Go To The Ant

Ken Chapman · Proverbs 6:6–11

INTRODUCTION

- Go to the ant, you sluggard. Consider her ways and be wise.
- While I admit that probably the immediate point of this proverb was to stir those who were physically lazy into physical work and activity. I think we can see a spiritual application.

1 They Work Together as a Team

1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 4:16

- The first thing he says of the ant is that they work together as a team.
- They are unified in their efforts. They're all working toward one common goal.
- Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.
- That does not mean that we're all doing the same task, but it does mean that every task that we do, everything that we supply is for the same purpose and in the same direction.
- Christians in the local church must constantly remind themselves that we're on the same team.
- God put us together as a community of believers because he was keenly aware that we could not accomplish this alone.

2 They Work Efficiently, Without Captain or Overseer

Philippians 2:12–13; James 2:17–18

- They all have a job to do, and they do that job.
- Without captain or overseer or ruler, they just do it. They don't have to be told what to do.
- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to do for his own good pleasure.
- Paul says, even when I'm not there, do it. Be about the work.
- Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
- James says that my faith will be evidenced by my activity, and if my activity is minimal, then maybe my faith is minimal.

3 They Work for the Future

- He also said of the ants that they work for the future.
- Some of it's eaten right now, but some of they're putting down there in that cellar. And they're saving that for the winter.
- We're not preparing for winter. We're not even preparing for our retirement. We're preparing for eternity.
- Make preparations, not just for the here and now, but make preparations for eternity.

4 Some Characteristics of a Sluggard

Proverbs 6:9–11; Proverbs 22:13; Hebrews 13:17

- How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?
- A sluggard sleeps too much. Always laying around sleeping.
- The lazy man says, there's a lion outside. I shall be slain in the streets.
- Isn't this true of the lazy, both physically and spiritually, that we procrastinate.
- There's work that you know needs to be done. Do it. Not tomorrow, not the next day. Today is the day of activity.
- Let's soften it a little bit and say, the spiritually lazy discourage one another.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **What about you? Would you be a worker for the cause of Christ? Would you begin this morning?**

MY NOTES