

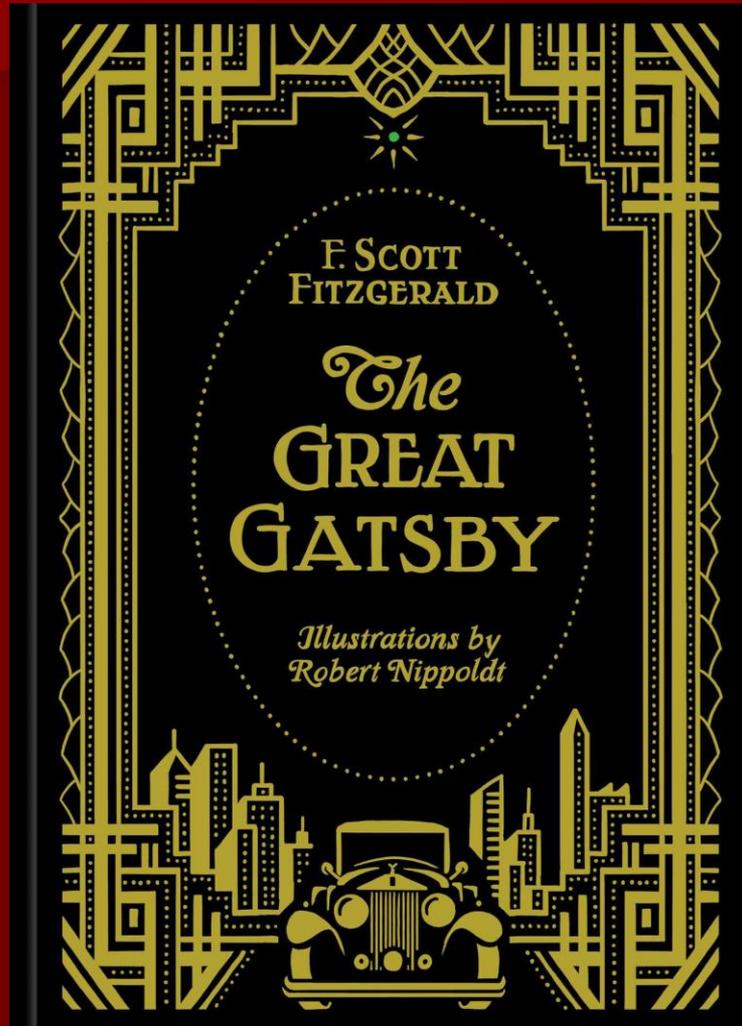
Message



**Cautious
Christians**

Neal Parker

The Great Gatsby



Careless People

“They were careless people, Tom and Daisy — they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness or whatever it was that kept them together, and let other people clean up the mess they had made.”



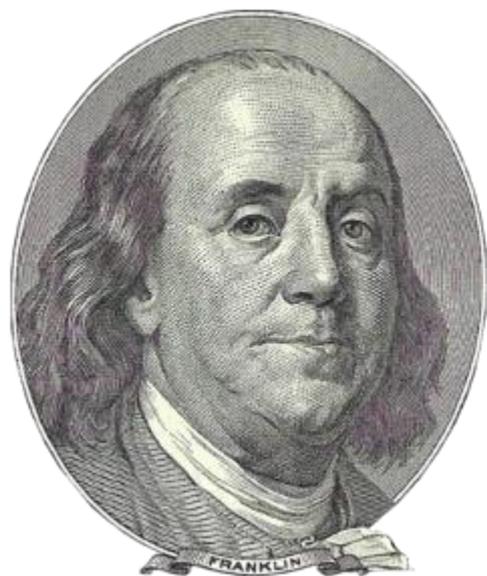
The Danger of Carelessness

- **Carelessness, in a biblical context, refers to a lack of attention, diligence, or concern in spiritual, moral, or practical matters.**
- **The Scriptures provide numerous warnings against such an attitude, emphasizing the potential consequences of neglect and the importance of vigilance in the life of a believer.**

Caution and Carelessness

- To be careless in any area of life is to gamble with disaster. But in order to not be careless someone has to be cautious.
 - Proverbs 14:15-16
 - Proverbs 22:3





