

Spectrum of the eighth: Deuteronomy 23:19-25:12

We sometimes have a narrow view of what is implied by God's commandments, when in reality, they cover a broad spectrum of concepts, as shown in Deut 23:19-25:12. I have contrasted some topics related to the eighth commandment (Do not Steal) in a sequence beginning with the most contrastive to the least contrastive.

Vices (Darkness)	Virtue (Light)
1. Theft(Deut 25:7), usury (Deut 23:20)	Diligence (Deut 25:8)
2. Injustice, misappropriation, inequity, partiality (Deut 24:8, Jas 2:1-4)	Fairness, appropriation, equity (Deut 24:17,25:4)
3. Inaction, slack, (Deut 23:21) idleness Proverbs 6:6-11, Prov 10:4a)	Service, execution, charitable service to poor [the least] (Deut 24:18-22, Matt 25:40, Prov. 10:4b)
4. Discordance, dissonance, dissention, disruption, divorcement, breach (Deut 24:3)	Cooperation, agency, teamwork, marriage, accordance, agreement, kinsman redeemer(Deut 25:5-11, Ruth 3:13)
5. Non-performance, irresponsibility, vacillation, dereliction (Ecc. 5:5)	Performance of vow, dedication, obligation, duty (Deut 23:23)
6. to blame, to shirk (Deut 25:7-9)	Commitment, to vow (Deut 23:21, Ecc 5:4)
7. Avoidance, evasion	Declination (Deut 23:22, Ecc 5:5)

I have included references from Proverbs by Principle. See if you can match the Proverb topics with the categories above.

DILIGENCE ORIGINS

02:01-02_THIRST_FOR_KNOWLEDGE

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom and apply thine heart to understanding.

06:06-

11_THE_ANT_TEACHES_DILIGENCE

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:
11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

08:10_EAR_FOR_INSTRUCTION

Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold.

10:05_WISE_SON

He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but that sleepeth in harvest is a son that

causeth shame.

12:27_DILIGENT_MAN

The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

13:04_DILIGENCE

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

13:23_WISDOM

Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

16:26_HUNGER

He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

20:13_WISDOM

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

24:30-34_SLUGGARD'S_WAYS

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,
and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the
stone wall thereof was broken down.
32 Then I saw, and considered it well I looked
upon it, and received instruction,
33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little fold-
ing of the hands to sleep:
34 So shall thy poverty come as one that
travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

28:04 THE LAW OF GOD
They that forsake the law praise the wicked:
but such as keep the law contend with them.

28:20 FAITHFUL MAN
A faithful man shall abound with bless-
ings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall
not be innocent.

29:02 RIGHTEOUS RULERS
When the righteous are in authority, the
people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth
rule, the people mourn.

DILIGENCE EXAMPLES

03:27-30 JUSTICE\FAIRNESS
Withhold not good from them to whom it
is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do
it.
28 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come
again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast
it by thee.
29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, see-
ing he dwelleth securely by thee.
30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he
have done thee no harm.

06:06-
11 THE ANT TEACHES DILIGENCE
Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her
ways, and be wise:
7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and
gathereth her food in the harvest.
9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when
wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little
folding of the hands to sleep:
11 So shall thy poverty come as one that
travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

06:08 AWARE OF SEASONS(CYCLES)
Provideth her meat in the summer, and
gathereth her food in the harvest.

06:08 WISE PLANNER
Provideth her meat in the summer, and
gathereth her food in the harvest.

10:04 DILIGENT WITH HANDS
He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack
hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

10:05 GATHERS IN SUMMER
He that gathereth in summer is a wise son:
but that sleepeth in harvest is a son that
causeth shame.

10:16 EXCELLENT LABORER
The labour of the righteous tendeth to life:
the fruit of the wicked to sin.

10:20-21 WISDOM FEEDS OTHERS
The tongue of the just is as choice sil-
ver the heart of the wicked is little worth.
21 The lips of the righteous feed many, but
fools die for want of wisdom.

10:31-32 WISDOM SOURCE
The mouth of the just bringeth forth wis-
dom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.
32 The lips of the righteous follow what is ac-
ceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speak-
eth frowardness.

11:30 TREE OF LIFE
The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: and
he that winneth souls is wise.

13:22 LEAVES INHERITANCE
A good man leaveth an inheritance to his
children's children: and the wealth of the sin-
ner is laid up for the just.

