

Proverbs 30:24-28

Lessons from Nature

Proverbs: Wisdom for Life

Today we are continuing our series in the book of Proverbs – Wisdom for Life! Wisdom for Living!

A) Wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord!

Key Verse in Proverbs

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

B) Fear – speaks of a Reverence and a Respect-

The Fear of the Lord is a Reverential Awe!

A) This is God I am dealing with!

B) Not the man upstairs, or the big guy in the sky or whatever other trivial names people have invented for God!

C) Maker of the Universe – spoke into existence

1) The one in whom my very breath is held!

Fear also speaks of a Holy Adoration: A deep love that longs to please the Lord!

A) The more I grow in my understanding of the Lord – and his heart for me. – the More my adoration – EXPANDS.

B) One of the things that I think – causes our reverence and Awe for the Lord to grow is

God's Divine Design

1) We see – the Brilliance of God in Nature.

C) The writer of Proverbs gives us a great example of that in our text today. – LESSONS FROM NATURE.

PROVERBS 30:24-28

There are four things which are little on the earth,
But they are exceedingly wise:

The ants are a people not strong,

Yet they prepare their food in the summer;

The rock badgers are a feeble folk,

Yet they make their homes in the crags;

The locusts have no king,

Yet they all advance in ranks;

The spider skillfully grasps with its hands,
And it is in kings' palaces.

He begins with the Ant – To be honest – I hate ants in my house!

A) But – I am fascinated by them as a creature.

B) A people not strong.-

1) Called people because they live in colonies. – There are 12,000 species of Ants

C) They live in these colonies – with Each ant fulfilling his own responsibility within the community.

1) They work together and care for each other!

Not strong – In comparison to us – Not strong - Because of their size, you can crush hundreds under your shoe.

A) For their size they are very strong. – They can lift 20 times their body weight

B) An American field ant can withstand pressure 5,000 times greater than its body weight!

The Ants Wisdom:

A) They prepare their meat in the summer.

B) Ants do not swim, so they must store food for the rainy season.

C) Leafcutter ants are industrious creatures known for expertly carving up foliage and then carrying it back in pieces to their colony

D) They use the leaves to farm fungus which they eat — they are essentially mushroom farmers.

Honeydew Ants

A) There is an insect known as an aphid –

B) Aphids are also known as plant lice, they are very small sap-sucking insects that collect the sugar-rich fluids from host plants.

C) The aphids must consume large quantities of a plant to gain adequate nutrition.

1) The aphids then excrete equally large quantities of waste, called honeydew, which becomes a sugar-rich meal for ants.

D)The Ants and the Aphids have a mutually cooperative relationship –

1)the Aphids provide the Ants with the Honeydew for nutrients the Ants in turn protect the Aphids from other insects

Honey-pot Ants

A)In Australia, the honey-pot ants collect nectar and force-feed it to workers ants that are specifically designed to house the nectar

B)These Honey-pot ants – abdomens that expand to the size of a pea and their skins stretched so thin that they are quite transparent.

C)The workers then hang them up by their forelegs in underground galleries, like living storage jars.

D)When the time is right the nectar is sucked out of these living storage jars for nutrients for the colony.

1)Isn't God absolutely AMAZING – SABBA – AWESOME

Here is the point the writer of proverbs is making about the Ant- **They Prepare for the future!**

A)We need to do likewise!

B)The folly of man is that we don't make preparations for the end!
For eternity

C) **And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,** Hebrews 9:27

D)Are you ready to stand before God?

Judgment will not be of your good vs your Bad – That is Santa Claus but not God!

A)The judgment of God is twofold – People in General are going to be judged on what they did with Jesus

B)**Man separated from God because of Sin** – All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God

C)God sent his son Jesus to Bridge the gap – pay the price
Take the punishment – provide a way.

D)The question that is going to be asked is what did you do with my Son? – believe ? Follow ? or Reject

1)There is no such thing as being neutral about Jesus

E)Jesus made that very clear – For me or you are against me

Those against will be sentenced to spend eternity in Hell

A)Place described as a place of outer darkness of weeping and Gnashing of teeth – Intense heat

B)Believers or followers of Jesus – will encounter a 2nd type of judgment – a judgment of rewards

C)What we did here on earth for Jesus – we will be rewarded there in eternity!

D)Question is are you preparing for Eternity?

Think about the amount of time and energy people expend in making money now!

A)Problem is our currency is not going to be worth anything in eternity!

B)One of the worst things is being in another country and being super thirsty - want to buy a bottle of water

1)All you have in your pocket is American dollar bills – they won't take it.

C) It has been rightfully said about our Money and investments: You can't take it with you but you can send it ahead.

Jesus admonished us: Matthew 6:19,20

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

D)C.T. Studd

Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Judged according to our Motives in what we do as much as what we do.

A) Serving Jesus – giving to support the Kingdom – compared to Gold silver and precious stones – that which endures

B) Giving and serve with the wrong motives compared to wood hay and stubble – that which is burned in the fire.

C) The fiery trials that reveal the true character of our hearts as well as our deeds.

So the Lesson from the Ants is simple- We should all be preparing for the future – for eternity

A) Knowing the day is coming when we will not be able to lay up eternal storage – do it now!

B) If we are going to be wise like the ant we would take advantage of the time we have now to build up eternal currency

C) Make preparations for the Future!

