

Live Life Like an Ant

Proverbs 6:6-11 Go to the ant, you **sluggard!** Consider her ways and be wise, 7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, 8 Provides her supplies in the summer, [And] gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you slumber, O **sluggard?** When will you rise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep-- 11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

I would like to thank David and for this invite again to give the Friday night devotional at ViZion church.

Tonight's devotional I want to share about Ants, yes you heard right ANTS! They are amazing creatures, and we can learn a few things about them that will encourage us.

The book of Proverbs is a book written by King Solomon during his reign of 971-931 B.C. He also wrote Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

We read in 1 Kings 4:29-34 it tells us about Solomon through his immense wisdom that he spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

Have any of you been to the Five Sisters Zoo in West Calder, I love it there, I love seeing the hungry Arctic Wolves, the cuddly woodland bears but I am more fascinated in the Ants.

In the Lost Kingdom, reptile house section of the zoo, they have a special rope trail just for the ants that goes throughout the enclosure.

There are thousands of Cutter ants, traveling to a branch of leaves and they cut them and bring cut leaves, which weigh about a ton to them, back to the enclosure colony.

This is where other ants will mulch them together into a pulp which are fed to a fungus farm, where the fungus makes the leaves more digestible for the ants to feed on.

I want to share how we can become **Wise, Diligent, Prepared and Alert** like an ant

1. Become Wise like an ant.

The Holy Spirit through King Solomon illustrates to this person in **verse 6** and to us also through these ants. The sluggard is a lazy person who has made their lives a slothful habitual way.

But Solomon is saying, look at the way the ants live! You need to become wise and be prudent like them and get out of the rut of life and be active.

We can get some help here in **1 Corinthians 2** where from **verse 6** onward to the end of the chapter is about Spiritual Wisdom, you will probably know that with Pastor David preaching on it and Charlie mentioning this chapter a couple of weeks ago.

But in **verses 11-14** this is where Paul is teaching that a unregenerated person knows the things of their own spirit but not of God's, they are spiritually blind and just have a worldly wisdom on things.

But when a person is born again, they receive the Holy Spirit that indwells in them and then teaches true spiritual wisdom from God, which we read in **verse 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual**. Comparing spiritual things with spiritual here is comparing scripture with scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us through reading and studying the scripture and hearing the Word of God preached.

2. Become Diligent like an ant.

In **verse 7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler**, have you ever noticed ants scurrying around they seem to have a purpose, just like at the Five Sisters Zoo the ants on the rope are always on the move going backwards on forwards from the colony.

They always seem to find a food source! I can imagine your pastor's wife Jayne has found a few ants attempting to raid her home baking, as Pastor David sits on the back doorstep feeding a trail of ants with the crumbs of a jammy scone.

They must somehow communicate, with one ant taking a crumb of scone, they seem to speak or shout to other ants. Just like lady ant Anthea shouting to Anthony, he's at the back door dropping crumbs, tell the gang to come and get some food for the colony.

But truthly the way they communicate is by a chemical substance pheromone (f-er-om-one) through the antennas which is a nose with having good smell they have glands that give off different smells and through touch as they communicate.

Also, if you block a route for them, they always seem to find another way, nothing stops them getting food, we can learn from their diligence. Just like when I hunt for crisps that my wife has hidden.

But these ants have a queen, she is so important to the colony and that she's the only one that can lay eggs to make more ants, but it is interesting that the queen doesn't give orders to the ants to do different chores. The ant instinctively knows that they need to work for the colony.

We can find the word diligently in **2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth**. The word **study** here in the Greek defines as: - "to make effort, be prompt or earnest: —do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study."

It must be our instinct that we know God's Word and make it a habit of reading and studying daily,

I find it encouraging watching online at ViZion weekly Bible study that your Pastor David or whoever is leading the study, sits down and discusses after the study. But more importantly answers questions if you don't understand a verse or a term in a study.

Through this you will grow! You will hunger to be in God's Word.

3. Become Prepared like an ant.

Verse 8 says **Provides her supplies in the summer, [And] gathers her food in the harvest.** The ant always takes time to prepare, Solomons again mentions the ant again in **Proverbs 30:25** **The ants [are] a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;** They are preparing for the future they seem to know that there will be a time they won't be able to gather food for the colony, this could be bad weather and when it rains it is disastrous for the life of the ant if they are caught out.

The Lord Jesus helps us in this when He answered the **when** and **what** questions from the disciples on the Mount of Olives.

Jesus is saying we need to be prepared like the virgins as He shared in His parable in **Matthew 25:1-13.**

Jesus speaks about the 10 virgins who brought with them lamps to meet the bridegroom (This is Jesus).

5 of the virgins were foolish and 5 of the virgins were wise, the 5 that were foolish didn't take enough oil fuel and the other 5 were wise enough to take extra fuel.

What happened is that the bridegroom was delayed, and the 10 virgins fell asleep.

At midnight they were startled and woke up to a cry, saying that the bridegroom was coming.

As they are trimming the wick of the lamp to draw the oil up for burning, the foolish virgins looked at the bottom of the lamp pot to find that they didn't have enough fuel. (If you ever go wild camping always take an extra fuel canister).

The foolish asked the wise virgins to borrow some of their fuel but there wasn't enough for all to go around, so the 5 foolish virgins went off to find a corner shop. While they were away the bridegroom came, and the 5 wise virgins went in with the groom to the marriage feast and the door was shut.

In verses 11-12 are some of the worst words to hear, as it says: -

Matthew 25:11-12 **Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.**

We are responsible to be prepared ready for the return of Jesus, are you? **BE READY!**

4. Become Alert like an ant.

Solomon questions the person here in **Verse 9** How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? **10** A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep—And a warning from Solomon **11** So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Not being alert brings consequences where you could be attacked and lose everything. Prowler is like a traveller or a drifter, you will have met them during your life, they can be the nicest person towards you but will steal from you with a blink of an eye and are not welcome as an armed man.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Just like the ants their main predator is the Armadillo and ours as Christians is the devil. When we feel vulnerable, in that your feel life is helpless through disappointments in life, don't leave these feelings fester.

As James says: -

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Submit yourselves therefore to God, through prayer. Seek support from here at your church, you have wonderful Christians here at Vizion who will sit with you and listen and pray with you.