

# SWEAT EQUITY



Part 3: Slip Slidin' Away  
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**ENTROPY** is the natural tendency  
that everything has to deteriorate.

## Proverbs 24:30-34

- <sup>30</sup> I went past the field of the sluggard,  
past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment;  
<sup>31</sup> thorns had come up everywhere,  
the ground was covered with weeds,  
and the stone wall was in ruins.  
<sup>32</sup> I applied my heart to what I observed  
and learned a lesson from what I saw:  
<sup>33</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to rest –  
<sup>34</sup> and poverty will come on you like a bandit  
and scarcity like an armed man.

## What sins do we see in the condition of the vineyard?

### 1. The sin of denial

He who works his land will have abundant food,  
but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment. – *Proverbs 12:11*

### 2. The sin of sloth

I went past the field of the sluggard... – *Proverbs 24:30a*

### 3. The sin of ignorance

...past the vineyard of a man who lacks judgment... (*verse 30b*)

### 4. The sin of neglect

...thorns had come up everywhere,  
the ground was covered with weeds,  
and the stone wall was in ruins. (*verse 31*)

### 5. The sin of small, seemingly insignificant hesitations

A little sleep, a little slumber  
a little folding of the hands to rest... (*verse 33*)

(Continues on back)

## The Price of Sin in the Vineyard

- Poverty
- Scarcity
- Loss of the opportunity of a lifetime

## Signs of Entropy and Deterioration *(Max DePree)*

- Tendency toward superficiality
- Unresolved conflict in key relationships
- No longer have time for celebration and ritual
- Confusing heroes and celebrities
- Loss of gratitude
- Vague, chronic sense of guilt

## Next Steps

Do you have any unfinished business in your life? Make a plan to deal with just one area and start today!

## On Your Way Home

As you drive home, what can you guess about people from the condition of their yards? Assuming the owner is physically capable, be nice but truthful. What lessons can you learn about wisdom and judgment?

### Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What could people tell about you from the condition of the interior of your car? Come on, you can be honest!
- 2) Is the writer of Proverbs 24 guilty of the sin of judging someone without knowing the whole story? Is his judgment justified?
- 3) If the vineyard is a metaphor for your life, what areas of your vineyard are you concentrating on right now? Why?
- 4) Name a specific area of your life that you acknowledge you have allowed to deteriorate. Why has that area been so hard for you to deal with? Do you have a plan to deal with it now?
- 5) Read Proverbs 12:11 again. What is the difference between chasing fantasies and just dreaming and setting lofty goals?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?