

Be Wise in Your Work

September 20, 2020

The book of Proverbs devotes a considerable amount of space to discussing two types of people; the sluggard and the wise worker. The first we are to not be like while the second we are to pattern ourselves after.

The Sluggard

Proverbs 24:30–34 (ESV)

³⁰ 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.

- **The Sluggard is Habitually Lazy and Destined to be Poor**
- **Poverty Will Come Upon the Sluggard Abruptly**

Proverbs 26:13–16

¹³ 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.

- **The Sluggard Deceives Himself**
- **The Sluggard is a Destructive Force**

Proverbs 10:26

²⁶ Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
so is the sluggard to those who send him.

The Wise Worker

The Proverbs not only give us this negative example, the Alon example, but they give us the Machida example as well. The wise worker.

Proverbs 28:19–20

¹⁹ Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread,
but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.
²⁰ A faithful man will abound with blessings,
but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

The Wise Worker Will Have What They Need

The Wise Worker Patiently Pursue Success