



Sermon Transcription • Abbotsford

July 1/2, 2017 - Jeff Bucknam

Ants and Sluggards- (Proverbs 6:6-11)

[Please Note: This transcript has been lightly edited for ease of reading. Also, some headings have been added in square brackets to aid the reader in locating portions of the sermon.]

I'm assuming that everybody in the room has been late once or twice. Yes? Okay. Not to church though. So, you've been late once or twice in your life and I'm assuming that you've probably been late to work, those of you who have job or if you are school you've been late. I know my kids have been late to school several, several times. It's mostly their mother's fault. [laughter] Sorry, she's sitting in the front row over here. I just had to say it. No, we're late often times, we always give excuses, right? On Youtube there is a comedy group that is Irish and they put together some of the different excuses that people make when they are late to their job, in fact. Now, I have to warn you ahead of time, it's in Irish and <irish accent> so some of what they are saying is a little bit hard to understand.</irish accent> Okay? So, just clue in a little bit. Here we go.

[Video Audio]

I've never actually heard that one, the last one, in fact. But most of us, if we are honest, the reason that we are late sometimes, or maybe all of the time, is just because we are lazy. We just didn't get up at the right time. We didn't plan our day appropriately. Relaxation, you know you're sitting in the back of your house, or whatever, and it just feel better than getting up and having to drive someone somewhere, or be at that particular meeting on time. Sleep always feels better than work.

When I was a kid, I struggled actually quite a bit getting into these lazy zones and a lot of it had to do with the advent of video games for me. I was one of the first kids that I knew of that actually had the Atari. I think my parents, because they loved me, bought me one of these and the Atari had a little joy stick and a little red button. Some of you will remember this, others will like, "What is that?" I played a game called Asteroids which had a little triangle that shot little pellets at these outlines of asteroids and would break them up. I could play this game for hours and hours and hours and hours. My mom would find me downstairs in our house from time to time and be like, "What are you...how long have you been here?" "[Moaning and making garbled noises.]" And she'd say, "Listen, did you mow the lawn or did you clean your room or did you take out the trash like I asked you?" "[Whiny noises]" I just got to finish, you know, saving the universe, Mom!" Right? She finally would say to me this line, as many parents have said to their kids before. "I hope someday you have children who are just like you." Which, of course, has come true for me. [laughter] Right, your kids who have video games and you say,



“Can you please stop playing the video game now? Can you go and clean your room? Can you go and take the trash... I just want you to take the trash out.”

“Just after this level.”

“How long is the level?”

“Just like a minute.” You know, half hour later,

“We’re still on the level, Dad.” Like, “Okay, I’m going to shut it off now.”

“[Whining] No, don’t shut it off!”

“Okay, can you please take the trash...”

“Oh, come on!” It’s like asking them to solve cold fusion. Just asking them to take the trash out.

That idea, somebody who is...lazy bones is a word that we use these days. The New Living Translation translates the word that is in our Scripture text here today “sluggard” “lazy bones”. That’s how they translate it. But, sluggard is a great word, isn’t it? We don’t use it anymore. It’s only found in Proverbs. About fourteen times in the book of Proverbs, you get these instructions to sluggards, lazy bones. Here are some of them:

Proverbs 20:4:

“Sluggards do not plow in seasons at harvest time they look but find nothing.”

They’re not diligent about what they are supposed to be doing at a particular time and so, when the harvest comes, when the day of reckoning comes, they are left empty handed.

Proverbs 26:13:

“A sluggard says, ‘There’s a lion in the road, a fierce lion roaming the streets!’”

They always have *excuses* and they are *stupid* for their laziness, right? “O, I can’t go out there because there might be a lion in the streets.” “There is no lion in the streets.” “But there could be! I had a friend and he died of lions so I’m going to stay here and keep play...” You know?

One of my favourites is 26:14:

“As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.”

Right? It’s not even their anchored there, they are hinged to their bed. “Here and then here. [rotating hand left and right] And then here...” “Can you get up?” “Okay, I’m going to get... and here.” [laughter]

Proverbs 26:15:

“A sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.”

Can you imagine a party where they are reaching in with the salsa and the chip, “Okay, I just, you know, it’s too... I’d like to eat it, but I’m tired.” You can’t even be bothered to eat you’re so lazy.

