

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Lazy people are told to watch and copy the independent work ethic of ants so that they survive and thrive.

Sermon Point: *Act Like Ants.*

Move 1: Be self-motivated, self-sufficient, and self-managing team workers.

Vs. 7: What she *does not* do. Doesn't sit around waiting for direction. The ant manages herself. And she's a team player: never find ants working alone. Though small, ants form an effective army. Mt. 8:8-9. 2 Tim. 2:3. Like ants, be trusted to manage your own selves/work to completion. Prov. 30:24-28. Be organized and resourceful. Own your work/take pride in a job well done. Don't wait: work. Have vision/look ahead.

Move 2: In every season, always be working.

Vs. 8: what she *does* do. Prepares and gathers. Plans and uses every season. Result, has "her" food: earns her keep because she owned her work. Provides for her family. Like Prov. 31 woman. Be like ants. Take advantage of providential opportunities/maximize them. Be aggressive responders. Start early/finish the job. Do kingdom work in and out of season. You are always on the clock for Christ. Mt. 25:14ff. Provs. 10:5: *He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame;* 20:4: *The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.*

Move 3: Don't be lazy students who miss the lessons taught by the examples of good workers.

Vs. 6: command to stop/study good example and *follow* it. Go see how the ant acts to be just like her (wise). By acting just like her (self-manager, visionary, hard worker). Command is to the "sluggard", who looks more like a sloth than an ant. Prov. 26:14. Proverbs often warn the sluggards. Humbling! Images of God (mankind) should not need instructions from tiny insects. The *Why* of this warning: vss. 9-11. *Be ... Not slothful in business [but] fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;* (Rom. 12:10-11) Heb. 6:11-12: *... every one of you ... shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.* Prov. 13:4; 21:25-26.

Conclusion:

Act Like Ants.