

Wisdom about Sluggardliness

1. Wisdom at work: Diligence – 14:23, 12:24, 12:11, 27:23-27

- *Focussed engagement*
- *Taking responsibility*
- *Trust in God*
- *Sharing the reward*

2. Folly at work: Sluggardliness

- *The Sluggard won't begin things – 6:9-11*
- *Or finish them – 12:27*
- *He avoids things – 22:13, 20:4*
- *He is left unsatisfied – 13:4, 21:25-26; helpless – 24:30-34; obnoxious – 10:26*

3. Transformation of our work

- *Self-diagnosis of Selective Sluggardliness*
- *Ant College – 6:6-9*
- *Sad observation – 24:30-34*
- *Jesus – Matthew 11:28-30*

Proverbs on Sluggardliness and Work

6:6-11 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! ⁷It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, ⁸yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. ⁹How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? ¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— ¹¹and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so are sluggards to those who send them.

12:24 Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in forced labour.

12:11 Those who work their land will have abundant food, □ but those who chase fantasies have no sense.

12:27 The lazy do not roast any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt.

13:4 A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

14:23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

21:25-26 The craving of a sluggard will be the death of him, because his hands refuse to work. ²⁶All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing.

24:30-34 I went past the field of a sluggard, past the vineyard of someone who has no sense; ³¹thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins. ³²I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw: ³³A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— ³⁴and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

27:23-27 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; ²⁴for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. ²⁵When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, ²⁶the lambs will provide you with clothing, and the goats with the price of a field. ²⁷You will have plenty of goats' milk to feed your family and to nourish your female servants.

Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said: ²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”