

# Proverbs 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

## Analysis

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Diligent hands gain authority through demonstrated competence and faithfulness. The slothful serve others, lacking self-governance. This principle applies spiritually—those faithful in little are given much (Luke 16:10), while negligent servants are disciplined.

## Historical Context

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Ancient societies were stratified with clear master-servant distinctions. Hard work provided social mobility, while laziness guaranteed perpetual servitude.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How has faithful diligence in small matters prepared you for greater responsibility?
2. Where does slothfulness prevent you from exercising the leadership God intends?

## Interlinear Text

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יָד	קָרוֹץ יָד	תִּמְשָׁל וְלֹ	וְרִמְיָה	תְּהִי הִ
The hand	of the diligent	shall bear rule	but the slothful	H1961
H3027	H2742	H4910	H7423	
לְמַסֵּ:				
shall be under tribute				
H4522				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 12:27** (Parallel theme): The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

**Proverbs 10:4** (Parallel theme): He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

**Proverbs 17:2** (Parallel theme): A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.

**Proverbs 22:29** (Parallel theme): Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

**Proverbs 19:15** (Parallel theme): Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

**Proverbs 22:13** (Parallel theme): The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

**Proverbs 13:4** (Parallel theme): The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

**Genesis 49:15** (Parallel theme): And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.

**1 Kings 11:28** (Parallel theme): And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

