

Proverbs 12:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

Analysis

He that tills his land shall be satisfied with bread, but he that follows vain persons is void of understanding. Farming one's land brings satisfaction through honest labor. Following worthless people (reqim - empty persons) demonstrates lack of sense. The contrast is between productive labor and wasted time pursuing or imitating foolish persons. Work brings satisfaction; idleness pursuing fools brings want.

Historical Context

Agricultural society made the principle self-evident - farmers who worked their land ate; those who neglected farming to pursue foolish company went hungry.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Are you cultivating your 'field' through diligent labor or pursuing vain persons?
2. What 'vain persons' are you following who are wasting your time and energy?

Interlinear Text

עָבָד	אֲלֹמָתוֹ	יִשְׁבַּע	לְקַם	וּמְרַדֵּף
He that tilleth	his land	shall be satisfied	with bread	but he that followeth
H5647	H127	H7646	H3899	H7291
ימַם	בְּסָר	לִבָּם		
vain	persons is void	of understanding		
H7386	H2638	H3820		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:19 (Parallel theme): He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

Proverbs 14:23 (Parallel theme): In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

Psalms 128:2 (Parallel theme): For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

Ephesians 4:28 (Parallel theme): Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Proverbs 9:6 (Parallel theme): Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

2 Thessalonians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

Proverbs 7:7 (Parallel theme): And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

Proverbs 14:4 (Parallel theme): Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

Genesis 3:19 (Parallel theme): In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

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