

1) Envy Is a Poor Motivation for Success.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind. (NKJ)

James 1:14–15 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (NKJ)

2) Laziness Is Not the Answer.

Ecclesiastes 4:5 The fool folds his hands And consumes his own flesh. (NKJ)

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. (NKJ)

3) Contentment Is Better Than Endless Striving.

Ecclesiastes 4:6 Better a handful *with* quietness Than both hands full, *together with* toil and grasping for the wind. (NKJ)

1 Timothy 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. (NKJ)

4) The Tragedy of Living Only for Yourself.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun: ⁸ There is one alone, without ^[a]companion: He has neither son nor brother. Yet *there is* no end to all his labors, Nor is his eye satisfied with riches. *But he never asks*, “For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?” This also *is* vanity and a ^[b]grave misfortune. (NKJ)

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (NKJ)

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (NKJ)

Colossians 3:23–24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for^[a] you serve the Lord Christ. (NKJ)