



# PART 6: SLOTH

CARE & MISSIONS PASTOR DAN SLAGLE  
NEHEMIAH 6:15-16

This week, we are focusing on the Deadly Sin of sloth. Most of us equate sloth with laziness. However, while laziness is one element and symptom of sloth, the root goes much deeper.

1. When you hear the word “sloth”, what immediately comes to your mind?
  
2. Dan defined sloth as “apathy + cynicism + laziness.” Dorothy Sayers said of sloth that, “It is the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, loves nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and remains alive only because there is nothing it would die for.” What did these definitions of sloth add to your understanding?
  
3. Dan taught that the first step of sloth is disconnection from God.
  - a. What are initial warning signs that someone may be beginning to disconnect from God?
  
  - b. Do you see any of those signs in your own life? If so, what can you do to course correct?
  
4. **Read Mark 10:45.** In contrast to the sloth that we are all prone to from time to time, there is nothing apathetical, cynical, or lazy about God. And the key example to support this is Jesus. When we understand and embrace this truth, what should it mean for us?
  
5. Have a volunteer in the group summarize the story of Nehemiah based on the selected Scriptures in Dan’s sermon. How did Nehemiah’s story inspire, encourage, convict, or challenge you?

**Challenge:** Complete the “Burden + Passion + Vision = Mission” Exercise

### **Burden**

As you look at the brokenness of this fallen world, what breaks your heart and lingers with you? What is a need you see in the world that you feel compelled to do something about? (e.g. poverty, human trafficking, broken families, children in foster care, biblical illiteracy, addiction, spiritual blindness)

### **Passion**

What gives you life and joy and rarely makes you tired?

(Note: it doesn't have to be something overtly “spiritual”. E.g. baking, music, working out, spiritual conversations, studying and teaching the Bible, organizing, good conversations over coffee)

### **Vision**

What do you want to see happen in response to those specific cases of brokenness? Imagine what it would look like if all of the wrongs were made right. What do you see? (e.g. every person in Spring with a roof over their head, clothes on their back, and food on the table; woman pulled from trafficking a starting a new life of freedom, every child in Harris county to have a home, an unexplainable spiritual revival in Houston)

### **Mission**

When these three line up, you are closing in on your mission. What common threads run through your answers to the questions under Burden, Passion, and Vision?

Write a draft of your personal kingdom-minded mission statement?

(Write it in a way that inspires you, and aim to make it as clear, concise, and memorable as possible. But also keep in mind that this is a draft and will be a work in progress!)

**Prayer:** Partner up and share your personal kingdom-minded mission statement (see Challenge). Then share a first step that you can take towards that mission. Share any hesitations or fears you are experiencing. And then pray for each other (e.g. courage to take that step, for God to be at work through your partners efforts, against the lies they are believing underneath their fears and hesitations).

## STUDY DEEPER

Watch, listen to, or read “Boiling for Christ”.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/boiling-for-christ>