

Go To the Ant

Are you going to be a lazy sluggard?

Crossroad – August 1, 2010

Proverbs 6:6 (NIV)

*Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!*

1) Go to the Ant

- Proverbs 6:6 (NIV)
*Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!*
 - Go ... look at ant ... consider it ... be wise
 - Why? God has constructed nature to reveal himself
- Romans 1:19-20 (NIV)
¹⁸*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,* ¹⁹*since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*
²⁰*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.*
 - Creation reveals God ... we need to see God in creation
- Proverbs 30:24-28 (NIV)
*"Four things on earth are small,
yet they are extremely wise:
Ants are creatures of little strength,
yet they store up their food in the summer;
coney are creatures of little power,
yet they make their home in the crags;
locusts have no king,
yet they advance together in ranks;
a lizard can be caught with the hand,
yet it is found in kings' palaces.*

- Here we see Prov. Looking at animals for wisdom
- **APPLY:** do you see God, and wisdom for life, in the creation around you?
- **THIS WEEK:** look for wisdom around you
- **NEXT WEEK:** we will “go to the ant” here in the park

2) How Long Will You Lie there, You Sluggard?

- Proverbs 6:6-11 (NIV)
*Go to the ant, you sluggard;
consider its ways and be wise!
It has no commander,
no overseer or ruler,
yet it stores its provisions in summer
and gathers its food at harvest.
How long will you lie there, you sluggard?
When will you get up from your sleep?
A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest-
and poverty will come on you like a bandit
and scarcity like an armed man.*
 - Look at how the ant works ... laying up provision
 - Lesson for us ... Get Out of Bed, Get off the Couch!
 - If not, poverty with come!
- Proverbs 24:30-34 (NIV)
*I went past the field of the sluggard,
past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment;
thorns had come up everywhere,
the ground was covered with weeds,
and the stone wall was in ruins.
I applied my heart to what I observed
and learned a lesson from what I saw:
A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to rest-
and poverty will come on you like a bandit
and scarcity like an armed man.*
 - Saw overgrown field ... apply to heart ... work hard

- **Proverbs 20:4** (NIV)
*A sluggard does not plow in season;
so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.*
- **Proverbs 19:15** (NIV)
*Laziness brings on deep sleep,
and the shiftless man goes hungry.*
- **Proverbs 13:4** (NIV)
*The sluggard craves and gets nothing,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.*
 - Note he does have cravings ... but they are unfulfilled
 - Diligent does have his desires satisfied
- **Proverbs 21:25-26** (NIV)
*The sluggard's craving will be the death of him,
because his hands refuse to work.
All day long he craves for more,
but the righteous give without sparing.*
 - Sluggard wants things given to him ... righteous gives
- **Proverbs 26:13-16** (NIV)
*The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road,
a fierce lion roaming the streets!"
As a door turns on its hinges,
so a sluggard turns on his bed.
The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;
he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.
The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
than seven men who answer discreetly.*
 - Sluggard scared, lazy, not even eat ... yet thinks he's wise!
- **Proverbs 10:26** (NIV)
*As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,
so is a sluggard to those who send him.*
 - Annoying to others because not do what sent to do
 - **APPLY:** Are you a 'sluggard' or hard-worker?

- **Ecclesiastes 10:18** (NIV)
*If a man is lazy, the rafters sag;
if his hands are idle, the house leaks.*
 - Lazy neglect things around the house
 - **APPLY:** are you lazy outside of work?
 - Challenge for me, many singles – when home from 'work' do I just sit around, or do I care for house
 - Or apartment ... dishes, clean, productive evening
 - What do as single will also do if married / family

3) Spiritual Laziness

- **II Corinthians 9:6** (NIV) (*context: giving generously*)

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
 - With your money, time, talents are you sowing sparingly or generously?
- **Hebrews 6:10-12** (NIV)

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.
 - God sees and remembers are work
 - Be diligent to the end (*context: growing to maturity, not walking away from the Lord*)
 - Do not be lazy ... instead have faith and patience
 - note: faith & patience not same as lazy ... one works while trusting God for harvest, other presumes upon God it feed with no work

- Look at **Galatians 6:7-10** (Sowing to sin or Spirit)

⁷Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- What are you sowing? Planting to sin or spirit?
- Do not get weary ... keep doing good ... helping others

- Look at **Matthew 25** (3 Parables on faithfulness / laziness)

- **Ten Virgins**

- 5 careful to keep oil in lamp, 5 lamp empty
- Bridegroom come at midnight, 5 not ready

- **Talents**

- Each servant given different number of talents ... but each expected to use them
- First 2 did, and given more
- 3rd did not use (did not lose, just not use) – v. 24

²⁴"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- His talent taken – he is cast out
- Talent given to the one who most faithful

- **Sheep and Goats**

- 2 people in last day:
- those care for Christ / people – eternal life
- those not care – cast out, eternal death

Conclusion:

- Look to the ant ... learn from the world around you
- Store up provision ... work hard, plant for the harvest
- Don't be idle ... be productive at home, not lazy
- Do not sow to sin ... but to righteousness
- Labor for God's Kingdom ... for God will reward!
- In the end, the results of our laziness can have eternal consequences. So will the results of diligence and hard work for God and His Kingdom.