

"ALL THE DAY IDLE"**Introduction**

1. The name of this Parable.
2. The meaning of the Parable.
3. This TEXT is a relevant one for us all.

1. THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH THE UNCONVERTED PERSON'S LIFE IS "IDLE"

- 1) This is not true in every sense of course:
 - (i) Some live lives in responsible jobs
 - (ii) Some are "workaholics"
 - (iii) Some are driven by ambition
BUT we must ask, "Where are we going?"
- 2) But of some it is literally true:
 - (i) Some do as little as they can: "the sluggard".
 - (ii) Some live off the state. Is this right?
 - (iii) Some do not organise their lives.
OBSERVE: The fourth commandment tells us we must work in life.
- 3) But in a sense it is true of all unbelievers:
 - (i) Not concerned about the main things in life
Our duty to God; to our own soul.
 - (ii) All their labour is spiritually worthless.
It is not for God's glory or men's souls.
 - (iii) In the end of life there is nothing to show.
A bag of holes. **ILLUSTRATION**: Cardinal Wolsey.
So are all who serve Satan.
 - (iv) In eternity they themselves will say "Idle"
APPLICATION: Take a look at yourself in the mirror of God's Word. Is this true of you?

2. THE "SPIRITUALLY-IDLE" LIFE NEEDS TO BE CHALLENGED: "WHY?"

- 1) Since God is taking notice of all of us.
OBSERVE: We can go through life busy here and there but ignoring the fact that God is watching us.
APPLICATION: God will say: "I gave you 70 years of time".
- 2) Why labour in vain when you could get an eternal reward?
 - Earthly work may get a house and car
 - But God offers far better rewards**APPLICATION**: Have you weighed up the difference?
- 3) There is a medicine for this idleness.
 - Hear the alarm bells: "Wake up!"
 - God's Spirit can give you new life
 - The blood of Christ can purify our soul**APPLICATION**: "Is there no balm in Gilead?"
- 4) Jesus Christ gave his life to rescue us from it.
 - The word 'Redemption'
 - The word 'Deliver'
 - The word 'Save'
- 5) It is irrational and foolish to go on in it.
 - like a man that is gassed
 - remember Lot's wife**APPLICATION**: It is unreasonable to live in a way that can only lead to death.
- 6) The spiritually-idle in this life will be eternally in hard labour in the life to come.
APPLICATION: Recall the words of Christ: weeping, gnashing of teeth and no end to it.
Dante wrote: "Abandon hope..."

3. **THIS IDLENESS IS NOT GOING TO BE CURED UNLESS YOU ROUSE YOURSELF INTO ACTION**

1) So God tells us: "Yet a little sleep..."

ILLUSTRATION: Oversleep and you miss the train.
The fable of Achilles and the tortoise.

APPLICATION: Opportunity knocks at the third hour...and even at the eleventh hour. But not for ever.

2) Tell yourself these things:

(i) "It is well worth stirring up myself".

(ii) "A little trouble now is better than a lot more later".

(Explain)

(iii) "I had better make sure I am ready to appear before God".

Double-check!

ILLUSTRATION: The front door at night. The fuel tank of the car.

(iv) "A vague faith may be no faith at all".

APPLICATION: What has happened to your soul?
What differences is there in your life?

ILLUSTRATION: a passport.

3) Picture to yourself your meeting with the Judge on the Great Day:

(i) Will he say: "You have served God," or "You have lived an idle life?"

(ii) Will you have then to confess: "I have left it too late; I have neglected my soul; I have wasted my life."

CONCLUSION

It is not too late if you repent now and believe in Christ as Saviour.

ILLUSTRATION: the hammer and the young child.

PSALM

95: 1 – 6

119: 59 – 64

95: 7 – 11