There are two paths that Proverbs presents to us. This book is so practical. It's basically about how can you have the good life in the here and now. What's going to be *wise* for you? It's mostly a father speaking to his son, his daughter by implication, "Look, if you want to grow and be happy in your old age, if you want to have a good life, follow the way of wisdom, not the way of the fool." In this case, the way of the fool is the way of the sluggard and the way of wisdom is the way of the diligent. There are two paths. Which one do you want? It's what's being presented over and over again.

You might remember the movie "Wall-E," it's a little Disney film. It's a great little movie. The movie is about the future, at the least the idea that the director and writer of the film had about the future. They say that human beings have basically destroyed the earth, it's uninhabitable, and it can grow nothing anymore because of all of our trash. So, to solve this problem, the corporate giants build this *huge* ship, they call it the Axiom, and all the humans get on board and it's going to be like this huge cruise ship that goes through space until the day comes where the earth is cleaned up by these little robots, one named Wall-E, and life starts to grow again on Earth. You know, plants and things. So, every once in awhile, they send back these robots, one is named Eve, and she comes back to see if there is life on planet Earth. And little Wall-E is there cleaning up in the meantime. It's a great little movie. One of my favourite parts of it, though, is what the people, who are now of the Axiom, look like. So, here's a picture of what they look like up there. They're just round. They're like balls with sticks hanging out of the bottom and they ride around of these little motorized, hovering chairs and they have video screens in front of them and every day they get shakes. They don't talk to each other. If you want to talk to somebody, you talk to them through the video screen, right? This, of course, would never happen. Unless you've seen your kids sitting there texting each other while they are next to each other, right? And the reason it is such an insightful film is because technology actually breeds sluggards. That's the argument they are making. "Look, if we get too tied to the screens and we follow technology and all that it can do for us, we are going to end floating around as fat people, never doing anything for ourselves, addicted to our screens. And even though there is a pool in the middle of the ship, no one is going to swim. We'll just watch people swim." So, life in the modern age is a life that breeds sluggards. You know that. I know that. We feel it inside ourselves, don't we? "A little sleep," we say, "A little slumber. I'll get to it later, just hit the snooze."

This passage is about sluggards. It's actually a pretty direct affront to sluggards and, so, if you find any sluggard in you, as you probably should, as I do, it will be a bit of a challenge. Proverbs 6:6-11 and in it we are going to see two things:

- 1)The diligence of the ant.
- 2)The danger of the lazy.

[The Diligence of the Ant]

Here's the first part of that, Proverbs 6:6, the diligence of the ant.

"Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest."



One of the great theologian in the history of the Christian church, honestly, is a guy named Jonathan Edwards. He wrote books like “Religious Affections,” he’s widely known, as well, as one of the sharpest guys, philosophically and theologically, ever to live. He’s an American guy, he lived in the 17th century, he kind of oversaw parts of the Great Awakening in those days. He was really known for his brainy, theological endeavours, but he was also known for his piety, like his real love for God. One of the ways that it played out was that he would be go for a walk everyday with his wife and they would walk into the woods and they would walk in ways, though, that you and I would not. When they go in the woods, they wouldn’t just hold hands and talk about their kids, they would walk in the woods with a purpose. The purpose was, “Look, let’s look around us, if the Bible is true—which they believed it to be—and they said the heavens declare the glory of God and the earth is his handiwork, so we should be able to look around in God’s creation and see things that teach us about God and our relationship to Him.” So, they would maybe sit on a log in the middle of the woods and they would look around and say to each other, “What around us is screaming God’s name and are they saying something about our relationship to Him?” Edwards actually wrote this very long treatise, a great essay about spider webs and what they teach us about God and his intricacies. What this proverb is doing is inviting you... the Father is saying, “Come on a walk with me. We are going to go into the woods, it’s going to be a purposeful walk, we’re going to go to the ants, we are going to sit down on a log in the middle of the woods, and I want you to look at the ant, son, daughter. Go to the ant.”

