

ANTS

How much time have you spent observing ants?

Growing up, I had the opportunity to observe lots of ants. That, paired with the disproportionate amount of time I spent bored, lent itself to watching the little creeps. If you are going to stare at the ground, you might as well kick rocks or watch the ants. I did both.

While many varieties of ants are everywhere, fire ants were some of the most prevalent in my neighborhood. Overnight, they could build a towering mound of gray dirt. If you disturb their home (which I did with frequency), they will swarm, grab ahold of anything and everything, attack, and sting repeatedly. When it floods, they create a raft by holding onto one another and floating to dry ground. While some are sacrificed in the process, it allows the colony to relocate and start afresh. They can also quickly work together to devour food and return it to the nest in an efficient line of workers. In short, they are pretty fascinating.

It is interesting that the writer of Proverbs uses them as an illustration to forsake laziness. And he was absolutely right. If you need a good example of hard work, ants fit the bill.

Proverbs 6:6-11

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

But the bigger question is why?
Why do they work so hard?
Why do they protect one another?
Why do they sacrifice themselves for the well-being of others?

I believe they have an inherent desire to live into their created existence. In the same way the heavens declare God's glory (Psalm 19), the ant brings glory to God by working obediently in His creation.

The Word of God calls us to be workers in creation and the Lord's Kingdom. We are to neither slack nor shirk this responsibility. Like the ant, we are to be workers, not only for our daily needs but, most importantly, to live into our God-given occupation to work and bring glory to Him.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

Work like ants. Whatever you do. For Him and his glory.

Eyes up!
Ryan