14:35 PUNISHES EVIL&REWARDS GO
OD
The king's favour is toward a wise ser-
vant: but his wrath is against him that causeth
shame.

15:02 WISDOM SOURCE
The tongue of the wise useth knowledge
aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out fool-
ishness.

12:11 TILLS LAND
He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with
bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void
of understanding.

12:27 FRUGAL
The slothful man roasteth not that which he
took in hunting: but the substance of a dili-
gent man is precious.

13:23 PLANNED LABOR
Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but
there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

14:04 ENDURES INCONVENIENCE
Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but
much increase is by the strength of the oxen.

16:12 LEADS BY EXAMPLE

It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

16:26_LABORS

He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

21:03_JUSTICE>>RITUAL

To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

21:05_CONSTRUCTIVE_THOUGHTS

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plentiness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

21:05_PLANNING>>HASTINESS

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plentiness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

22:29_DILIGENT_IN_BUSINESS

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men.

24:27_WISE_PLANNER

Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field and afterwards build thine house.

24:23-25_IMPARTIAL

These things also belong to the wise, it is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

25:02_SEEKS_TRUTH&JUSTICE

It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

25:23_THWARTS_BACKBITING

The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

25:25_GIVES_REFRESHING_WORDS

As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

25:26_HATES_INJUSTICE

A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

26:01_HATES_INJUSTICE

AS snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

26:08_HATES_INJUSTICE

As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool.

26:10_LEVIES_JUSTICE

The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

28:01_COURAGEOUS

THE wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

27:10_FAITHFUL

Thine own friend, and thy father's friend forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.

27:23-27_WISE_PLANNER

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

25 The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

26 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

27 And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.

28:04_CONTENDS_WITH_EVIL

They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

28:19_LABORS(TILLS)

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

29:10_BENEVOLENT_PURPOSE

The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

29:14_FAIR_TO_THE_POOR

The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

29:26_IMPARTIAL

Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.

29:27_DESPISES_EVIL

An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

31:04_05_SOBER/MODERATE

It is not for kings, O Lem-u-el, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:

31:13_RESOURCEFUL

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

31:14_SEARCHES_AFAR

She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

31:15_EARLY_RISERS

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to maidens.

31:16_SHREWD_BARGAINER

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

31:17_STRONG

She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

31:18_DILIGENT_DAY_AND_NIGHT

She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.

31:19_CREATIVE_WITH_HANDS(TRADESMAN)

She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

31:20_BENEVOLENT_TO_POOR

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

31:21_PLANS_FOR_WINTER(DROUGHT)

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

31:22_CREATIVE_DECORATOR

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

31:23_UPLIFTS_OTHERS(HUSBAND)

Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

31:24_RESOURCEFUL

She maketh fine linen, and selleth it and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

31:25_WISEKIND

Strength and honour are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come.

DILIGENCE RESULTS

03:10_PLENTY

So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

03:16_LONGEVITY\HONOR\RICHES

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

06:01-

05_DELIVERANCE_FROM_DEATH

MY son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger.

2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

3 Do this now, my Son, and deliver thyself when thou art come into the hand of thy friend go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend;

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

08:18_RICHES\HONOR

Riches and honour are with me, yea, durable riches and righteousness.

10:16_LIFE

The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.

11:18_SURE_REWARD

The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.

12:11_SATISFACTION

He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

12:24_AWARDED_WITH_RESPONSIBILITY

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

13:04_FATNESS\ABUNDANCE

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

13:22_INHERITANCE

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

13:23_MUCH_FOOD

Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

14:04_INCREASE(OX)/DISORDER>IDLENESS/ORDER

Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the oxen.

14:23_PROFIT

In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

19:14_INHERITANCE

House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.

20:13_SATISFACTION_WITH_BREAD

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

21:05_ABUNDANCE>>WANT

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

21:05_PLENTEOUSNESS

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

21:20_TREASURE/RESERVES

There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

22:07_RULES_OVER_POOR

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

22:29_FAVOR_OF_KINGS

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men.

28:08_PITY_OF_POOR->>INCREASE

He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

28:19_PLENTY_OF_BREAD

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

28:20_BLESSINGS

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

31:25_STRENGTH/HONOR

Strength and honour are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come.