Now, listen, most of us don't know a lot about ants, but I've got you covered today. Because what did I do this week? I studied ants. So, here's some ant fun facts. The ant that they are referring to here is actually the harvester ant. It's very common in Palestine and other arid climates. I got a picture there for you, that's not life size which is good for all of us. They are kind of big, though. They are about a quarter- inch long which is bigger than most others ants. They only live outside. You don't need to worry about them coming into your house, unless you have a bunch of seeds on the ground, but even then they don't like hanging around people very much. The only time you'd probably ever come across them is maybe if you are on a golf course in Texas or in Phoenix and you are about to hit your chip shot and you look down at your leg and it's covered with ants. That's the only place that people usually find them. There's a lot of people that are very allergic to them because they have stingers in their abdomens and they have little teeth in their... mandibles is what they are called. There are about 10,000 ants that live in each colony and they have a singular job every day, especially during the summer. Their job is to go out and find food. The scout ant— there are three different kinds of ants: the scout ant, the worker ant, and what's called the midden— takes off every morning and leaves a trail, little scent markers along the way, that the worker ants will follow to try and find the food that they are finding. A scout ant can travel up to 70 kilometres to find food. Why don't you just think about that for a minute? Okay, little Abbotsford scout ant decides he's going to go and he can't find food until he gets to False Creek, right? And he finds some sweet seeds in False Creek and then he brings them back, puts them in a pile, and the worker ants will follow his scent trails—a little bit along the way he'll leave these scent trails— and, when they find the pile of the seeds that the scout ants have put together, they will pick them up and they will carry them back to the colony. It's a long, long trip. They are dedicated to that single task every single day. The third kind of ant is a midden and their job is to protect the colony and, man, do they do that well! If anything drops near the opening of the colony, it is their job to move it out of the way. If any invader comes, it's their job to kill that invader. In fact, if



little Abbotsford ant goes to False Creek and decides to have a bed and breakfast at the ant colony there and tries to enter that ant colony, those False Creek ants will kill him. Oh, dirty False Creek ants. [laughter] They'll attack you if you are nearby and they are very organized about the way that they attack. In fact, I've got this great little video that I want to show you just really quickly here. It's about this women, she dropped a little coin by the entrance of a colony and the ants find it and decide that they are going to take it away. I've added the music because I thought it was funny.

Now I could talk about ants for a long time and that would be a lot of fun, I imagine, but there is certain things that they author here is pointing out about the ants that you are supposed to notice. It's not just anything, "I want you to notice their mandibles," no, it doesn't say that. "Go the ant, you sluggard.." "Well, what am I supposed to see when I am sitting there on the log and looking at these ants?"

Three things:

1) You are supposed to notice their discipline. Look at the language, "It has no commander, no overseer or ruler..." That's verse 7. Look, nobody is looking over the shoulder of the ant to tell them, "You need to go to False Creek to find food." They don't need some governing authority, the queen ant is not coming out of the hive and walking with each one, "Now, look over here. Look at this..." which makes the ant very different than most of us, especially when we are young because most of you who have children, and those of you who are children, you know how it goes. Mom and Dad come to you and they say to you, "Go clean your room," and you go, "It's clean." And they walk you in there and they say, "Okay, so there is something in the corner there that is growing. I don't know what that is." "Oh, it was my lunch from November." "Okay, you probably should pick that up before it becomes alive. Pick that up, okay? I just want you to clean your room." And so you go away and you come back a little while later, "So, did you clean your room?" "Yeah, it's totally clean— they're playing their video— it's totally clean" "Okay, well let me go down and look at the room." Then you sit there and you look at the room with them and the kids are like, "Yeah, it's clean. See, I picked up the living thing in the corner." "Uh huh, but what about his other stuff and the carpet is a mess and I can't even see half of the carpet. Why haven't you folded your clothes? What is wrong with... come over here. Now do this and do this and do this." This is what a sluggard looks like, they need direction. The ant doesn't direction. That's why you need to go to the ants, so you can see the way one ought to work. Be dedicated to the task, not need someone to hold their hands.

I used to work at a lot of really funny jobs. I was a car rental agent for a period of time in my life. I worked in the airport in Bellingham, Washington which is not busy - and then they moved me from the airport to the downtown location which was even less busy. I might see two clients, two people a day renting a car. Usually, they just wanted to trade their car in because it got in Seattle and wanted to trade it in because they didn't like it. So, I would sit there for eight hours and do *nothing*. The boss said, "Listen, you can read a book or whatever, but you need to be *ready* to take care of the customers when they come in." I was so bored, so bored, so finally I decided, "You know what I could do is I should take my video game system from home and bring it in." So I did. I brought my little Playstation in and I put it there and I had the TV set up and looked like I was doing some work while I had it under... I was playing FIFA all the time. I was getting really good at FIFA, you know, because



