243 Neglect (*Necgligencia*)

It is read in Exod. 9[:21] in that plague which was of a heavy oppression whoever “that regarded not the word of the Lord, left his servants and his cattle in the fields.” All things perished, so whoever negligently guards his household, Eccle. 7[:19]: “He that fears God, neglects nothing. And [1] Tim. 4[:14]: “Neglect not the grace that is in you.” How perilous is this vice is evident from that that it is perilous for man to sleep in the middle of the enemy actually fighting. Chrysostom, *Homilia* 56,[[1]](#endnote-1) naturally we are stronger than the devil, but if in fighting we are neglectful, he is stronger although he is weak. For nothing makes the devil strong except our neglect.

Again, Gregory in the *Pastorale*,[[2]](#endnote-2) being neglectful is like to a man in ermine furs in battle. What however happens to those being neglectful, see Matt. 22[:4-8]: where the householder said, “All things are ready: come to the marriage. But they neglected,” and it follows, “The king was angry, destroyed those murderers … they that were invited were not worthy.” Wherefore Boethius, *De disciplina scholarium,* book three,[[3]](#endnote-3) just as in one work also the mother is constancy, so in all disciplines the stepmother is neglect. And Gregory,[[4]](#endnote-4) you have avoided the great rocks; see lest you slip on the sand. Eccli. 19[:1]: How one neglects little things, “he shall fall by little and little.” And Matt. 5[:19]: “He therefore that shall break one of these least commandments.”

1. (Pseudo-)Chrysostom, *Opus imperfectum in Mattheum,* homilia 29 cap. 12:29 (PG 56:785): Nam si contendimus contra eum, manifestum est, quia fortiores illo sumus: si autem negligimus, ille fortiori invenitur. Nam quamvis sit infirmus, tamen fortiori est homine negligenti. Fortem enim diabolum nostra negligentia facit, non illius potentia. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Gregory, *Regulae Pastoralis* 3.29 (PL 77:108): Dina quippe ut mulieres videat extraneae regionis, **[Col.0108C]**egreditur, quando unaquaeque mens sua studia negligens, actiones alienas curans, extra habitum atque extra ordinem proprium vagatur.

Cf. Con Bonifacio d’Orvieto ed Enrico Fessa “Viri nobiles et ermis exercitati.” SEPULVEDA

<http://condottieridiventura.it/piero-farnese/> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Boethius, *De disciplina scholarium* 6 (PL 64:1235): Non negligens: quoniam sicut in uno quoque opere mater invenitur constantia, ita universae doctrinae et disciplinae noverca est negligentia. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Gregory, cf. Bernard, *Eugenii Papae Epistola ad Capitulum Cisterciense, Epistolae* 273.2 (PL 182:477): Vitasti grandia; vide ne obruaris arena. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)