



MUSTARD SEED LEADERSHIP PODCAST

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8) Leading people into financial freedom

10 Lessons on how leaders can help their people apply biblical financial wisdom

Part 8: GOOD STEWARDSHIP - Part 2

Mat 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Matthew 25: 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant!

Good stewards are 'good and faithful'

Bad stewards are 'wicked and lazy'

Previous episode we looked at **good versus wicked** - or righteous and unrighteousness stewardship of your finances

Today want to look at **faithful versus lazy** and what that means for our finances

OPPOSITE OF LAZY IS FAITHFULNESS

The servant blamed fear as his excuse for not doing anything with his money

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

The Master saw it differently!

Matthew 25: 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant!

He called him LAZY

- The bags of gold were given according to ABILITY
- What was at the root of his lack of ability? Wickedness and laziness

Solomon spoke of the dangers of being a lazy man - which the Bible calls a sluggard

Proverbs 24:30-34 (NIV)

*30 I went past the field of a sluggard,
past the vineyard of someone who has no sense;
31 thorns had come up everywhere,
the ground was covered with weeds,
and the stone wall was in ruins.*

*32 I applied my heart to what I observed
and learned a lesson from what I saw:*

*33 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest—*

*34 and poverty will come on you like a thief
and scarcity like an armed man.*

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NIV)

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

Proverbs 26:13 (NIV)

13 A sluggard says, “There’s a lion in the road,
a fierce lion roaming the streets!”

This teaches us that laziness is difficult to detect in ourselves

- We hide it behind a legitimate excuse
- I was afraid
- Laziness often hides behind fear
- Sometimes hides behind pride

Eg. Never met anyone who can’t find a job and blame himself for laziness. It’s always the economy or the company!

Eg. If you don’t have a job then make a commitment now to take the next job offered to you

- Even if you feel it is below you
- Or doesn’t pay enough
- It is easier to get a job when you have a job than when you are sitting at home

ILLUST: Someone in the church unemployed for years

- Every job offered was beneath him
- Justifying that it is a waste of his degree and experience
- Real reason - laziness!

Many say they are inactive because they are waiting on God

- Truth is that waiting on God is never a passive thing
- It always involves action
- Faith without deeds is dead

So even ‘waiting on God to provide’ should not be a passive thing

- Wait on God with the question:
 - “Lord what do you want me to do?”
 - “Who do you want me to speak to?”
 - “Where do you want me to go?”

BIG IDEA: The servant diagnosed the problem as fear. The Master diagnosed the problem as laziness.

- Laziness hides behind legitimate excuses
- Be careful that you are not hiding laziness behind some other excuse.

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of excuses do you think that laziness often hides behind?
2. Are there any areas of laziness that you might be hiding behind a ‘legitimate’ excuse?