eight hours a day of FIFA will do that to you. So, I was playing this game and people would in and, of course, I would stop from time to time, but I got the point where most of the people who came in were just people coming from our other location to pick up a car or whatever and take it back. So, I got to the point where I didn't even pay attention to the door. It rings or whatever, "uh huh", until somebody came to the counter I would finally turn, "Oh, hello." Well, one time I was playing this FIFA game and I was about to score a goal against Manchester United, who is the Devil's team, and so I'm like, "Oh, I'm going to win this game!" So, I hear the door open and I'm playing the game. And I didn't pay attention and, all of the sudden, I noticed the person who came in was not standing at the counter, they were actually standing right next to me. So, I looked up and there is my boss. [laughter] Have you ever had a moment where you've been just totally caught red-handed and you're thinking to yourself, "Okay, I'm a smart guy. I should be able to come up with an excuse here." But, I was like... I had nothing. I said, "Hi," and he said, "Are you winning?" I said, "I was." He shut it off and said, "Do I have to be here all the time to dictate your life? Do I have to make sure you always doing... is this way it works when I go? You just do what you want?" "Yah, pretty much. That's the way..." I didn't stay there for very long. [laughter] Discipline. Ants have discipline. That's not an ant, like a sluggard way of doing their work. An ant is about their business, they don't need somebody looking over their shoulder, they have discipline.

2) Second, they have foresight. Notice the language in verse 8:

"It stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest"

It makes hay while the sun shines. Look, an ant knows that "we're not going to be able to gather all this food all year long and so we need to store up enough for the winter so that we can survive. So now's the time to be about the work and if we don't do the work now and we put it off, it's going to cost us something big in the days ahead." That's not what sluggards are like. Sluggards abandon what they really want for what they want at the moment. In fact, that's probably the mark of them. What you really want is a life that looks like... in your mind you're thinking "I want to live with a whole series of... whatever", and to get there you have to put in a certain amount of work. But that dream, in your mind, is at risk for what you want at the moment. What you *really* want, you never get because you are always settling for what you what at the moment; your impulses, your sleeping, the snooze bar.

I was also a gift wrapper at Nordstrom during... [laughter] why do people laugh instinctively when I say that? You *should* laugh instinctively. You should ask my family about how good my gift wrapping is. It's not really that good. They actually, because I was like a floating gift wrapper, they put me in different locations. So, if you buy something in Nordstrom, you can go and get free gift wrapping during the Christmas season. My mom told me that year, "You will not be able to... listen, we're not giving you money for gifts to buy for your brother and for your sisters and for your parents. So, you need to go and make some money so you can buy gifts for everyone so you're not stuck there looking like a loser on Christmas morning. And, second, I know you want to go skiing, Jeff, and we're not going to pay for skiing this year. If you want to go skiing, you're going to have to make the money for it." So, I got this job gift wrapping at Nordstrom. They would put me in different locations, though, around the gift wrapping and, the place they put me more often than not, no kidding, is the women's



underwear section. I have no idea why and it was very, very awkward, right, because ladies would come and we didn't look at each other the whole time and I would wrap it and say, "Here you go." I'd get so sick of it. My friend, who was calling me, he didn't have a job during that particular time, and he said, "Man, you got to come over and play some video games." We played this game called "Blades of Steel" which is a hockey game. So, I was like, "Oh, man, that sound like way better than women's underwear wrapping." So, I called one day 'sick'—you ever done... you've never done this, I did it right—"coughing" I'm not going to be able to make it." Surprisingly, they said, "Cool." "Oh, okay." I went and played video games all day, came home that night, my mom said, "How was work?" "Great." The next day, I thought, "Well, that was so great yesterday, I'll call again." And I did. "Can't come." "Okay." Went and played video games. The next day, I went to the mall with my friends, tried to avoid the store I was in. It was probably not a great idea, but at like the store where I was working, but eight straight days I didn't go to work. Finally, I came back on the ninth day and they said, "Oh, we thought you quit. Sorry, you don't have a job here anymore," and I was like, "Oh..." Christmas morning, my mom said, "Did you buy anybody anything?" I said, "Well, mom, I have to tell you that I didn't finish the job..." And all that sort of thing. She said, "Well, what are you going to do?" I said, "Well, I was hoping you'd give me the gift of skiing for Christmas." Nope, I didn't get anything. This is the way a sluggard acts. In the moment, you're drawn to what you want to do and there's no thought given to what's next, to what's in the future, right? The enemy of what you really want is what you want at the moment, but ants aren't like that.

