

Weird Flex But Okay Part 7

I Have No Ambition Or Anything Else

Proverbs 13:4

Memory Verses: Proverbs 13:4

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Proverbs 30:32 says, “if you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth.” If you brag about being a fool that’s a weird flex, but okay! Fools have all kinds of weird flexes. They brag about all the wrong things. Over the past month we’ve seen them brag about shunning wisdom, brag about being evil, and brag about being unwilling to listen to wise counsel, and brag about making their mother’s cry. All of those are weird flexes which point to a larger issue. They don’t fear God. They don’t believe there are consequences on a supernatural level for their foolishness, and if they keep moving in that direction one day they will drive right off the cliff to their own doom. What they should do instead of bragging about these horrible avenues they’ve decided to pursue is to shut their mouths and return to the wisdom found in God.

This week we turn our attention to another foolish weird flex.

Proverbs 13:4 says, “the soul of a sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.” **Proverbs 1:32** says “the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them.” The book of Proverbs makes it apparent that fools are lazy and apathetic and because of that they have produce very little of value. A fool brags that they have no ambition or anything else. Here a couple of **tweets** I found of fools bragging on being lazy.

Yes, very foolish. It is not wise to be lazy, apathetic, and unambitious. But, we can all relate a little right? I mean who doesn’t want to take a break every now and then, lay back, and just chill? The problem is, without moderation and discipline, times of rest and relaxation can turn into days of rest and relaxation which can turn into weeks which can turn into months. Before you know it you’ve allowed a few moments of rest to become a habit of laziness and lethargy.

Take vacations for example. There is very little in this life better than working hard all year and then enjoying that week at the beach where you sit around and do nothing, right? But then comes that next week when you have to go back to work. I don’t know about you, but I rarely feel ready to jump back into that week at full speed. In fact, I would much rather have another week of vacation. Laziness can become a habit very fast.

Or think back to Covid. We were basically told to stop working,

stop going to the gym, stop living life, and nestle down in our homes and watch Netflix for a year. I dare say we have all recovered from the months upon months of sluggish living. It is possible many never will. And that is foolish.

Why is it foolish to live a lifestyle void of ambition, void of hard work and diligence? Because, laziness doesn’t produce anything of true worth. Television watching doesn’t produce anything of worth. Cheering for a team doesn’t produce anything of worth. Playing a video game doesn’t produce anything of worth. Sleeping all day produces nothing of worth. In other words, **you cannot produce anything of value unless you do something productive.**

This message is huge for our graduates and those who will be graduating in the upcoming years. At every turn you will be confronted with two options. Go make something of yourself where you contribute to society and produce things of value to humanity or indulge yourself in staying stagnant in habitual laziness. Go create a life of value or continue to be idle. Go add value to the world around you or turn into a leech mooching off of society. Be someone who is dependable or someone who is simply dependent. If you choose to reject the path of laziness you will find your life filled with meaning in serving others and serving Christ. But if you choose the path of no ambition what you will find out is that at some point it is unsustainable. It is sin, and it is foolishness. **You cannot produce anything of value unless you do something productive.**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is that... **the Lazy Are Not Contributors**. One of the trademarks of someone who has no ambition is that they are consumers, not contributors. You know the sort right? When I was a freshman at Liberty I became friends with a guy in the dorm named Ryan Moody. Ryan was tall and good at basketball and he was very funny and fun to hang out with. But it didn’t take long for everyone to recognize that Ryan was a consumer. Ryan never had anything to give anyone else but he consistently would ask other to give to him. “Hey can I have a piece of that pizza.” “Hey can I borrow a pack of Ramen,” knowing full well he wasn’t borrowing it cause it would never be given back. So he got a nick name; “big booty moochy moody.” I don’t necessarily know where the big booty part came from but he most certainly was a mooch. He was a freeloading leach who bummed off of everyone. There is no doubt that those who are mooches seem to also be very lazy. After spring break Moody slept in to 1 everyday, skipped all of his classes, and dropped out of college. Lazy people are consumers, not contributors.

As we have already seen, **Proverbs 1:32** says “the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them.” Complacency and laziness, destroys people, because they don’t contribute.

Look at **Proverbs 21:20** which says “precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling but a foolish man devours it.” The lazy foolish people don't produce, they only consume, they devour what others have. In some ways they are like termites who eat the foundation of our homes. It isn't until the walls start falling down that we know there is a problem. This is why lazy consumers are often called leeches. They consume the vital life giving blood flowing through your body. Be careful or they will suck you dry. This is probably why Proverbs points us to the ant, not the leech. **Proverbs 6:6** says “go to the ant, o sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.” Ant's work hard all the time. All the time they are gathering food and storing it for not just themselves but for their entire community. Everyone works and everyone enjoys the fruit of their labor. **Proverbs 20:4** says “the sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.” **Those who only consume but never contribute will harvest nothing.** Nothing for themselves and nothing for those in the community. They are not productive and thus have not produced anything. **You cannot produce anything of value unless you do something productive.**

