lure someone into a t_____

*To take advantage.

➤ Psalm 78:36; Proverbs 1:10; Judges 14:15

How can you avoid deception?

*Question e_____

*Verify sources

*Observe p_____

“Deception is one of the quickest ways to gain little things and lose big things.”

#3 Don't say, “I'll do to _____ what he did to ____; I'll r_____ the man for what he has done.”

Repay: To return, turn back, restore, to retreat.

This term is used widely in various contexts to involve repentance, restoration, and reversal of circumstances. However in this context, it refers to seeking revenge and taking matters into our own hands.

What is our natural response when someone wrongs us?

*Defend our perspective

*Tell o_____

*Feel rejection

*Fight b_____

How should we handle it instead?

*Seek Understanding

*Ask God for w_____

*Let it go

*Ask God to f_____ your battles

➤ Matthew 5:38-39; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9

30-31 I went by the field of a slacker and by the vineyard of one lacking sense. Thistles had come up everywhere, weeds covered the ground, and the stone wall was ruined.

Notice some observations from the field of a slacker:

- ✓ Thistles had come up everywhere.

Thistles: a prickly plant, thorns and bushes, a sign of desolation, overgrowth of a wasteland.

- ✓ Weeds covered the ground.

Weeds: wild plants growing where they are not wanted and in competition with cultivated plants.

- ✓ The stone wall was ruined.

Stone Wall: often associated with physical barriers, boundaries or fences that enclose or protect an area. Walls also emphasize the importance of security.

What do all three of these observations have in common?

*Things that happen when we _____ to work and take care of what God has provided.

- Genesis 3:18; Nehemiah 1:1-3; Isaiah 34:13;

32-34 I saw, and took it to heart; I looked, and received instruction: a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest, and your poverty will come like a robber, and your need, like a bandit.

Notice the lessons from the slacker:

How should you respond when you notice someone who has fallen into the sin of laziness?

*Take it to _____

*Receive _____

Remember the slogan of a famous 1980's public service announcement commercial, "You can learn a lot from a dummy."

Here's the writer of Proverbs 24 slogan, "You can learn a lot from a slacker."

- ✓ A little _____, a little _____, a little folding of the arms to rest.

The slacker rationalizes sleep to justify his neglect; a little sleep won't hurt anybody...

What are some other things we rationalize, to justify neglecting our responsibilities?

Notice the destiny of the slacker:

#1 your p_____ will come like a robber.

#2 your n_____, like a bandit.

Poverty: Destitute, the condition of being poor.

Because of their sinful neglect, poverty and need come upon them unexpectedly just like a thief in the night. Sadly, the deception here is that the lazy person thinks himself innocent because he didn't deliberately, actively sow the thorns or break the wall, but his n_____ of duty did, and for that he is without excuse.

What steps can you actively take to prevent laziness?

*W_____ hard

*Set goals

*Prioritize your s_____

➤ Proverbs 10:4; 20:13; 21:25; Ecc. 10:18

What is one thing you learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord.”

-Romans 12:11