

The Sluggard in Us

Go to the ant, O sluggard;
 consider her ways, and be wise.
⁷Without having any chief,
 officer, or ruler,
⁸she prepares her bread in summer
 and gathers her food in harvest.
⁹How long will you lie there, O sluggard?
 When will you arise from your sleep?
¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber,
 a little folding of the hands to rest,
¹¹and poverty will come upon you like a robber,
 and want like an armed man. – Proverbs 6:6-11

God’s Design for His Children and His Church is to Be Like an Anthill!

I. Learning from the Humblest of Creatures

“Think of the way syrup oozes out of a bottle when it is cold. That is the sluggard- sluggish and slow and hesitant when he should be decisive, active, forthright. His life motto is, “Don’t rush me.”¹

“As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed.” – Proverbs 26:14.

II. Opportunity...Seized or Wasted? The Sluggard or the Ant; Which Will You Be?

A. The Sluggard

1. The Sluggard is Indecisive.

“How long will you lie there? When will you arise from your sleep?” – Proverbs 6:9

2. The Sluggard May Start but Rarely Finishes.

“The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth.” – Proverbs 26:15

¹ Ray Ortlund, Jr.

“The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.” – Proverbs 20:4

3. The Sluggard Will Not Face Reality.

“The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!” – Proverbs 22:13

“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber and want like an armed man.” – Proverbs 6:10-11

B. The Ant

1. The Ant has *Inner* Motivation.

“Without having any chief, officer, or ruler...” – Proverbs 6:7

2. The Ant Works Hard.

“She prepares her bread in summer...” – Proverbs 6:8

3. The Ant Prepares for the Future.

“...and gathers her food in harvest.” – Proverbs 6:8

III. Are you “Accomplishment Hungry” or are you “Settling?”

“The gospel shows us such glory in God, and in ourselves because of Christ, that gospel-people become accomplishment hungry. A Christian family should be like an anthill, everyone busily accomplishing something. A healthy church is like an anthill, everybody actively achieving together.”²

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined together by every joint with which it is equipped, *when each part* is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. – Ephesians 4:15-16

Ray Ortlund Sr. once said, “Your danger and mine is not that we become criminals, but rather that we become respectable, decent, commonplace, mediocre Christians.”

² Ray Ortlund, Jr.

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