

## Little Instructional Things

*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.  
(Proverbs 6: 6-8)*

God has given us His word for instruction and has also provided pastors and teachers to edify believers. The Lord's creative hand has designed lessons in the physical world to strengthen His children. Dynamic things like lightning, tornadoes, and earthquakes easily capture our attention, but there are great lessons to glean from the small and simple things which are often overlooked.

Today's text instructs us to consider the ant. For the most part, ants are viewed as pests and uninvited as they invade picnics and our kitchens. Being anxious to rid ourselves of this pest, we can fail to observe the lessons which God designed for them to teach us. If we stop and study the diminutive ant, there are several things to notice. First, the ant is industrious. Rarely do they appear to be static, but rather they always seem to be moving with purpose, gathering any available food. Their food supply is stashed away in some unseen location, providing an immediate source of nourishment and a surplus for the coming winter. The ants' coordinated teamwork requires no leader; because each seems to know their responsibilities and readily share the workload. They have intuitive knowledge to take advantage of present opportunities to provide for the future. Their example of persistence illustrates the law of sowing and reaping. As they sow the efforts to gather for the future, they reap the rewards at the end of the harvest season.

Considering the ways of the ant can help us in this present life, while also providing vision in preparing for our eternal future. Throughout the scriptures, there are verses that admonish us to be industrious. We are told that what we do with our hand, we should do with our might and for the Lord's glory. Our labor should provide a surplus from which to share with those in need, and we should enjoy the good in our labor. The Lord instructs us to occupy with the talents He has given us.

As believers, we should be aware of the time we are given here in this temporal life to make eternal investments by first having our name entered in the Lamb's Book of Life, and then offering our life in sacrificial service to the Lord. Performing acts of kindness, and scattering soul-saving seeds of the gospel now, will pay rich rewards when we enter heaven's gates while hearing the Lord say "well done, good and faithful servant".

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