

A GOOD WAY TO GET BIT

TEXT: (Proverbs 26:17, NIV)

¹⁷ Like one who grabs a stray dog by the ears is someone who rushes into a quarrel not their own.

I. MEDDLING—WHAT IT IS

A. It's Not Your Fight

1. "Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.'
Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?'" (Luke 12:13-14, NIV).

B. You Don't Know the Source or the Motive

1. "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions'" (Luke 12:15, NIV).
2. "And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops."
"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"
"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'
"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:16-21, NIV)
3. "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart'" (I Samuel 16:7, NIV).

C. Beware of Your Own Motives

1. "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9, NIV).
2. "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve" (Jeremiah 17:10, NIV).

II. TOO BUSY TO WORK

A. An Idle Mind Is the Devil's Playground

1. "For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate" (II Thessalonians 3:7-9, NIV).
2. "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1, NIV).

B. No Work, No Eat

1. "For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat'" (II Thessalonians 3:10, NIV).
2. "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done" (Proverbs 19:17, NIV).
3. "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" (Romans 12:13, NIV).

C. Idleness and Meddling

1. "We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies" (II Thessalonians 3:11, NIV).
2. "Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat" (II Thessalonians 3:12, NIV).

III. CAREFUL WHAT YOU SUFFER FOR

A. Suffering as an example of Christ

1. "Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you" (I Peter 4:12, NLT).
2. "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure" (I Corinthians 10:13, NLT).

B. Be Very Glad for Trials

1. "Be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world" (I Peter 4:13, NLT).
2. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12, NIV).
3. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NIV).
4. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:2-4, NIV).

C. The Bite of the Dog Is Just That

1. "If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler" (I Peter 4:14-15, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others" (I Thessalonians 4:11-12, NLT).