31:28_HIGH_ESTEEM

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

31:29_EXCELLENT_REPUTATION

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

31:30_HIGHLY_PRAISED

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

THEFT ORIGINS

06:01-05_SURETY

MY son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger.
2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

3 Do this now, my Son, and deliver thyself when thou art come into the hand of thy friend go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend;

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

06:06-11_SLUGGARD

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

10:05_SLOTHFULNESS

He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

10:10_WICKEDNESS

He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

10:26_SLUGGARD

As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

11:15_SURETY

He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.

11:24_GREED

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth: and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

12:27_SLOTHFUL_MAN

The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

13:04_SLUGGARD

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

13:07 _GREED

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath
hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet
hath great riches.

13:23 _IRRESPONSIBLE_MAN

Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but
there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

15:19 _SLOTHFUL_MAN

The way of the slothful man is an hedge of
thorns: but the way of the righteous is made
plain.

17:18 _BLINDNESS\SURETY

A man void of understanding striketh hands
and cometh surety in the presence of his
friend.

18:09 _SLOTHFULNESS

He also that is slothful in his work is brother
to him that is a great waster.

19:07 _GREED\PRIDE

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how
much more do his friends go far from him? he
pursueth them with words, yet they are want-
ing to him.

19:24 _SLUGGARD(BOSOM)

A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom
and will not so much as bring it to his mouth
again.

20:04 _SLUGGARD

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the
cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have
nothing.

20:13 _DROWSINESS

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty;
open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with
bread.

20:16 _SURETY

Take his garment that is surety for a
stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange
woman.

21:07 _AVOIDANCE_OF_TRUTH

The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them;
because they refuse to do judgment.

21:17 _GREED

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man:
he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

21:25 _SLUGGARDS_LUSTS

The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his
hands refuse to labour.

22:07 _SLOTHFULNESS\BORROWING

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the bor-
rower is servant to the lender.

22:16 _GREED

He that oppresseth the poor to increase his
riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely
come to want.

22:26 _SURETY

Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or
of them that are sureties for debts.

24:30-34 _SLOTHFUL_MAN

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the
vineyard of the man void of understanding;
31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns,
and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the
stone wall thereof was broken down.
32 Then I saw, and considered it well I looked
upon it, and received instruction,
33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little fold-
ing of the hands to sleep:
34 So shall thy poverty come as one that
travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

26:13 _SLOTHFUL_MAN

The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the
way; a lion is in the streets.

26:14 _SLOTHFULNESS(DOOR_ON_HIN-
GES)

As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth
the slothful upon his bed.

26:15 _SLOTHFUL_MAN\IRRESPONSIBI-
LITY(BOSOM)

The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it
grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

27:13 _SURETY_FOR_WANTON_LUSTS

Take his garment that is surety for a
stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange
woman.

28:08 _GREED

He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth
his substance, he shall gather it for him that will
pity the poor.

28:20 _HASTE_TO_WEALTH

A faithful man shall abound with bless-
ings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall
not be innocent.

28:21 _GREED(BREAD)

To have respect of persons is not good: for
for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

THEFT EXAMPLES

06:07 _EYESERVICE\IRRESPONSIBILI-
TY

Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

06:09_PERPETUAL_DROWSINESS
How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

06:10_FOLDED_(INACTIVE)_HANDS
Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

06:24-35_ADULTERY\FORNICATION
To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.
25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart neither let her take thee with her eyelids.
26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.
27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?
29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent
30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;
31 But if he be found, he shall restore seven-fold; he shall give all the substance of his house.
32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.
33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.
34 For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.
35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content though thou givest many gifts.

09:13-18_ADULTERY\FORNICATION
A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.
14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,
15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:
16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him
17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.
18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

10:05_SLEEPINESS\LETHARGY
He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

10:26_UNRELIABILITY
As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

11:24_STINGINESS

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth: and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

12:11_FOLLOWS_VAIN_PERSONS
He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

12:27_WASTEFULLNESS
The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

13:04_WANTON_DESIRE
The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

13:07_GENEROSITY>>STINGINESS
There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

13:11_ILL_GOTTON_WEALTH
Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

13:23_UNJUST_DISTRIBUTION(PARTIALITY)
Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

14:23_VERBOSITY\PENURY<>DILIGENCE\WEALTH
In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

14:31_OPPRESSION_OF_POOR
He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

17:18_SURETY
A man void of understanding striketh hands and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.

17:26_INJUSTICE
Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.

