

An Ant's Life

2008 Mark Beaird

Text: Proverbs 6:6-11

“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.”

Fable: The Ant and the Grasshopper

In a field one summer's day a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to its heart's content. An Ant passed by, bearing along with great toil an ear of corn he was taking to the nest.

"Why not come and chat with me," said the Grasshopper, "instead of toiling and moiling in that way?"

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," said the Ant, "and recommend you to do the same."

"Why bother about winter?" said the Grasshopper; we have got plenty of food at present." But the Ant went on its way and continued its toil. When the winter came the Grasshopper had no food and found itself dying of hunger, while it saw the ants distributing every day corn and grain from the stores they had collected in the summer. Then the Grasshopper knew:

It is best to prepare for the days of necessity.

I. WE CAN LEARN FROM THE ANT'S ATTITUDE.

A. The ant is motivated by it's need.

B. The ant sees the future and takes the initiative.

II. WE CAN LEARN FROM THE ANT'S AUDACITY.

A. The ant realizes that his ability to survive and thrive is at stake.

B. The ant's size and situation does not diminish his boldness, courage.

Conclusion

The remainder of the text is startling.

v. 9 “How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

¹⁰ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-¹¹ and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.” NIV

The implication is clear. Where there is no motivation, no preparation, and no courage, there is no hope!