



Sermon 3: Mediocrity

November 7, 2010

Think Holes are common patterns of thought that pull people into unhealthy and unbiblical attitudes and habits.

Scripture

Philippians 4:8-9

8Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Proverbs 31

- 10 A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.
- 11 Her husband has full confidence in her
and lacks nothing of value.
- 12 She brings him good, not harm,
all the days of her life.
- 13 She selects wool and flax
and works with eager hands.
- 14 She is like the merchant ships,
bringing her food from afar.
- 15 She gets up while it is still night;
she provides food for her family
and portions for her female servants.
- 16 She considers a field and buys it;
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.
- 17 She sets about her work vigorously;
her arms are strong for her tasks.
- 18 She sees that her trading is profitable,
and her lamp does not go out at night.
- 19 In her hand she holds the distaff
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.
- 20 She opens her arms to the poor
and extends her hands to the needy.
- 21 When it snows, she has no fear for her household;
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.
- 22 She makes coverings for her bed;
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.
- 23 Her husband is respected at the city gate,
where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.
- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them,

and supplies the merchants with sashes.
25 She is clothed with strength and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
26 She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
27 She watches over the affairs of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praises her:
29 “Many women do noble things,
but you surpass them all.”
30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
31 Honor her for all that her hands have done,
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

Engage

Have you ever experienced people who had a “just do enough to get by” attitude? How does it make you feel when someone in the service industry treats you that way?

Discuss

1. Read Proverbs 31 above. While it is read, listen for phrases that reflect a spirit of doing things with excellence.
2. Colossians 3:23-24 give us some good advice about work. What does it say?

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

A good question to ask about our work is “Is God happy with that?”

Think back through some of your work this week. Share one thing you think God was happy with and one thing He probably wasn't.

3. Some qualities from the woman described in Proverbs 31 include the following: trustworthiness, consistency, quality work, intentional living, and generosity. Listen to those again and think about which one is the greatest challenge in your life?
4. A good question to ask ourselves is this: “Do those who know you best trust you the most?” That's a question we may not want to answer out loud, but here is a question we may share out loud: “What can we do this week to be more trustworthy to those who know us the best?”
5. Here are some “Ways to Instill Excellence in Your Children”. Review these and discuss areas where we do a good job and areas we need to improve. If you don't have children, discuss ways your parents did good or poorly with you.

- a. Cast a vision for excellence.
- b. Hold them accountable.
- c. Teach them to give their best in every effort and to serve others.
- d. Show them what excellence looks like by modeling it yourself.
- e. Give them resources that support your teaching and your example.
- f. Help them develop a life plan. (Good book: Daniel Harkaby: *Becoming a Coaching Leader*)
- g. Reward them with your blessing.

6. What does it matter that we do things with excellence? (Discuss our witness for Christ.)

Challenge

What can we do this week to be a better example of excellence for God and for those in our lives?

Other Passages Cited

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Titus 2:1

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

Mark 10:45

Matthew 23:11