3) They have discipline, they have foresight, and, finally, they have industry. Now, I get that from the phrase "it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest." You saw a picture, just a minute ago, of how ants act in the storing and the gathering, right? Like, if you sat there on that log and you looked at the ants, what kind of words would come to mind to describe their activity? Frenzy. Tiring, I'm just tired looking at them. You know what you never see, ever? You never see an ant come out of the colony, take about five steps, and go, "You know, I'm just tired. False Creek is a long way," and just lay there, right? You don't see this. They are about their business all the time.

In Eastern Washington state, I was a youth pastor, for a while, and they had a saying there whenever you weren't doing your job or you look like you were being lazy a little bit, they'd say, "Shovel handle hot?" And they got that from when you worked out on the farm and, if you were digging a hole or whatever, and at some point you were telling a story to your friends or laughing or whatever, you would put the shovel down and you'd lean on it, right? The foreman or the boss would say, "Shovel handle hot?" meaning, "Have you worked so hard to create friction on the shovel handle that you can no longer hold it because you've worked so much?" No, in fact, you're just being lazy and not having industry. Sluggards lean on a lot of shovels. They put in minimal effort. "What is the bare minimum I need to do in order to get by here so I can go and relax?" Ants, they have discipline, foresight, and industry. Go to the ant, you sluggard!

[The Dangers of the Lazy]

So, you think that that's aggressive. Well, you're sitting there on the log and the father, here, turns now, directly, and addresses us about the dangers of being lazy. You find it in verse 9:



"How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man."

My dear son, this week, I memorized this verse and in the morning I went in and I would say it to him. "How long will you lie there, O sluggard?" I sat on the edge of his bed, he would say, "Stop it! Get off! Why are you doing that?!" "What? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the...poverty will come upon you!" So, parents, if you want some advice, it's a good way to wake your kids up, it's a good way to get scripture in them this week. It's an interesting dialogue, and that's what it is, right, it's a dialogue. It's like he's sitting, you know, "How long is it going to be now, sluggard, that you're going to lay there hinged to the bed, how long are you going to be there?" And the response of the sluggard is, "Well just a little. Well, just a little sleep, a little slumber, little folding of the hands to rest, right?" Have you ever seen older men when they put their hat kind of over their eyes, and they fold their arms like this, I see it every week when I preach, "uh huh...[snores] I'm resting my eyes, uh huh. [snores]" [laughter] "Just a little bit, though! Like, I'm not rejecting the idea of going and doing the work. I get that I should get up and I am agreeing with you that it *should* be done, but in just a little while. Just a little while." A little sleep, a little slumber, this is the mantra of the procrastinator, isn't it? They're not rejecting getting up outright, They're just putting it off.

"Can you please do this job?"

"Well, I'll do it later."

"When?"

"Tomorrow"

"When tomorrow?"

"Well, when I get around to it!"

And, of course, you leave it to them and then eventually it just goes in the too-hard basket. These are the emails that you have at the bottom of your screen. "Ah, I'll get to those at some point, I don't know.'

In the proverb, the result of that kind of procrastination is poverty that comes like a thief meaning it sneaks up on you and takes away everything you have and you're like, "What? What? I didn't— huh?" Why? Because yeah, you never outright rejected it, it's just the little things accumulated along the way and next thing you know you've got nothing. Now, in an agrarian society, which is what this was, like a farming community, that made a lot of sense. If you didn't do your planting, guess what's going to happen at harvest? Like if you leaned on the shovel at harvest, you've got nothing. And there's no social safety net. It's not like the government is going to come and say, "Well, you tried. Here's some money." No, if you don't work, you don't eat. Now we, in our society, it's not really the case. We have a great government that looks after us in many ways, so we might not go poor for our procrastination but let's agree that procrastination does have some significant consequences, yeah?