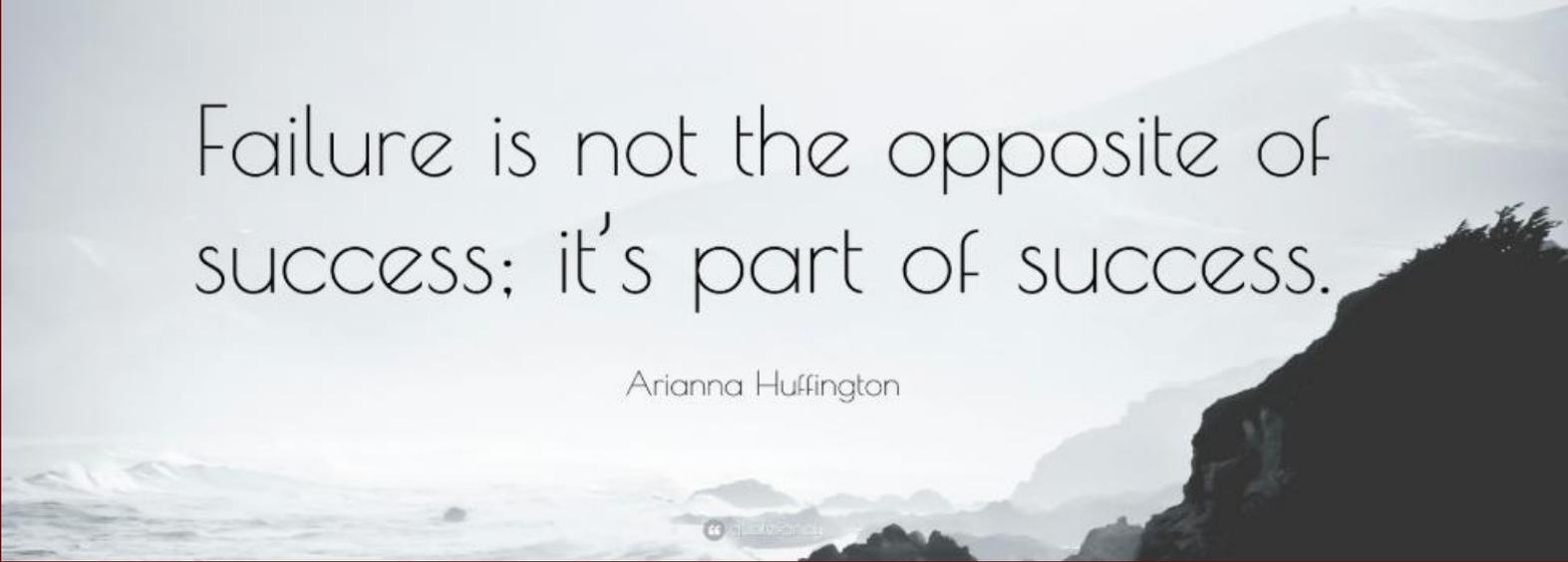
"An ounce of prevention
is worth a pound of cure."
Benjamin Franklin

Four Aspects of Caution

- **Be careful with preferences and choices**
- **Careful people gather enough information to make the best decisions they can and act.**
- **Be careful not to take unnecessary chances or put ourselves or others in unnecessarily dangerous or bad situations.**
- **Being careful is a management tool we use to control our attitude and words, as in how we come across to others.**

Examples of Cautious Christians

- **Cautiousness is not the opposite fo boldness**
 - **Matthew 10:16**
 - **Romans 16:19**



Failure is not the opposite of
success; it's part of success.

Arianna Huffington

Examples of Cautious Christians

- **Cautiousness is being discerning**
 - **Proverbs 3:5-14; 16:25; 19:2**
 - **Ecclesiastes 5:2**
 - **Isaiah 55:8-9**



Positive Examples of Cautious Christians

- If we permit unrestrained passions to direct us, we may go in a wrong direction
 - Daniel 1:8-17
 - Luke 12:37-40
 - John 7:1;11:54



Negative Examples of Cautious Christians

- If we permit unrestrained passions to direct us, we may go in a wrong direction
 - Daniel 4:28-33
 - Matthew 18:21-35

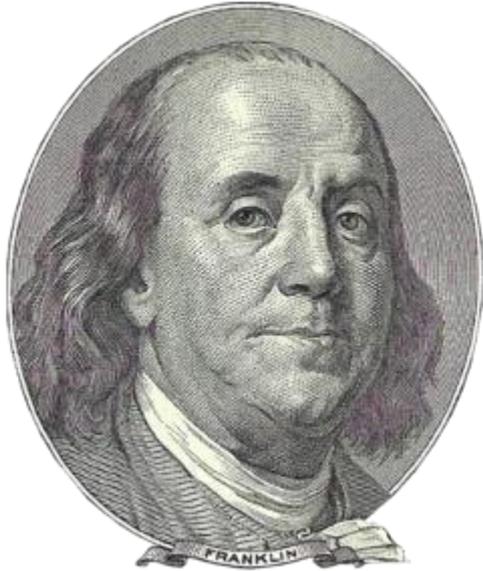


Application: Consider the Fruit of Cautiousness

■ Be cautious!

- As we apply the concepts of a Cautious Christian there is thoughtful balance with being a Courageous Christian:**
 - How do I exhibit Cautiousness in my daily life?**
 - What can I do to develop a better willingness to be careful with decisions and opportunities?**
 - What blocks Cautiousness from working, and being exhibited in me?**
 - How can I make Cautiousness function better, stronger, and faster, even in times of uncertainty and stress?**

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