18:05_PARTIALITY<<REBUKE
It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

18:09_WASTEFULNESS
He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

19:04_PARTIALITY

Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

19:07_PARTIALITY

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

19:24_TO_LAZY_TO_EAT

A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

20:04_EXCUSE_LADENED_SLUGGARD

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

21:05_HASTINESS

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plentiness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

21:05_HASTINESS<<PLANNING

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plentiness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

21:07_ROBBERY

The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

21:13_CALLOUSNESS_TO_POOR

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

21:17_EXTRAVAGANCE

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

21:25_REFUSAL_TO_WORK

The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

21:26_COVETEOUSNESS

He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

22:07_USURY/BORROWING

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

22:13_FULL_OF_EXCUSES

The slothful man saith there is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

22:16_BRIBES_TO_RICH(INJUSTICE)

He that oppreseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

22:16_OPPRESSION_OF_POOR

He that oppreseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

22:22-

23_OPPORTUNISTIC_EXPLOITATION

Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

23 For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

22:26-27_SURETY

Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

27 If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

22:28_MOVING_LANDMARKERS

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

24:23-25_PARTIALITY

These things also belong to the wise, it is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

24:30_SLOTHFULLNESS->BLINDNESS

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

24:33-34_SLEEPINESS->POVERTY

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

25:19_UNFAITHFUL

Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

26:01_INJUSTICE

AS snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

26:13_EXCUSE_LADENED_SLUGGARD

The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

26:14_BED_BOUND_SLUGGARD

As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

26:15_LAZY_HANDS

The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

26:16_PRIDEFUL_SLOTH

The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit
than seven men that can render a reason.

27:07_OVERINDULGENCE\UNJUST_DISTRIBUTION

The full soul loatheth an honeycomb, but to
the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

27:08_IRRESPONSIBILITY\DETACHMENT

As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a
man that wandereth from his place.

28:08_USURY

He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth
his substance, he shall gather it for him that will
pity the poor.

28:15_UNJUST_TO_POOR

As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a
wicked ruler over the poor people.

28:19_FOLLOWS_VAIN_PERSONS

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of
bread: but he that followeth after vain persons
shall have poverty enough.

28:21_PARTIAL

To have respect of persons is not good: for
for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

28:27_OPPRESSION_OF_POOR

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack:
but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a
curse.

28:27_STINGINESS

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack:
but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a
curse.

30:09_SELF_SUFFICIENCY

Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is
the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take
the name of my God in vain.

THEFT RESULTS

06:01-05_LOSSES

MY son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if
thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger.
2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth,
thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.
3 Do this now, my Son, and deliver thyself
when thou art come into the hand of thy friend
go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend;
4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to
thine eyelids.
5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the
hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

06:11_POVERTY

So shall thy poverty come as one that
travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

10:16_SIN

The labour of the righteous tendeth to life:
the fruit of the wicked to sin.

11:15_PAIN

He that is surety for a stranger shall smart
for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.

11:24_POVERTY

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth:
and there is that withholdeth more than is meet,
but it tendeth to poverty.

12:11_BLINDNESS\INEPTITUDE

He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with
bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void
of understanding.

12:24_SERVITUDE

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but
the slothful shall be under tribute.

13:04_POVERTY

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath
nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be
made fat.

13:11_VANISHING_ASSETS

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished:
but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

13:23_POVERTY

Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but
there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.

14:23_POVERTY

In all labour there is profit: but the talk of
of the lips tendeth only to penury.

15:19_PAIN\THORNS

The way of the slothful man is an hedge of
thorns: but the way of the righteous is made
plain.

17:18_LOSSES

A man void of understanding striketh hands
and becometh surety in the presence of his
friend.

19:04_ISOLATION

Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is
separated from his neighbour.

19:07_ABANDONMENT

All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how
much more do his friends go far from him? he
pursueth them with words, yet they are want-
ing to him.

19:15_SLOTHFULNESS-

>>DEEP_SLEEP\HUNGER

Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

20:04_POVERTY

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

20:13_POVERTY

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

20:16_LOSS_OF_ESSENTIALS

Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

21:05_WANT<<ABUNDANCE

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plentiness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

21:07_DESTRUCTION

The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

21:13_UNHEARD_PRAYERS

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

21:17_POVERTY

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.

21:25_DEATH

The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

22:07_ENSLAVEMENT\SERVITUDE

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

22:16_POVERTY

He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely

come to want.

22:27_LOSS_OF_NECESSITIES

If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

22:29_TYRANNICAL_RULE

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men.

