

- iii. V13 Each of the signals he gives (eyes, feet, or fingers) is for the purpose of sowing unrest.

B. A Warning Against Bad Character (16-19)

- i. In this section the father moves from speaking about the bad characters the son will encounter, to speaking about character traits the son must avoid.
- ii. Matthew 5:3, 9

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- How do the beatitudes call us to be the opposite of the rebellious instigator of Proverbs 6:16-19? How can we be peacemakers in our church? ...in our families? How can you work to restoration of relationships around you?
- In what ways do community groups create a context for peace-making, bringing justice to the oppressed, and laboring in a way that provides for those in need?
- Has greed and a desire for quick gain ever affected your decision making? Can you think of ways that greed may tempt us into high risk short-cuts to wealth?
- Are there ways you have allowed lethargy and laziness to creep into your life rather than industry for the benefit of the whole community? What are ways to turn this around?
- What are the temptations to reject authority and bring disunity to the community that you face? That are prevalent today?
- What does the New Testament teach us about greed and laziness? Why are the issues of Proverbs 6 relevant today?
- Why must our pursuit of *Wisdom* overflow into our dealings with others? What are ways that these instructions from the father apply in your own life?

Warnings Against Greed, Laziness, and Rebellion

Jerry Cisar — May 3, 2015

Text: Proverbs 6:1-19

I. A Warning Against Greed (6:1-5)

A. Is it always wrong to co-sign?

- i. This is about putting up security for outsiders.

- ii. What may have motivated this bad decision?

B. This is both a warning against greed and high-risk investing, as well as a warning against profiteering off the less fortunate rather than extending a hand of mercy.

- i. The risk was high: their property.
- ii. Proverbs condemns unjust gain, not honest profit.
 - a) Proverbs 11:18
 - b) Proverbs 16:8
 - c) Proverbs 28:16

- iii. They were not to mistreat or oppress foreigners.

C. This warning still applies in the New Testament.

- i. Ephesians 5:3
- ii. 1 Timothy 6:9-11

II. A Warning Against Laziness (6:6-11)

A. The sluggard wants pleasure, but would rather have *the immediate pleasure of avoiding work than the pleasure that is the reward of hard work.*

- i. Proverbs 10:4
- ii. Proverbs 20:4

B. Laziness is a greater temptation when our experience is a life of ease and comfort.

Booker T. Washington: *Experience has taught me... that no man should be pitied because, every day in his life, he faces a hard, stubborn problem, but rather that it is the man who has no problem to solve, no hardships to face, who is to be pitied. His misfortune consists in the fact that he has nothing in his life which will strengthen and form his character; nothing to call out his latent powers, and deepen and widen his hold on life. (My Larger Education)*

C. The sluggard never thinks his laziness is a problem... he is full of excuses.

- i. Proverbs 26:13-16
- ii. The sluggard is the one who would rather imagine pleasure while turning on his bed than working to earn it. Indolence is *escapism*.

Alan Jacobs: *Computer technology seems to have this curious effect on many people: it makes at least some of us feel that we are doing things that, in point of fact, the computer itself is doing, and doing according to the instructions of people who have certain highly developed skills that most of us do not have.*

- iii. Another temptation to laziness is the idea that we need to have many years of pleasure and fun before we get down to the serious business of life and work.

Piper: *"...it is shameful for a person created in the image of God to be unwilling to work. Work is a God-appointed means of reflecting God's glory by depending on him for the strength and wisdom to perform the excellence that imitates God's workmanship."*

D. Laziness is a big theme in Proverbs ...

- i. Proverbs 19:15
- ii. Proverbs 21:25
- iii. Proverbs 13:4

E. The sluggard is sent to the ant for lessons in life.

Alan Ross: *"Since the ant is a lowly creature, this comparison is somewhat degrading."*

F. The sluggard hurts more than himself.

- i. Ephesians 4:28—As believers we are called to labor not merely for selfish ends, but also for the sake of others.
- ii. Our work habits are community business for they have community effect.

G. The sluggard is not a case for charity. (2 Thess. 3:10-12)

III. A Warning Against Inciting Rebellion (6:12-19)

A. A Warning Against Bad Characters (12-15)

- i. Waltke: *"An insurrectionist, a malevolent person is one who goes with a crooked mouth..."*
- ii. The LXX understood v14 "stirring up conflict" or "sowing discord" as *"such a one causes trouble to a city."*