But of course you may counter with, “why should I be productive? Whats in it for me?” Well there is something in it for you, which we will get to in a moment, but regardless, isn't there joy in contributing for others? **Ephesians 4:28** says, “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. And isn't there joy in contributing for the Lord? **Colossians 3:23** says “whatever you do, work heartily, as for the lord and not for men.” We must work hard and contribute so that we don't become leeches or big booty moochy moodys, rather we produce for others and for the Lord. **You cannot produce anything of value unless you do something productive.**

Secondly, **The Lazy Are Not Dependable.** Those without ambition are not dependable. You know this. You would never trust someone who is lazy to get a job done for you that was very important. Sometimes my kids can't get a little lazy. I'm working building a bathroom downstairs in our basement and sometimes I need their help to do something. But I know that if I ask them to say, go get me the hammer, it could be a while before they get back. Why? Well video games are very important dad. I'm sure you can relate. You ask your kids to do something and they say, sure I'll do it. Before you know it, hours later its still not done. **Proverbs 14:23** says “in all toil there is profit, but mere talk tends only to poverty.” In other words, talk is cheap. Don't talk about it, be about it. Be dependable.

In fact, the Bible tells us that... if you put your **dependence on a lazy person you are being almost as foolish as they are.** **Proverbs 26:6**

says “whoever sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.” **Proverbs 10:26** says “like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.” Trusting in a lazy foolish person only brings trouble to yourself. The job won't be done and if it is it won't be done right. **Proverbs 26:10** says “like an archer who wounds everyone is one who hires a passing fool or drunkard.” **Proverbs 18:9** says “whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.”

I know that as loving and caring people sometimes we may want to honor people who don't deserve honor by giving them responsibility. As a rule of thumb, that almost always backfires. **Proverbs 26:1** says “like snow in summer or rain in harvest so honor is not fitting for a fool.” **Proverbs 26:8** says “like one who binds the stone in the sling is one who gives honor to a fool.” In short, don't ever honor a lazy fool with a big responsibility. They will let you down and harm your good name in the process.

Not only are lazy non-ambitious people undependable when it comes to responsibilities in society or their community, but they are undependable to even take care of themselves. **Proverbs 26:13-16** says “The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!” As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.” They are too lazy to protect themselves from danger. They are too lazy to feed nourish themselves physically, mentally, or spiritually. And yet they think they are wise. No they are fools who produce nothing of value because they do nothing productive. In fact I'm sure that each of you can think of that one person who is completely undependable. I'm sure that is not what you aspire to be. **You cannot produce anything of value unless you do something productive.**

Lastly, **The Lazy Dwell in Poverty.** Of course it makes sense that the end of one who is unambitious, the end of one who doesn't contribute, and the end of the one who is undependable is poverty. Where else could it end. If you are unproductive you don't produce anything of value.

Productive, ambitious, dependable, and motivated people with good work ethics usually have something to show for it. **Proverbs 14:24** says “the crown of the wise is their wealth but the folly of fools brings folly.” The crown of the wise is their wealth. Their wisdom and work ethic are proven by their prosperity. But as we have seen in the Bible, the opposite is also true. **Proverbs 17:16** says “why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he has no sense.” **Proverbs 19:10** says “it is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury, much less for a slave to rule over princes.” **Proverbs 3:35** says “the wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.” **Proverbs 10:4** says “a slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.” **Proverbs 21:25** says “the desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands

refuse to labor.” **Proverbs 20:13** says “love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.”

So, yes it is true that if you don't work you won't have money, you won't have food, you won't have what you need to provide for yourself. But what about giving to the poor? What about compassion? What about helping give a hand up to those who have fallen into troubled times? This is a tricky place where Christians should wrestle. Everyone should be helped in times of need and the Church should be the first ones to answer that call. But there comes a point where we can go from helper to enabler and we start doing more harm than good. **Helping can hurt when helping becomes enabling.** At that point we must refrain so that those we want to help can learn to help themselves. With that in mind we can accept verses like **2 Thessalonians 3:10** which says “if anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.” Lazy people are very hard to truly help.

Too often, lazy people will find that over time all that they had has been taken from them, not by robbers but by their own apathy. **Proverbs 24:30-34** says “I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.” **You cannot produce anything of value unless you do something productive.**

Application

So what is the application this morning? Well, it should be clear that it is foolish to be lazy and live without ambition and a strong work ethic. But remember, this warning doesn't come from the wisdom of the world. This wisdom comes from the Word of God. If true wisdom is the fear of God with a faith in God then true wisdom is a godly wisdom. Which means foolishness is a sin, and since laziness is foolish, laziness is a sin. **We don't just reject laziness because it is wise, we reject laziness because it is ungodly.** **1 Timothy 5:8** says “if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” According to this verse it is very hard to be a believer and be lazy. **James 1:22** says “but be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” The Christian life is about doing. Whether it be physical labor, or spiritual discipline, we must not hear God's word and then sluggishly ignore it. We must be about the work of the Lord.

Conclusion

Hebrews 6:12 says “so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators

of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Who do we imitate? We imitate Jesus who was never lazy, never sluggish. He was always ambitious, always dependable, always contributing to the cause. He never quit or gave up when things got hard. I'm so glad that when it came to my sin, Jesus wasn't too lazy to go to the cross and die in my place. What a shame it is for us who call ourselves Christians to lazily walk through this life not doing the work he has called us to do. When it comes to the christian life... **You cannot produce anything of value unless you do something productive.**