24:23-25_CURSES\ABHORRENCE

These things also belong to the wise, it is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

24:34_POVERTY\WANT

So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

25:19_UNFAITHFULNESS-

>>FOOT/MOUTH_PAIN

Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

28:08_STEALING-

>>REWARD_FOR_THE_POOR

He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

28:19_POVERTY

He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

28:20_GUILT

A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

29:16_ABOUNDING_WICKEDNESS

When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

Working and Not Working for the Lord.

**Learning To be Fishers of Men: Faith and Perseverance amid Uncertainty and Danger.
(Diligence for the Lord)**

Key Words

peacemakers
forever

insurance
salary

fisherman		wages
sea	toil	
net		guarantee
diligent		danger
faith		risk
belief		fear
vision		hope
labor		temporary
everlasting		treacherous
predictable		unpredictable
labor in vain		reward.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.(Matt 5:9)

Day 5

God made the birds and the fish on the fifth day. Jesus is The Great Fisherman. He called Peter and Andrew to become fishers of men (Matt. 4:18,19). People who do not know the Lord are like fish in the sea (Ezek 29:4, Matt 13:47-50). We must work hard to draw people to the Lord, even as a fisherman works for food. Unlike the food of the sea or the food of the soil which only lasts for a while, the reward of Peter and Andrew's labor will last forever (John 6:27)

"...the kingdom of heaven is like a net, **that was cast into the sea and gather of every kind:** which when it was full, they drew to shore, and the sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away..." Matt 13:47-50

The Life of the Fisherman.

A fisherman has no guarantee that he will catch food when he takes his boat out to sea. He must wait for the fish to come to the area where he is fishing. Then he must wait until the fish bite his bait or until the fish swim into the net he has cast out. For an example of this, read John 21:1-25. In this example Simon Peter was fishing during the night, and caught nothing. In the morning Peter and his fishing crew were still sitting in the boat waiting for food. Peter had no guarantee that he would find fish. He was working hard but, not seeing any results for his labor.

Then all of a sudden, the Lord shows up and tells him where and how to find food. He said "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find (fish). Peter did it and they found an abundance of fish. So it is with those who trust in the Lord, when we labor the Lord is the One who gives us our food. We are dependent on Him to give us our reward or wages for our labor. When we work for the Lord, our Labor is not in vain.

All labor requires faith and perseverance(action) whether it is spiritual or physical. The question that is often asked is how long do we have to labor before we get our reward or wages? Don't you think Peter was asking that question out there in the water?

Most business men must wait for their reward in the same way. Many people do not like the uncertainty of waiting for "fish to bite" or for the Lord to move and they lose faith and hope and sometimes give up. Some may even think the reward they are waiting for isn't worth the effort or price they will have to put out.

Today, we have other things that keep us from the uncertainty of waiting. Here are some examples insurance policies, salaries, mortgages, and supermarkets. if you go to the supermarket you are guaranteed to find food, provided you have money to pay for it.

What Have We To Eat?

All of mankind has a concern for what they must eat and what they will wear from day to day. Without food and clothing, we will die. God told Adam "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return to the ground." There is a labor for physical food that is necessary to stay alive and feed yourself and other people. After all, the Bible says "if any man does not work, neither should he eat." (2Thess 3:10). However, Adam's labor is not only in the physical, that is, on the sea or on the land.

Adam was to labor in the spiritual field or he was to toil in the spiritual sea. The spiritual field is pictured in the parable of the sower (Matt 13). The spiritual sea is pictured in the gathering of Peter and Andrew to become fisher's of men (Matt 4:19).

Is it Spiritual Food or Physical Food? or Both?

Satan tempted Jesus when he was hungry in the wilderness (Matt 4). Jesus told him "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God". This says that there is a spiritual food and a physical food. Which is the spiritual one and which is the physical one. Which of these is most important? Well, let's find out!

Does God Pay Any Wages?

Remember, our primary journey is through John's Gospel and the Seven days of Creation. After the story of the Samaritan woman, John 4:31-38 tells of the concern the disciple had for Jesus that he had not eaten any physical food. Jesus said "I have meat which you know not of." This is the spiritual food that is found in the word of God. The disciples did not understand what he meant.

They asked themselves did some one bring him some physical food? Physical food was most important to them. They believed Jesus had no reward for his labor.

