



Craig Smith • Nature • November 29, 2020

Icebreaker: How do you see wisdom in nature and what do you learn from it?

Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: (Prov. 30:24)

- **The ant: the value of stewardship** – “Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer.” (Prov. 30:25)

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? (Luke 16:10-12) Define stewardship. Rate your stewardship with your finances, health, family, parenting, time, ministry, marriage, school, etc...

- **The coney: the value of strategy** – “coney are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags.” (Prov. 30:26)

A good strategy/plan...

- ✓ **Begins with prayer** – “Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” (Prov. 16:3)
- ✓ **Includes good counsel** – “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” (Prov. 15:22)
- ✓ **Must be worked** – “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.” (Prov. 21:5)

In the list provided under “stewardship,” with which do you have a good strategy? With which area do you need a good strategy?

- **The locust: the value of community** – “locusts have no king, yet they advance together in rank.” (Prov. 30:27)

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

(Eccl. 4:9-12) Read this passage, who do you have in your life that helps you work? Who will pick you up with you fall? Who is there to comfort you and protect you?

- **The lizard: the value of opportunity** – “a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings’ palaces.” (Prov. 30:28)

Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (Eph. 5:15-16) What and where are your current opportunities? How are you being pro-active with those opportunities? Who do you have in your life to help you engage wisely in those opportunities?