

## Plenty or Poverty

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty,  
But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

In these devotionals I like to write on what God is teaching me. That is good and well unless the focus is on my weaknesses. But as I was trying to get away from discussing this, I heard in the front of my head a major mentor of mine mention, "I did it, chicken". So here goes.

This morning at 3:30am the Lord woke me up, as He often does and focused my mind on the above verse. I could tell it was to be a battle in which I would lose sooner or later (5am). One of my defining weaknesses is sprinting. In every sport I played I was always the quick and fast player. I didn't and don't like golf, horse shoes, chess or cross-country. I like the 100, 200 yard dashes. Anything over that, take a bike. In soccer I played striker, in basketball point guard, in baseball pitcher and in football ¼ or ½ back. For me the hurt with all this sprinting was developing the hindering habit of hastiness.

Hastiness is bad, regardless. A person can be quick and it is good but hastiness includes a recklessness that will quit the quickness. Last night in order to do a good thing I changed schedules hastily on the kids. In consequence, they had to accept confusion. Ouch. I apologized today. My goal was good but my hastiness was not. The desire of hastiness is often good but the lack of diligent planning spoils it.

For example, King Solomon had a God-given wisdom above all men. He diligently planned and the result of such habits brought plenty to Israel as no other king had. He built a temple so grand that people came from the entire world to see it. He planned and prospered. Daniel, Joseph, Jacob, Joshua, Samuel, and Paul all planned and prospered. King Saul oppositely did not plan but was hasty in sacrificing what he was not allowed. He became poor before God and man.

I hope you do not have this blight for barrenness. Just now I received a call from my son (a chip off a block) telling me he had made a decision too hastily and so could not be with us for family night, tonight. After the reprimand we hung up but I got a brilliant idea, the money he would receive for doing the job ought to be given to the family because it was the family that suffered. I wanted to call immediately and tell him, but I did not as I was in the middle of writing this. Interesting.

Here is some help I got this morning. For an important change or decision, spend 1 week thinking, 2 weeks floating the idea and listening, and 3 weeks to plan and then execute the matter. 6 weeks of planning diligently can make the difference between success or failure.

*Hasty and Hurting or Wait in Wisdom*