He explained that he is fed by doing what God told him to do. Job had a similar statement he said "I consider the words of God more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12). Let's be honest.

How can a person live off of doing what God says?

Food for the Birds

In Matt 6:26-34, Jesus compares how birds get food to how we get food. He says that God provides for the birds and plants, so He will provide for us. Are we more important to the Lord than birds and plants? (Hint: John 3:16, John 15:13)

God's Promise for the Faithful

Jesus tells us to seek first, the Kingdom of God and then God will give us every thing else we need. (Matt 6:23, Ps 136:25). We must remember that God gives us every thing we own and will own. We must sow spiritual seed first because spiritual things last forever (Gal 6:7, 8). John told some Jews and his disciples that a man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven. (John 3:37).

The Darkness of Satan

People who live in darkness don't believe God gives them everything. After all, we worked for what we have, right? People who are not aware of God's hand in their lives take God's name in vain. (The 3rd Commandment). They are blinded by Satan. Satan is a master at taking away what God does. Satan makes us think we are bigger, stronger and more powerful than we really are.

If we say we did what God has done we are **prideful**, and we are **thieves**. We are thieves because we have taken credit for something we did not do. We are prideful because we believe we feed ourselves with our own power.

Satan tried to blind Jesus in the wilderness by saying things to make him think that God had forgotten about him and would not give him food. But Jesus knew better. What was Jesus' response to Satan again?(Matt 4:4)

What did Satan do to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

The Seed of Faith (Trust)

Work begin with faith in God's Promises. We must have faith in what God says not in what we think He said. This is why our Bible is so important. And why Eve was deceived. Our spiritual eyes must see. What our physical eyes don't. A man is said to have a **vision** we he sees what others can't see physically.

Faith (Trust) , Work and Food

A blind folded person will not lean backwards while standing in a chair, unless he believes someone or something will catch him. A farmer will not plant his seed unless he **believes** the seed will feed him, eventually. A fisherman will not do any work while fishing unless he has **faith** that some food is waiting in the water.(John 21:3-6)

The Root of the Matter

"**Do not steal**",(be diligent) is being taught here (The 8th Commandment). The root of "**Do not steal**" is the 3rd Commandment (**Do not take God's name in vain**) .

The book of James 2:14-26 also makes the connection between **faith and works** when he states "for the body without the spirit is dead, so faith with out works is dead also."(James 2:26)

The Root and Branches of Unbelief and Belief in God

The 3rd Commandment, (Do not take God's name in vain) is to forget about God and to discard what he has said and done (**unbelief**). The opposite of the 3rd Commandment is the 4th Commandment (Remember the Sabbath), which means to trust God through remembrance of what He has done (belief).

Unbelief (the 3rd Commandment) leads to **rebellion**. **Belief** in God(the 4th Commandment) leads to **obedience** (the 5th Commandment). We can see two paths in the **opposites** and the **similarities** of the Ten Commandments.

"See I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;"(Deut 30:15)

Opposites: Darkness and Light

DARKNESS (Vice)

Pride
Self-Sufficiency (II)
Unbelief (III)
Rebellion
Bitterness (VI)
Defilement (VII)
Theft (VIII)
Deceit (IX)
Coveteousness (X)

LIGHT (Virtue)

Humility
Surrender (I)
Belief (IV)
Obedience (V)
Forgiveness
Purity
Diligence
Honesty
Gratefulness

Similarities: Evil Roots and Evil Fruits

EVIL ROOT

Hard-Hearted (I)
False god (II)
Unbelief (III)

EVIL FRUIT

Bitterness (VI)
Defilement (VII)
Theft, Inaction (VIII)

**Insincerity (IV)
Rebellion (V)**

**Deceit (IX)
Coveteousness (X)**

Similarities: Good Roots and Good Fruits

GOOD ROOT
Surrender (I)
One God (II)
Belief (III)
Sincerity (IV)
Obedience (V)

GOOD FRUIT
Forgiveness (VI)
Purity (VII)
Diligence (VIII)
Honesty (IX)
Gratefulness (X)

Faithless Examples for Further Study

Deuteronomy chapters 8, and 9 shows how Israel took God's name in vain and did not do as God told them. They were faithless so they could not bear fruit for the Lord. Israel was like a fig tree without fruit (Matt. 21:18-22, Mark 11:12-14). Just remember, we reap what we sow (Gal 6:7,8)

Spiritual Work, Physical Work, or Both?

