

## **The Foolish and the Lazy pt. 4**

### **Proverbs 26**

“A person who is passing by and meddles in a quarrel that’s not his is like one who grabs a dog by the ears.”-Proverbs 26:17

**As you reflect on your experiences, why is it wise not to get involved in other people’s arguments?**

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\*Emotional and Mental Clarity (avoid unnecessary s\_\_\_\_; keep your p\_\_\_\_)

\*Relationship Preservation (risk of alienation; might be mis\_\_\_\_\_)

\*Limited P\_\_\_\_\_ (you’d\_\_\_\_\_ know the full story; you’re a\_\_\_\_\_ might backfire)

\*Ethical Boundaries (respect autonomy; avoid enabling)

\*Self-P\_\_\_\_\_ (you might become a new target; reputation risk)

**“Everyone’s biggest problem is worrying about other people’s business.”**

### ● **The Foolish and the Lazy pt. 4**

**14 A door turns on its hinges, and a slacker, on his bed.**

**What do a door and a slacker have in common?**

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\*They \_\_\_\_\_ go\_\_\_\_\_.

\*They \_\_\_\_\_ the same \_\_\_\_\_.

**What is a slacker?**

➤ Someone who is slothful, sluggard. Proverbs 19:15

Although 6-8 hours of sleep can be beneficial to our health, too much of it can also be detrimental to our productivity. King Solomon’s point here is to warn of the danger of not doing anything.

“How long will you stay in bed, you slacker? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the arms to rest, and your poverty will come like a robber, your need, like a bandit.” -Proverbs 6:9-11

**What is the greatest danger of adopting a lazy lifestyle?**

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➤ We become \_\_\_\_\_ and are \_\_\_\_\_ by God. Matthew 25:26

**How can someone avoid or overcome laziness?**

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\*Ditch p\_\_\_\_\_ \*Use positive self-t\_\_\_\_\_ \*Make a s\_\_\_\_\_

\*Start with 5 minutes \*Set a t\_\_\_\_\_ \*Make it f\_\_\_\_\_

\*Eat well \*Exercise r\_\_\_\_\_ \*Get accountability

➤ Get \_\_\_\_, Get \_\_\_\_, and Get s\_\_\_\_\_! Ecclesiastes 9:10; 1 Timothy 5:8

**15 The slacker buries his hand in the bowl; he is too weary to bring it to his mouth!**

**What do you notice about the slacker in this verse?**

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\*He has a lack of i\_\_\_\_\_ and e\_\_\_\_\_. Ecclesiastes 10:18

King Solomon uses another *exaggerated* statement to criticize unproductive behavior. Since one of the dangers is having a bad r\_\_\_\_\_, a person known for his/her laziness is going to be mocked and slighted for their lack of e\_\_\_\_\_.

**What are some ways Christians often show laziness in spiritual matters?**

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\*Not putting effort in g\_\_\_\_\_ \*Not putting effort in s\_\_\_\_\_

\*Not showing initiative using their s\_\_\_\_\_ g\_\_\_\_\_

\*Not putting effort church a\_\_\_\_\_ \*Not putting effort in p\_\_\_\_\_

\*Not showing initiative in s\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel \*Not putting effort in g\_\_\_\_\_

➤ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 16:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 10:24-25

**How does a lazy lifestyle deceive people today?**

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\*False sense of s\_\_\_\_\_ (comfort vs contentment; relief vs cost)

\*Misleading self-image (laid back vs procrastination)

\*Identity confusion (mistaking potential for progress)

Laziness is a master of disguise. It can feel harmless or even justified, but over time, it erodes ambition, relationships, and your health. The point of the passage is that a lazy person is so lazy that they can't or won't properly care for their own needs.

➤ Romans 12:11

**16 In his own eyes, a slacker is wiser than seven who can answer sensibly.**

**What have we learned about the slacker so far?**

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\*He makes outrageous e\_\_\_\_\_

\*He's going n\_\_\_\_\_ like a door

\*He has no i\_\_\_\_\_ or e\_\_\_\_\_

In light of all of this, King Solomon says, he thinks he's s\_\_\_\_\_ than seven men who can answer sensibly. In other words, the slacker is a "k\_\_\_\_\_ it a\_\_\_\_\_."

**What does in his own eyes mean?**

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\*Making decisions from \_\_\_\_\_ point of view as the \_\_\_\_\_ perspective

➤ Proverbs 12:15; 14:12; 21:2

**How would you encourage someone whose struggle is seeing things from their own perspective as the best option?**

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\*Embrace curiosity over certainty

\*Accept that you might be w\_\_\_\_\_

\*Listen more than you s\_\_\_\_\_

\*Use softer language

\*Watch b\_\_\_\_\_ language

\*Ask for feedback

\*Check your i\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; James 3:17

**"True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing."**

**17 A person who is passing by and meddles in a quarrel that's not his is like one who grabs a dog by the ears.**

**What is King Solomon warning us of in this verse?**

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➤ The reality of getting hurt by involving yourself into someone else's d\_\_\_\_\_

**Notice the comparison:**

\*Meddling in a q\_\_\_\_\_ and grabbing a d\_\_\_\_\_ by the ears

In ancient Israel, most dogs were aggressive, untamed scavengers and not household pets like they are today. King Solomon is saying no s\_\_\_\_\_ person would intentionally provoke a wild dog by grabbing his ears.

**What does it mean to meddle?**

**Meddle:** Hebrew word abar; to pass over, to cross, to go through, to move from one side to another. Interfere without right or propriety.

**Why do people feel the need to meddle?**

\*Need for c\_\_\_\_\_      \*Desire to help      \*Loneliness or b\_\_\_\_\_

\*Poor boundary awareness      \*Fear of irrelevance      -1 Peter 4:15; 2 Thess. 3:11

**How should you respond to someone who meddles in your affairs?**

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\*Thank them for their c\_\_\_\_\_, but be direct      \*Limit access

\*Use polite deflection (that's an interesting perspective, I'll think about it)

\*Stay calm when challenged (I know you care, but I need my space)

\*Know the d\_\_\_\_\_ (some people want to help, some want to control)

**What is one thing you learned that you are willing to share with someone else?**

But we encourage you, brothers and sisters, to do this even more, to seek to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, so that you may behave properly in the presence of outsiders and not be dependent on anyone. -1 Thess. 4:10-12