

THE SIN OF LAZINESS

PROVERBS 6:6-11

Text: Proverbs 6:6

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

Introduction:

This text is just one of the Bible's many admonitions against laziness. This admonition is a comparison.

A comparison of the ant and the sluggard.

Notice:

1. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SLUGGARD

A. In His Relationship to Self

- Loves Sleep

Proverbs 26:14

¹⁴As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed.

Proverbs 24:32-34

³²Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction. ³³*Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little

folding of the hands to sleep: ³⁴ So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

- Makes Excuses for His Failure to Work
 - To Cold

Proverbs 20:4

⁴ The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

- To Dangerous

Proverbs 22:13

¹³ The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

- To Windy or Cloudy

Ecclesiastes 11:4

⁴ He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

- Fail to Complete a Task

Proverbs 12:27

²⁷ The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting; but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious.

- Constantly Frustrated

Proverbs 21:25-26

²⁵ The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to

labour. ²⁶ He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

B. In His Relationship to Others

- Talks About What He Will Do

Proverbs 14:23

²³ In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips *tendeth* only to penury.

Proverbs 26:16

¹⁶ The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

2. THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING A SLUGGARD

A. Physical and Material Consequences

- Causes Poverty

Proverbs 12:11

¹¹ He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain *persons is* void of understanding.

Proverbs 24:30-34

³⁰ I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; ³¹ And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. ³² Then I saw, *and* considered it well: I looked upon *it, and* received instruction. ³³ *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ³⁴ So

shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

- Loss of Independence

Proverbs 12:24

²⁴The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

- Difficulties With Employer

Proverbs 10:26

²⁶As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.

B. Spiritual Consequences

- Slothfulness Prevents Others From Hearing the Gospel

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always, even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

3. THE COMMENDATION OF THE ANT

A. The Ants Performance

- To perform with efficiency there must be a plan.

At first glance at a anthill, and you just see a lot of activity. Ants running around everywhere.....but they have a plan.

- To perform with efficiency there must be participation

Take a look at a anthill, and you want 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 one is responsible! And they are so busy doing what they are supposed to be doing that they don't have time to fight among themselves!

B. The Ants Partnership

A quote from a evolutionist:

“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.”

Did you notice the phrase “Larger force” that larger force is God. He created the ant, and they fulfill their purpose!

- 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 are complex buildings 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.

- 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."

- There is support

C. The Ants Preparedness

Ants don't know the meaning of procrastination! They don't wait till the weather turns cold before they are preparing. They gather food while it is still warm and take it into their colony!

Proverbs 6:8

⁸ Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

Proverbs 30:25

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

D. The Ants 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.

Close:

The text is not suggesting that all poor people are lazy nor that leisure is wrong. But if we come to our work looking for an easy way out, God says, "Go to the ant."

If laziness turns us from our responsibilities, poverty may soon bar us from the legitimate rest we should enjoy. Laziness is a thief. It robs you of time, potential, personal progress.

The person who thinks the world owes him a living may simply be too lazy to work for it.

On the other hand, hard work and diligence can save a person from the ravages of laziness.

Someone has said, "Aspiration points us to the proper goal but it perspiration that gets us there."