

## **Choices and Consequences**

You have the God given right to make whatever choices you desire. You also have the God given responsibility to deal with the consequences of your choices.

### **Sermon in a Sentence:**

Lazy does anything but the right thing.

### **Can a productive person be lazy?**

Busy, productive people can be lazy if they're doing anything but the right thing.

- Lazy Picks Comfort Not Effort
- Lazy Picks Stability Not Availability
- Lazy Picks Consistency Not Fervency

### **Observation of an Ancient Problem**

Proverbs 24:30-34 NIV

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

### **Changing from the inside out**

Ephesians 4:28 NLT

If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.

### **Three Part Journey**

1. Identify and call a halt to the life of theft (ultimate laziness)
2. Take responsibility for you and your resources (get a job)
3. Take care of others. Parasites transformed into partners!

Citation: David L Thompson; Gina Thompson Eickoff. God's Healing for Hurting Families: Biblical Principles for Reconciliation and Recovery (Kindle Locations 1116-1123). Kindle Edition.

### **Don't Work Harder!**

The answer to fighting laziness: We don't need to work harder, we need to care more.

### **It's time for a new point of view**

We tend to equate laziness with inactivity and a lack of productivity. As long as we're busier and produce more than the next person, we feel pretty good. The problem is that a lot of activity and productivity can mask the fact that we are avoiding the right thing to do. Lazy does anything but the

right thing. That definition hits all of us doesn't it? God wants to free us from busyness so we can be free to do the right thing at the right time for the right reason.

### **What's Next?**

- o Stop being surprised when discipline and work require you to sacrifice your comfort, stability and consistency.
- o Seek to understand God's big picture. You are a manager.
- o Strive to grasp the gift of today.
- o Set up a realistic plan to develop some life-enhancing habits. Start somewhere. Start with one, small sacrifice of one area of laziness where you struggle.
- o Share the plan with a trusted and encouraging friend.

### **Jesus Promises Freedom**

Jesus promises to set us free in seven specific ways. First, we uncovered the fact that Jesus can heal our bitterness and burdens, our disgrace and distress. Second, we learned that we can strip off the shackles of persistent temptations and sin because God's grace is powerful enough. Third, we found that God wants us to turn from the false comfort and satisfaction of food to Jesus. Fourth, we realized Jesus can heal our hearts and set us free from the dark side of anger. Fifth, we discovered that humility is a change of focus. Sixth, we grasped hold of the truth that we are eaten alive by the envy we nurse deep inside when we compare and complain. Finally, we had this talk on how Jesus can set us free to do the right thing at the right time for the right reason.

### **You Need a Starting Point**

I believe we need to establish a starting point in our lives. Do we believe Jesus' promise? Jesus said, "If I liberate you, if I make you free, then you are truly and unquestionably free." If we believe him are we acting on it? Sometimes Jesus sets us free in an instant. At other times it takes time and effort on our part to learn how to exercise our freedom. But it always starts with a decision to act on our trust in Jesus and his promise.