

HINGED TO THE BED: THE SLUGGARD'S WAY

May 25, 2015

Proverbs 26:1-28

“As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.”

Pictures to Ponder (Prov. 26:13-16):

The sloth and his lion
The hinge and its turning
The lazy man's poverty
The sluggard's wisdom

Biblical Observations:

1. God “rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made” (Gen. 2:2).
2. God placed Adam in “the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it” (Gen. 2:15), and God instructs man to work (Ex. 20:9).
3. All work is God's work (I Cor. 10:31; Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:16).
4. Work done for any purpose other than God is vanity (Eccl. 1:8; 2:11-24; 6:7).
5. Work is good for mankind individually and corporately (Prov. 13:11; 14:23; 21:25; Eccl. 5:18-19; I Cor. 15:58; Eph. 4:28; Heb. 6:10).
6. “If any would not work, neither should he eat” (II Thess 3:10)

Jesus Christ: Perfect Example of Diligence:

Scripture contains few accounts of Jesus lying down. He was laid in a manger (Luke 2:7). He slept upon a pillow in a storm-tossed ship (Mark 4:38). And, He was laid in a tomb (Luke 23:53).

Most biblical accounts show Christ diligently engaged, to the point of weariness. His 40-day temptation in the wilderness must have been exhausting; Satan taking advantage of the occasion to tempt Him (Matt. 4:1-11). He was wearied when entering Samaria (John 4:6). Exhausted, He slept soundly through a stormy voyage (Mark 4:38). He prayed all night (Matt. 14:23; Mark 6:45-47; Luke 6:12) and arose early from sleep to pray (Mark. 1:35).

His suffering in Gethsemane, bearing sinners' sin and guilt, was intense labor. “Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (Isa. 53:4). “Bear[ing] the sin of many” (Isa. 53:12; I Pet. 2:24), Jesus “began to be sorrowful and very heavy” (Matt. 26:37)

Jesus said, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). “Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant; even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:27, 28).

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who . . . made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:5, 7a).