

Lesson 26

The Value of Work and Male Initiative in the World



Rejoicing in God's Good Design

Illustration



Illustration



Created for Work

Man was created for work. (Genesis 2:15)



Woman was created to be a helper-companion for man in the work God had given him.



Not Being a Sluggard

Man in his sinfulness often resists work. In his sin, he can become lazy.

Be on guard against playing.

Proverbs 28:19, Proverbs 12:11

- The man who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense
- The man who follows worthless pursuits gains plenty of poverty
- The man who works will have plenty of bread



Not Being a Sluggard

Man in his sinfulness often resists work.

Be on guard against sleeping when you should be working.

Proverbs 20:13, Proverbs 6:6-9

- A man should pursue goals and set challenges for himself



Not Being a Sluggard

Man in his sinfulness often resists work.

Be on guard against making excuses when you should be working.

Proverbs 22:13

Procrastination:
putting off work until
later and excusing
your refusal to work.



Not Being a Sluggard

Man in his sinfulness often resists work.

Be on guard against **talking** when you should be working.

Proverbs 14:23



Refusal to Work Brings Hunger and Poverty

Ecclesiastes 10:18

Through sloth the roof sinks in, and through indolence the house leaks.

Proverbs 19:15

Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

Refusal to Work Brings Hunger and Poverty

Laziness and idleness lead to hunger and poverty. Yet the Bible gives many **incentives** to work hard and diligently.

Proverbs 16:26—**Our own needs**

Proverbs 12:14—**Rewards, satisfaction**

Proverbs 12:24—**Respect, position**

Proverbs 12:27—**Rewards, compensation**

Proverbs 13:4—**Emotional stability, satisfaction**

Paul's Commands to Work

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

- Do not keep company with other believers who are idlers
- **Imitate** Paul's example of hard work
- Those who don't work should be **denied food** from others

Busy at work vs.
being a busybody



The Value of Work, Initiative, and Risk-Taking in the World

***Whatever you do, work heartily, as for
the Lord and not for men.*** Colossians 3:23

The Value of Work, Initiative, and Risk-Taking in the World

“You may feel you have a ‘nothing job.’ Because of the Curse, your joy may involve painful toil and yield little job satisfaction. But you can glorify God where you are by your heart attitude. You may feel your occupation is not holy, but it is if you see it so and do it for God’s glory. You are God’s masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God planned in advance for you. Men, everything about your work must be directed toward Him—your attitudes, your integrity, your intensity, and your skill.”

—R. Kent Hughes

Illustration: Truett Cathy

Truett Cathy: Innovator, risk-taker and diligent worker

“Growing up in a boarding house introduced me to hard work and taught me the value of diligent labor. I learned to shuck corn, shell peas, wash dirty dishes, set the table, shop for my mother at the corner grocery store and even flip eggs and pancakes on the grill.”

Cathy, Truett. *It's Easier to Succeed than to Fail*
(Thomas Nelson, 1989), 37



Illustration: Truett Cathy



“My success with the paper route convinced me that I would one day open a business of my own, most likely a service station, grocery store or restaurant.”

Cathy, Truett. *Eat Mor Chicken*. (Looking Glass Books, 2002), 31.



The Chik-Fil-A® chicken sandwich is now sold in over 1,000 restaurants netting over one billion dollars in annual sales. The first fast food restaurant to open in a mall and the first to sell a boneless chicken sandwich, Chik-Fil-A restaurants are still closed on Sundays.

<http://www.secretsofsuccess.com/people/cathy.html>

Truett Cathy: innovator, risk-taker, hard worker . . . and Christian.

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

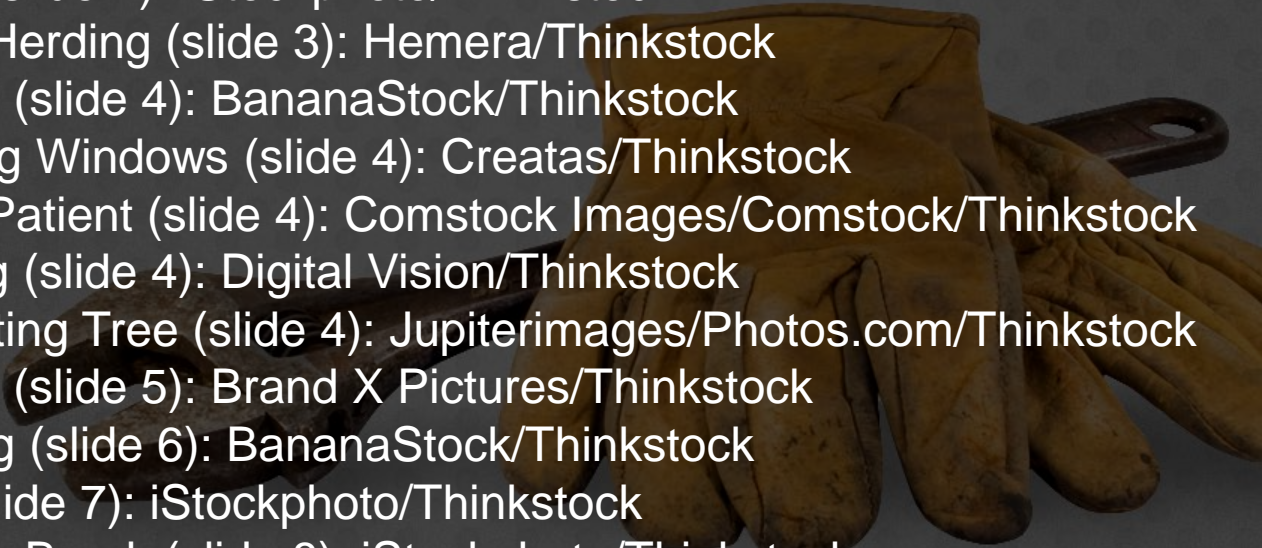
Colossians 3:23





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