

Ephesians Series

19

Work

Ephesians 4 : 28

28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

When you put the two words “work” and “useful” together, and thinking of the examples of Jesus and Paul, a word that comes to my mind is the word “industrious”.

Industrious :hardworking, diligent, assiduous, conscientious, steady, painstaking, persevering, unflagging, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, studious.

Q : Is it true, from your observation, that people who have a “strong work ethic” prosper and those who have a low capacity for work don’t?

Q : Do you think an “amazing capacity for work” in an individual is genetic, taught, or a question of “mind over pain”?

The thief is always looking for “quick gains” with as little effort as possible.

Q : Different forms of stealing were listed such as “inflated invoices”, “underperforming at work” or “not paying bills”. In what other ways could be we walking on thin ice when it comes to integrity in the area of taking what is not really ours?

Q : Why do we always seek to justify stealing with “robin hood” [i.e. it was rightfully mine in the first place] ?

The sluggard is someone whose mind has never learnt to push the body and endure.

*The way of the **sluggard** is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.
Proverbs 15 : 9*

Q : How would you go about helping a person change from a mindset that is easily overcome by handwork and effort to a mindset that sees hard work as a gift for success?

Ultimately, of course, the reason we are called to allow God to change our mentality to be industrious is so that we can be a blessing for others.

Q : Why do industrious people always get given more opportunities and leadership roles? Is this fair or unfair?

Q : How is the principle of working to be a blessing reflective of the person of God?