

## I Would Love To, But...

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by John Gipson

***“The lazy man says, ‘There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’” (Proverbs 22:13).***

The slothful man is the world’s best excuse-maker. Give him a minute and he will manufacture sixty reasons to evade his duty. Whatever the request, he is apt to reply, “I would love to, but . . . *‘there is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!’*”

The truth of the matter is that there isn’t a lion within forty miles. But laziness is a great lion maker. So with a little imagination he conjures one up. It is the most terrible, shaggy, ferocious lion you have ever seen! Surely, no reasonable person could be expected to venture outside with such a man-eater about! Immediately he marshals an army of excuses:

- ✓ He would plow . . .  
**But** it’s too cold!
- ✓ He would worship on Sunday...  
**But** he must have his day of rest.
- ✓ He would contribute to the church . . .  
**But** a man must save for a rainy day.
- ✓ He would perform many good works . . .  
**But** he just can’t find the time.

It’s plain to see — there is no **LION** in the street; just a **LIE** in the way. But the excuse enables him to continue *“reveling in the fields of strenuous idleness.”*

By hanging out a **“Do Not Disturb”** sign, a man can keep his integrity intact and salve his conscience. Having a lion about is **SO** convenient.

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