Next is the Badger – Actually – the Coney or the Hyrax

A) Saw some of these in Israel – my favorite spot to teach. -The phrase – and gates of hell..... come to life

B) Just did the teaching and sent the group up to look at this cave – Under water spring –
1) the ancients believed to be the doorway to the underworld

C) On the way up some in our group saw these Hyrax animals – these Coney's – all distracted – taking pictures

The Coney:

A) A feeble folk – look like a giant guinea pig

B) no defense mechanism – they are not fast – they have no claws – defenseless creatures

C) Realizing they are defenseless they make their homes in the rocks
1) Deep in the crevices

D) So all the Coyote or bobcat can do is stand outside the rock and bark –

1) The Coney becomes as strong as the Rocks that house them!

Lesson for us:

A) We are weak and defenseless in and of ourselves

B) Satan our enemy is like a roaring lion – seeking whom he can devour

C) You in your flesh are no match for the devil!
1) He is stronger than you – smarter than you.

But we have a Rock of Defense in Jesus!

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2

The Lord has been my defense, and my God the rock of my refuge.
Psalm 94:22

A) We need to recognize how feeble we are.

B) It is our false perception of strength in ourselves that keeps us from coming to Jesus

1) But when we realize how weak and feeble we really are – we understand that we need a Rock of defense.

Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer, from the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Psalm 61:1-2

He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. Psalm 62:2

C) When your hiding place is in Jesus you are as strong as the rock that shelters you.

The Ant – the Badger or Coney –

The Locust Pic #7

A) They have no king each one seems autonomous – no hierarchy there isn't one Locust that is King giving orders

B) But they go forth in bands – Led by an invisible force -They Move together as one!

1)A Swarm of locust can look like a cloud Pic #8

C)Their strength is in their cooperative efforts

1)A swarm of locust can stop an elephant in it's tracks

Lesson for us:

A)The church needs to learn the power of cooperative effort!

B)Led by our invisible King Jesus – what an **unstoppable force and influence** we could become in our community and world.

C)The problem with the Church today is we are too divided!

Jesus said the World would know that we are his disciples by our Love for one another.

A)Satan knowing that – I think tried everything he could to seek to get the church divided – so our love would no longer be on display

B)Today the Christian church isn't so much known for our love as it is Known for what we are against.

C)Often the thing that we are against is each other!

D)**Divided by denominations** – divided by ideologies – divided by political differences.

1)Even our CC Movement is divided today into at least two groups - Really Sad!

One of the reasons I love to be a part of the One Church movement here in NC

A)One church is a group of Bible believing evangelical churches

B)We meet for fellowship – encouragement and Kingdom causes

1)Such a special thing to be a part of!

Imagine the impact of the Local Church if we could put aside our differences and come together to make an impact

A)Trying to do that here in Vista – Homelessness Kids – other causes like that.

B)Harvest America – Churches put aside their differences for the sake of the gospel.

C)**Our individual church** – when we are united together for the cause of Christ – we can do wonders

1)Good News clubs – after school

2)Missions some go others send

D)Lesson of the locust – Strength in their unified effort

Last one the Spider – actually better translation would be the Gecko – Ron Zinger

A) Gecko's are amazing – they have these pads on their hands and feet – pads each have 1,000's of tiny hooks

B)Enables them to run up a wall or even a sheet of glass and they even run across the ceiling

C)Hawaii – see these everywhere – at first it is sort of creepy –

1)Until you learn Gecko's eat cockroaches – Ok – awesome

V.28 says it grasps or KJV lays a hold with it's hands- result it can live in Kings Palaces!

A)Lesson for us: There is something that the Lord wants us to lay hold of – that is the promises of God.

B)**Laying ahold of the promises of God enables the believer in Jesus Christ – to Dwell in richness of the Blessings of God.**

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2 Corinthians 1:20

C)We are in Christ!

By Faith we take hold of the promises of God!

Hebrews 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

A)Hebrews 11 – Hall of faith – those who lived according to the Promises made to them by God.

1)Who through faith obtained promises- Hebrews 11:33

Aa)Hall of faith – teaches us that Embracing the promises of God affects the way that we live in this world!

B)Noah – went against the grain of society and lived a righteous life – because he believed in the promise of God’s deliverance

C)Abraham dwelt in tents – tents are temporary – not getting attached to this life –

1)because he was living according to the promise of a **a Kingdom not made with Human hands who’s builder and maker is God**

C)Moses – forsook the luxury of Egypt because he was living for an eternal reward

“who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again.” Hebrews 11:33-35

Spurgeon : “The promises of God are to the believer an inexhaustible mine of wealth.

Happy is he if he knows how to search out their secret veins and enrich himself with their hidden treasures. They are to him an armoury containing all manner of offensive and defensive weapons. Blessed is he who has learned to enter into the sacred arsenal, to put on the breastplate and the helmet, and to lay his hand to the spear and to the sword.

The promises of God are to the believer a surgery in which he will find all manner of restoratives and blessed medicine;

He shall find in it an ointment for every wound, a remedy for every disease. Blessed is he who is well skilled in the heavenly pharmacy and knows how to lay hold on the healing virtues of the promises of God.

The promises are to the Christian a storehouse of food.

They are like the granaries which Joseph built in Egypt, Blessed is he who can take the five barley loaves and fishes of promise and break them until his five thousand necessities shall all be supplied, and he is able to gather up baskets full of fragments.

The promises are the Christian’s Magna Charta of liberty, they are the title deeds of his heavenly estate.

Happy is he who knows how to read them well and call them all his own. Yes, they are the jewel room in which the Christian’s crown treasures are preserved.

Lay hold of the promises of God!

T - Tried and proven!

TP – Tried and Proven