

THE ANTS

PROVERBS 30:25; 6:6

Text: Prov 30:25

Proverbs 30:25

²⁵The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

Introduction:

When you look at the ant you find out that they are an amazing creature and there is much wisdom that can be gained from watching them. There are over 10,000 different species of ants. They are able to lift 20 times their own body weight. That means that if I had their strength I could lift approx. 4000 lbs. Ants have been found to build structures 500 times their own height. The brain of one ant has 250,000 cells whereas the human brain has 10,000 Million brain cells. However they probably use more of their cells than we do.

The life expectancy of an ant is 45-60 days. Yet these tiny creatures accomplish much in their short life-span.

Notice:

1. ANTS TEACH US A LESSON ABOUT PERFORMANCE

A. To perform with efficiency there must be a plan.

At first glance at an anthill, you see a lot of activity. Ants running around everywhere.....but they have a plan. I believe that there are a lot of believers who are active and churches that are filled with programs.....but they have no plan.

They have little if any idea as to what their function is, and which way they are going. As a church we must have a vision, we must be as wise as ants. We must make all that we do count for the kingdom.

B. To perform with efficiency there must be participation.

Take a look at an anthill, and you won't see many if any ants just sitting around or standing around doing nothing. Everyone one of those ants have a job, and no one has to tell them what it is.....and no one has to push them to do it!

Ants work together in harmony. You know how they're able to do it! Each ant is responsible! And they're so busy doing what their supposed to do that they don't have time to fight among themselves!

Ecclesiastes 9:10

¹⁰ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Colossians 3:17

¹⁷ And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:23

²³ And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

C. To perform with efficiency there must be peace.

One of the reasons that ants can get so much accomplished despite their size and in such a small amount of time is because of harmony.

Psalm 133:1

¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Ephesians 4:3

³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2. ANTS TEACH US A LESSON ABOUT PARTNERSHIP

A self-proclaimed evolutionist once said:

“On their own, each ant’s behavior is relatively useless, but when swarms of ants come together, the patterns optimize naturally and allow them to accomplish tasks that should be far beyond their reach. To the outside observer, their self-organizing efforts seem to be directed by some larger force or collective intelligence. There is a society that is truly more than the sum of its parts.”

I noticed an interesting phrase in this statement: “larger force.”

We call that larger force God. He created the ant, and they fulfill His purpose!

A. There is solidarity

The ant colony is a community. They build these colonies sometimes to a depth of 35 feet below the ground....it is like a city for ants. There is complex building with rooms for various activities. They all live together in this colony. You very seldom see an ant by itself. They live together as a family and work together as a team to get done what needs to be done.

We as believers are co-laborers with the Lord. We have to work together, and pull together or we'll pull apart!

B. There is sharing

They share their food, their facilities, and even look after and take care of each other's young

Illustration:

Once upon a time there were a pig and a cow living together on a farm. The cow was popular while the pig was not. This puzzled the pig. "People speak warmly of your gentle nature and your sorrowful eyes," the pig said to the cow. They think you're generous because each day you give them milk and cream."

"But what about me?

I'm going to give them everything I have. I'll give bacon and ham. I'll provide bristles for brushes. They'll even pickle my feet! Yet not one likes me.

"Why is that?"

The cow replied, "Perhaps it is because I give while I'm still living."

C. There is support

3. ANTS TEACH US A LESSON ABOUT PREPAREDNESS

Ants don't know the meaning of procrastination! They don't wait till the weather turns cold before they begin preparing. They gather food while it is still warm and take it into their colony! Many of those who work hard all day will never eat of the food they are preparing because they will die before cold weather.....but they want to make certain that their families are taking care of.

Proverbs 6:6

⁶Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

Proverbs 30:25

²⁵The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

A. They prepare for their family

B. They prepare for their future

They are looking to the future each day. They are preparing for what lies ahead.

Are you ready for that day when you will go out into eternity and stand before God?

Is there something God has told you to do or is leading you to do....and yet you've put it off?

4. THE ANTS TEACH US A LESSON ABOUT PERSEVERANCE

Ants have an amazing ability to survive all kinds of weather. They adapt well no matter the circumstances, and are very resilient. You ever notice how quickly they recover when you destroy one of their colonies. They immediately start to repair the damage done. Ants aren't quitters. They persevere.

They persevere through:

A. Danger

Though they're so that at times we don't even notice them.... They pack a powerful punch if you mess with them.

B. Disturbances & Disasters

You can run over a anthill with a lawn mower.....kick it in.....wash it away with a water hose.....and they'll build it back!

Ants aren't quitters!

Close:

May we consider the ways of the ant.

How are we performing in life?

How are we performing on the job?

How are we doing with our family?

How are we performing the Lord?

Are you doing your best?