

**Pro 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.**

1. The Sluggard lets his circumstances stop him.

A. God says in the day of judgment he will bring people before you that had circumstances that were as hard or harder than yours who did what God wanted them to do and they will testify against you. **III. Nineveh and the queen**

**Matt 12:39-42** <sup>38</sup>Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. <sup>39</sup>But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: <sup>40</sup>For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup>**The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation**, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here. <sup>42</sup>**The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation**, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon *is* here. <sup>43</sup>When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. <sup>44</sup>Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth *it* empty, swept, and garnished. <sup>45</sup>Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

**\*\*\*God hates it when you use your circumstances as an excuse to not do what God wants you to do**

**There hath no temptation taken you. 1 Cor 10:13** <sup>13</sup>There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

**\*\*\*God uses adverse circumstances to show His greatness.** *2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

*2Co 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

*2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my **strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

*2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

**III. Jesus telling his disciples to feed 5,000. Their lack made Jesus look great!!**

**The sluggard has excuses:** Pro 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

**1. Excuses** Luk 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: Luk 14:17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. **Luk 14:18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse.** The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. Luk 14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. Luk 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. Luk 14:21 So that servant came, and

shewed his lord these things. Then **the master of the house being angry** said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

Ill. Parable of the talent. **Mat 25:26** His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou wicked and slothful servant,*

**A Sluggard will exaggerate his problems so he can justify being lazy.**

Pro 19:24 A slothful man hideth = ( *literally covers or keeps in secret - to literally hide your hand in your shirt to look handicap.* ) his hand in his bosom, ( *pretends to be handicap and even lives the part in hopes not to have to work.* ) and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again. ( *He will live like he is handicap in order to keep up the pretence.* )

Pro 19:15 Slothfulness ( not attend to work ) casteth ( over whelms ) into a deep sleep; and an idle ( lax in attending to duty ) soul shall suffer hunger.

Pro 6:1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, *if* thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger, Pro 6:2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth. Pro 6:3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend. Pro 6:4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids. Pro 6:5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler. **Pro 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:** Pro 6:7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Pro 6:8 Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest. **Pro 6:9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?** Pro 6:10 *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: Pro 6:11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

**Pro 10:26** As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

**Pro 13:4** The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent = ( a sharp instrument it's translated also as "incisive" which is one who cuts quickly to the root of / the heart of a matter also figuratively used for determination or eager. ) shall be made fat.

**Ill. Everyone wants a million dollars but the diligent find what it takes to get it and go for it while the sluggard just sits around and wishes.**

**The sluggard has excuses:** Pro 26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

**The diligent find the problem and fix it:**

**Pro 10:4** He becometh poor that dealeth *with* a slack = ( Remiss - One who is lax in attending to duty also implies deceit - one who deceives in order to avoid their duties. ) hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

**Pro 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.**

Rom 2:15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, **their conscience** also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

1Ti 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

**III.** Much counseling is getting people to admit what they already know.

**\* You can gain wisdom from those who have previously discovered it.** Pro 13:20 He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

- Pro 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.
- Pro 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.
- Pro 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established. - **A multitude of counselors = Experts in a multitude of fields.**
- Pro 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive ( **receive = Marry it for life III. Not just acknowledge truth but do it.** ) instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.
- Pro 20:18 *Every* purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.
- Pro 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

**\* You can learn how to “ Draw out” wisdom from everyone you meet.** Pro 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

**\*\*\* A wise person will learn the techniques that it takes to gain information from people who are knowledgeable.**

**1. Buy wisdom.** Pro 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

**2. Win people over to you.** Pro 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.

**3. Make many contacts.** Pro 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the **multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.**

**4. Offer wisdom when given wisdom.** Pro 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Pro 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

Pro 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. Pro 8:11 For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. ( **Spend your \$ to get wise. ) the by-product is more riches vs 18.** Pro 8:12 I wisdom dwell with prudence ( **looking**

**ahead and making a plan accordingly**), and find out knowledge of witty inventions. Pro 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. ( **selfishness** ) Pro 8:14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength. ( **All good counsel comes from God so it will never contradict His word or principles** ) Pro 8:15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. Pro 8:16 By me princes rule, and nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth. Pro 8:17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. ( **wisdom wants to be found especially by those who seek her before they “need” her.** ) - **Wisdom will laugh at you troubles if you ignore her Prov 1:20—33 esp vs 25-26** Pro 8:18 Riches and honour *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness. ( **getting money is a by-product of getting wisdom.** ) Pro 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, *yea*, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. - **Since riches are only a partial benefit of getting wisdom. Wisdom is a greater benefit than the riches that she gives you.** Pro 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: Pro 8:21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit ( **substance will come to you.** ) substance; and **I will fill their treasures.**

Pro 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: Pro 1:21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*, Pro 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Pro 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Pro 1:24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; Pro 1:25 **But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: Pro 1:26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; ...** **Pro 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: ( “Hey I did the right thing” = brag on themselves to get a pat on the back.) but a faithful man who can find?**

- Who can do what they should without a pat on the back.

- What is FAITHFUL - permanently trust worthy

\* **Num 12:7** My servant Moses *is* not so, who *is* faithful in all mine house.

\* Neh 9:7 Thou *art* the LORD the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham;

**Neh 9:8 And foundest his heart faithful before thee**, and madest a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Jebusites, and the Girgashites, to give *it, I say*, to his seed, and hast performed thy words; for thou *art* righteous:

- Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Gen 18:18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Gen 18:19 **For I know him, that he will command his children** and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

\* 1Sa 2:35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, *that* shall do according to *that* which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.

\* **One you can trust.** Pro 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

\* **Someone that can be trusted brings health:** Pro 13:17 A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador *is* health.

- Pro 25:13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

\* **They can be trusted not to lie:** Pro 14:5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

- **they will tell you the truth even when it hurts:** Pro 27:5 Open rebuke *is* better than secret love. **Pro 27:6** Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

\* **A trusted man will have blessings that \$ alone can't buy:** Pro 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

Dan 6:4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he *was* faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Mat 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

- **God made the dependable one the ruler.**

Luk 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Luk 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

**Luk 16:12** And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

Luk 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

- **God watches if you are faithful in His money that he has made you a steward over to see if you are qualified to have the power of God.**

1Co 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

- **If you are going to oversee another mans goods God requires that you be found faithful.**

\* **For deacons you must be able to depend on their family.**

1Ti 3:11 Even so *must their wives be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

Tit 1:6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

\* **Invest in those who are faithful.**

2Ti 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Pro 27:2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

Pro 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.