So, in honour of Canada day, I'd like to tell you a story about the American Revolutionary War. It's a joke, come on. One of the great stories of the American Revolutionary War though is about

procrastination. When George Washington crossed the Delaware River, that was like one of the turning points in the war that tipped things for the American Revolutionaries. But the story behind it was really interesting. Colonel Rahl was the commander of the British troops in Trenton, New Jersey and he loved to play cards. He had orders (so this is the force opposite to George Washington and his troops), Colonel Rahl, he has orders, for all of his aids, “don’t bother me when I’m playing cards, it’s my relaxation time.” Well, one day his aid came in with a note saying,

“You need to read this, you need to read this.”

“I told you, don’t bother me!”

“You need to read it, it’s important, it’s important!”

Of course he’s in a setting with others who weren’t allowed to hear what he was about to say. So he gave him the note and Rahl said, “I will read it after this hand.” Well, he won the hand. And then he pulled his note out and it said that George Washington was crossing the Delaware River, which was the deciding moment in the war, or one of them anyway. So he starts marshalling his troops but by the time he gets everybody going, Washington and his men were upon them and took most of them captive and Rahl himself died. One of the historians who wrote about this event, he said, “Only a few minutes delay cost him his life, his honour, and the liberty of his soldiers.” Listen to this line,

“Earth’s history is strewn with the wrecks of half-finished plans and unexecuted resolutions. Tomorrow is the excuse of the lazy and the refuge of the incompetent.”

I like Gloria Pitzer who wrote a poem, the way she said it. She said,

“Procrastination is my sin.
It brings me naught but sorrow.
I know that I should stop it.
In fact, I will... tomorrow.”

I have a repeated dream, maybe you have these repeated nightmares where you wake up in a cold sweat. My repeated nightmare is actually very similar to what’s happening right now. I stand in front of you and, usually I don’t have pants on, but, I’m standing in front of you and I have not prepared anything that week. I did other things all week long. I did not prepare anything, I didn’t not study the passage, I didn’t do any of that. And now I’ve got to preach a sermon and people are like getting up and walking— so it’s kind of like every week here— people are getting up and walking out and doing these things. And I wake up in this cold sweat and I grab my phone by my bed, and I look and, “Oh, it’s only Tuesday! [Laughs with relief] It’s only Tuesday! I still got time!” Because I don’t want to stand in front of a bunch of people and look like a complete fool— more than I normally do— I want to be ready and prepared to feed the people of God on the word of God. It’s a great fear I have, maybe you have it too.

My point here is that just putting things off is distinctly unwise. It is true that the world’s history is strewn with wrecks of half finished plans and unexecuted resolutions. Your life is probably strewn with the wrecks of half finished plans and unexecuted resolutions. Maybe it’s time that you start to



realize that instead of take the path of the fool, the path of the sluggard, you choose the way of the wise, the diligent. Stop saying, "a little sleep, a little slumber."

You know, there's a great story, I'll finish with this, in the Gospels. It's one of my favourites. It's actually the story about Jesus is the garden of Gethsemane. He's about to go to the cross. He's told his disciples over and over again, "Listen, I'm going to go to the cross and I'm going to die there. I'm going to be arrested, go to the cross, die, three days later I'm going to rise again." So, He takes these guys into the garden, He says to the guys in the garden, "Look, I need you to come and I need you to watch and pray. This is the hour of my great trial. I am going to go over here and I'm going to pray to God." And, when He does, He's pleading with the Father, "Take this cup from me! But, not my will, but yours be done." He's sweating like blood over there, but, on the other side of the garden, there are his friends, sluggards, sleeping. In the hour of His greatest need, Jesus remains ant-like and his followers remain sluggards. And isn't that great news? That sluggards like us, who continue to fail our God by our inability to stop pushing the stupid snooze bar in our lives, He dies for us and He says to us then, "Okay, look. Let's all agree that we are not very good at this. Let's all agree that we don't choose the path of wisdom, and why don't you come now and realize that I have forgiven you completely. I was willing to go ant like, remain disciplined, follow through with my charge, and now come follow me. Choose a better path. The Spirit will come and he will help you to choose a better path." Go to the ant, you sluggards. Consider his ways and be wise.

Let me pray. Father, I am so thankful. I love these texts because they are so practical. It's so great to see Your Word speaking to our everyday existence. I pray that this week you would bring these thoughts back to mind for all us at one point of another. Lord, help us to be diligent about the work. Father, we don't have a lot of time here before the return of our great King, so help us be about Your work, be diligent about it, Father, with industry and dedication, we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.