How can we avoid the same mistakes the Israelites made in the wilderness? Jesus uses **physical** faith and works examples like fisherman and farmers to show us **spiritual** faith and works.

In John's Gospel, we will see a group of stories that tell how people work for the Lord. The first set tells us how not to work and the second set tells us how to work. People who work for God are his children and they are **peacemakers** because they are helping others make peace with God. (Rom 5:1,Eph 2:14,Jas 3:18,Gal 5:22).

Remember there are two fields in which labor must be done: labor in the **spiritual** field, and then labor in the **physical** field.

How to Work

The Great Harvest (John 4:34-38)

Don't forget the **spiritual** labor (John 4:35)

Teamwork of the body (John 4:36-38)

How not to Work

The Faithless Nobleman (John 4:43-54)

Needs a miracle before he takes action like doubting Thomas (John 20:25) and the Israelites (Exodus, Numbers, Joshua). Jesus shows a better way (John 20:29)

How not to Work

The Paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-16)

Does the work of God in his own strength and wisdom. Does not seek the help of the Lord our healer (Exodus 15:26). Nevertheless, Jesus, Our High Priest gives him grace to help in time of need (Heb 4:16)

How to Work

Jesus Works with the Father (John 5:17-47)

The Father enables the Son (John 5:17-20)

The Son enables the believer (John 5:21)

The Rewards of the Workers (John 5:28-29)

How not to Work

Doing Physical Labor Only to Get Physical Bread (John 6:1-29)

Laboring for bread that perishes (temporary rewards, John 6:26-27)

How to Work

Eating the Manna (Bread) from heaven (The Word of God, John 6:32-65)

Remembering the Old Testament (John 6:30-40)

How not to work.

By judging from **physical appearances** (John 6:41-42,52)

The Bread of Life (John 6:51)

Communion with God (John 6:53-58)

How to Work

Walk in the **Spirit** not in the **Flesh** (John 6:59-63, Rom 8:5-14, Gal 5:16)

Questions / Activities

Name some occupations that help you to earn bread to eat. Tell what kind of faith is necessary to get the fruit of their labor. Here are a few examples: a car salesman, a farmer, a fisherman, a doctor, a policeman, a teacher, a dentist.

Does a fisherman know when he will catch fish?
Does a fisherman have to wait for fish or can he go to get them?
Does a fisherman ever get tired of waiting?

How do birds get food? (Read Matt. 6:23, Psalm 136:25)
Birds have it made! When they need food they fly on to other people's property and eat food that they need. Can Christians do the same with other Christians? Read Deuteronomy 25:19-22.
Study how birds live from day to day.
In Matt. 6:26 - 34, Jesus compares how birds get food to how we get food. Are there any similarities?

How did Jesus get food? (Matt 6:33, John 4:32-34)
What is spiritual labor?
What is physical labor?
What does manna have to do with spiritual labor?
How do you begin spiritual labor?
Use the story of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness to tell how God taught the people to labor spiritually.
Why is wrong to labor **only** for bread that gets spoiled or gets used up?

How does God help you get bread?
How does God help your parents get bread?
How does God help the U.S. Government get bread?
How does God help the world get bread?

Do you take God's name in vain?
Does our government take God's name in vain?
Are people in the Old Testament any different than in the New Testament when it comes to concern for food? (Remember the murmurings of the children of Israel and water from the rock).

Do you have trouble starting to work?
Which of the pictures John shows in his Gospel best describes you when you work?
Which picture in John's Gospel describes the way you would like to be?
How can you learn from the journey of Egypt to Canaan how to begin doing your labor correctly?

Jesus said in John 4:46-47 that Moses wrote about him in the Old Testament. Why did Jesus reveal this?

Jesus is the Originator of all things. Christ's words in the OT and NT are a witness or a testimony about Him.) "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." John 1:3

Jesus is the example that every man should follow. He shows us how every occupation should be done through His four positions seen in the Old and New Testaments:

Christ's Example	Man's Imitation	OT	Heb	NT
Creator	Manufacturing	Gen.	ch.1	John
Prophet	Law	Ex.	ch.3	Luke
Preist	Ministry, Medicine	Lev,Nm	ch.5	Mark
King	Government	Deut.	ch.7	Matt.

Here is summary of how Jesus is shown in the OT and NT.

All of man's occupations can be related to Christ's ministry to men. Can you think of occupations that cannot be related? and why?