Sermon Notes

Wisdom & Work

Proverbs 26:13-16 / 23:4-5/ 6:6-11 / 31:10-31

We are to work not as sluggards, not as slaves but as sons & daughters

1. A Theology of work

(a) Work is good

(b) Work is futile

(c) Work is hope-full

2. Not as a sluggard

"The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!" As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly." (26:13-16)

(a) Causes: Irrational fears

Distractions (12:11)

Desires (21:25)

(b) Consequences: Slavery (12:24)

Hunger (12:27)

Dissatisfaction (13:4)

Destruction (18:9)

3. Not as a slave

"Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle towards heaven." (23:4-5)

4. But as a Son or Daughter

(a) Look at the ant

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man." (6:6-11)

(b) Look at the valiant wife (31:10-31)