

Summary

In this sermon, the pastor draws from Proverbs 6:6-11 to teach the congregation what they can learn about work from the ant. Rather than viewing work as merely a secular activity, the pastor emphasizes that how we work is a spiritual matter because we are spiritual beings, and our work ethic either brings glory to God or diminishes our witness to those around us. The sermon outlines five key characteristics of how ants work that believers should adopt: working with integrity (no one has to watch over them), working diligently (laboring hard regardless of circumstances), working wisely (preparing in one season for the next), working in community (unity makes the group stronger than any individual), and working faithfully (never stopping until the task is done). The pastor closes with an urgent call to action, reminding the congregation that time is short, kingdom work is pressing, and there are people, tasks, and relationships that need attention right now.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the gift of community and the opportunity to learn from Your Word together. As we open our hearts and minds to what You have for us in this discussion, we ask that You quiet the noise of our busy lives and help us truly hear what You want to speak to each of us personally. Give us humility to receive correction, courage to apply what we learn, and unity as a group that reflects Your love. May this time together bring You glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one chore or task you have been putting off at home, and what has been your go-to excuse for not doing it yet?

Key Verses

- Proverbs 6:6-11
- Colossians 3:23
- Proverbs 14:23

- Galatians 6:2
- John 9:4

Questions

- The pastor says that how we work is a spiritual matter because we are spiritual beings. Do you agree with that idea? How have you seen your faith show up (or not show up) in your workplace?
- The ant works with integrity, meaning it does not need anyone watching over it to do its job well. Can you think of a time when you worked differently because no one was watching? What does that reveal about your integrity?
- Colossians 3:23 calls us to work from our soul, as if working for the Lord and not for people. What would change about your daily work if you genuinely approached every task that way?
- The pastor described a co-worker he called "Friday night rich," someone who earned money but spent it without wisdom. How does the ant's example of storing up in summer for winter challenge the way you think about financial planning and preparation?
- The sermon points out that unity is essential to community, and that the enemy often uses small offenses to break it. Have you ever let a minor misunderstanding or hurt feeling pull you away from community? What helped you (or could help you) repair that connection?
- The ant ball photo during Hurricane Harvey illustrated that the group's survival mattered more than any single ant. The pastor asked, "Would you be willing to be the bridge?" What does being a bridge look like practically in your relationships or in this group?
- The pastor shared that he had the solution to his broken garage door sitting in his shop for months but kept saying, "I'll do it later." Is there something God has been prompting you to do, a conversation, an act of forgiveness, or a step of obedience, that you have been delaying? What is holding you back?
- John 9:4 says the night is coming when no one can work. How does the urgency of that verse change the way you think about kingdom work, such as reaching out to someone who needs Jesus, joining a small group, or serving on a team?

Life Application

This week, choose two specific actions from the following list that the pastor challenged the congregation with: call someone you have been avoiding, forgive someone who has hurt you,

serve someone in a practical way, spend intentional time with your family, obey something God has already told you to do, or take a concrete step to prepare for your next season. Write both actions down, share them with someone in this group for accountability, and follow through before your next meeting.

Key Takeaways

- Ants work with integrity, doing their job faithfully whether or not anyone is watching, and God calls us to the same standard in our own work.
- Ants work diligently and consistently, and the Bible is clear that providing for ourselves and our families through honest labor is a reflection of genuine faith.
- Ants work wisely by preparing in one season for the demands of the next, which challenges us to plan, budget, and think ahead rather than living only for the moment.
- Ants work in community because unity multiplies strength, and we are called to share each other's burdens and do life together rather than trying to go it alone.
- Time is short, and the urgency of kingdom work means we cannot keep saying "I'll do it later." There are people, relationships, and God-given assignments waiting on our obedience right now.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the time we have shared together today and for the practical wisdom You have placed even in the smallest of Your creatures. Forgive us for the moments we have worked halfway, lived in isolation, or delayed what You have clearly called us to do. Give us the integrity of the ant, the diligence to keep going when it is hard, the wisdom to prepare for what is ahead, and the humility to do life in community with one another. Above all, remind us that the night is coming and that there are people around us who need to know You. Stir us to action, Lord. May everything we do this week, at work, at home, and in our relationships, bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.