

Title: Diligence IV – Diligent Stewardship
 Pastor: Fred May
 Date: 17 August 2008
 Time: 10h30



Proverbs 27:23

²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, *And* attend to your herds;

Definition of diligence:

- Passionate – enthusiasm with intensity
- Perfectionist – utmost attention to detail
- Productive – prolific, hard-working
- Persevering – persistent consistency

A. First a heart function

Matthew 6:21

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Find real treasure:

1. God's grace

Proverbs 12:27

²⁷ The lazy *man* does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence *is* man's precious possession.

2. Marriage

Proverbs 31:10

¹⁰ Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth *is* far above rubies.

3. Family

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Proverbs 13:24 NASB

²⁴ He who withholds his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.

4. Business / career

Proverbs 10:4

⁴ He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

B. Four principles of management / stewardship

Proverbs 27:23-27

²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, *And* attend to your herds; ²⁴ For riches *are* not forever, Nor does a crown *endure* to all generations. ²⁵ *When* the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, *And* the herbs of the mountains are gathered in, ²⁶ The lambs *will provide* your clothing, *And*

the goats the price of a field; ²⁷ *You shall have* enough goats' milk for your food, For the food of your household, And the nourishment of your maidservants.

1. Maintain the treasury

Proverbs 8:17 (11-12, 18-21)

¹⁷ I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

¹¹ For wisdom *is* better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. ¹² I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge *and* discretion.

¹⁸ Riches and honor *are* with me, Enduring riches and righteousness. ¹⁹ My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver. ²⁰ I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, ²¹ That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.

Proverbs 12:27

²⁷ The lazy *man* does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence *is* man's precious possession.

Stewards of grace [I Peter 4:10]

The rest of contentment

Proverbs 13:4

⁴ The soul of a lazy *man* desires, and *has* nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Proverbs 15:16

¹⁶ Better *is* a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble.

Philippians 4:11

¹¹ Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

2. Ownership over possessions

Psalms 24:1

¹ The earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

Romans 14:7-8

⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Remain accountable

Proverbs 27:23

²³ Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, *And* attend to your herds;

3. Act with foresight

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

- Plan ahead

Proverbs 21:5 AMP

⁵ The thoughts of the [*steadily*] diligent tend only to plenteousness, but everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want.

Set the threshold of expectation

- **Establish contingencies / save**

Proverbs 21:5 AMP

⁵ The thoughts of the [*steadily*] diligent tend only to plenteousness, but everyone who is impatient and hasty hastens only to want.

Matthew 25:8-10

⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. ⁹ But the wise replied, There will not be enough for us and for you; go instead to the dealers and buy for yourselves. ¹⁰ But while they were going away to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were prepared went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut.

Avoid indebtedness

Proverbs 22:7

⁷ The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

4. Become a diligent giver

II Corinthians 8:7-8

⁷ But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—*see* that you abound in this grace also. ⁸ I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.

- **Maintain pure motive (control / compensation)**

Deuteronomy 17:1

¹ You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish *or* defect, for that *is* an abomination to the LORD your God.

- **Embrace God's standard**

Philippians 4:19 NASB

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 3:9-10

⁹ Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.