

Big Lessons from Small Things

Sermon Title: **Big Lessons from Small Things**

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Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word!

And we will be starting today in the book of Proverbs chapter 6, we will be reading verses 6 through 11, from the NIV translation. Proverbs 6:6-11, the word of the Lord reads, "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. How long will you lay 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 bandit and scarcity like an armed man." And I speak today from the subject of big lessons from small things. Turn to your neighbor and say "big lessons from small things."

And did you know that an ant, as talked about in this passage can lift up to 20 times its own body weight, if a man could run as fast for its size as ant, he could run as fast as a racehorse. Its brain has 250,000 brain cells. The human brain consist of 10 billion brain cells. So a colony of about 40,000 ants has collectively about the same size brain as a human. Ants have life expectancy of about 45 to 60 days, and it may seem like they live and long around your house but those are probably different ants for this past two months, that is his cousin, and each ant has a specific job to do. The queen ant lays eggs which the worker ants look after. At night, they move the eggs and larvae deep into the nest to protect them from the cold. During the daytime, they move the eggs and larvae to the top of the nest so that they can be warm.

And ants have been known to borrow at much at two miles into the earth. The worker ants look for food and when they find a good source of food, they leave a trail of scent so that the other ants in the colony can find the food. Worker ants also care for the younger ants and defend the nest from unwanted visitors. Some worker ants are given the job of taking the rubbish from the nest and putting it outside in a special rubbish dump. And if you have been living in any kind of indoor dwelling at all in the past 10 years, and if you have ever left any kind of crumbs lying around, then you know, by personal experience that these are some of the toughest creatures to get rid off on God given earth. And they even make my exterminator come in with excuses talking about how tough they are.

And I was over my mother's house one day and I was playing basketball with some of my sons and nephews and towards the end of the game, my mother said, she hollered and said, "You all stop playing for a minute, just come here and look at this", and she was sitting not watching us and there was a little ant crawling up the wall and it had a piece of bread about this big and it was struggling trying to get up the wall with this piece of bread and then it would get halfway up and then fall back down and it would repeat the process. After a while, she had everybody watching it and after a while, the ant likely to have given up but it came back a few

minutes later with about 10 other ants, and we just saw this big piece of bread just traveling up the wall and they took it off into their nest.

It just amazed us that this little creatures could take something so big and not give up on it and use teamwork and moved it and eat on it, and it just amazed us we saw the wisdom and the glory of God just in his tiniest creation.

Now, hearing that, just imagine what humans could accomplish in the world if they have no gossiping, no complaining, no TV, no back biting, no worrying about who was in charge, no worrying about titles and honors and the praise that they are getting for what they were doing, no worrying about who is going to get the credit. Imagine what they could do if everybody's mind was fixed on one common goal with no negative attitudes getting in the way. Imagine what could be done even in the kingdom of God if his people had this type of mind set and stick to it as in work ethic.

We would be wise to take notes from these small creatures of God. And this is of a personal nature but I am going to tell it because I do not think I am the only one in here who has had this or probably somebody probably has it now but I have rodent or a squirrel in my attic. And we could hear this things scrambling up through the attic and you will just hear their little feet running like that. Now, does that sound ring a bell to anybody? Some of you are going to hear that tonight when you get into bed. You are going to get into bed in hear it, and you go "That's what he was he was preaching about." I talked to the pastor about it and he told me about the best type glue board that had the thickest glue on it to catch this critters - this was personal to me and I will not tell you how he had the glue board or where it was when he told me about it but he told me about it.

And I put this thick glue board up there and I tell you, it reminded me of burba carpet, I mean it is just plush glue that thick, nothing to do with this it is like a glue swimming pool for them. So I felt really confident because I had only seen thin glue boards at home depot and this is nice here because this is deep glue and it just had a rich peanut butter aroma, you know what I mean? You do not have to put bait on this. Anyway, I just scooped some dip in and put in the center just to add to the look of it and within 24 hours, that rodent or squirrel had gone after the peanut butter on this glue board and I went up to check it and telling my wife, - I felt really manly and as I pulled on attic door and went off and looked at this awesome glue board, all I could see there was hair on the glue and nibbles out of my peanut butter that I have planned and it was almost like the rodent left a note that said "I just want to let you know I was here, enjoyed the peanut butter, thanks for the meal and I will see later."

And I would tell you, I went on and bought about three or four different types of traps. I said, forget this glue board and I bought some snap traps and I bought

some cages and I even - I am into technology, I bought an electric zapping trap. I said I would not let this happen again. I will electrocute this rat, if he plays with me again and I tried all of this different traps and you know, no matter what trap I put in that place, he never would fool with those other traps and I said maybe it is the bait, he maybe tired of eating this same peanut butters, I tried cheese, I even put some rice cakes in the center. I used cheddar flavored rice cake and then I put peanut butter on top of it.

I felt like the combination would just overtake his senses and he just would not be here to take it. I tried nuts, I tried dog food, I just put all types of things and so he will have a selection. And no matter what type of trap, no matter what type of bait, I could not get him to go back in there. And it is just like the revelation hit me that peanut butter was almost like sin and with sin, it smells good to you and it looks good, it feels good, it taste good, but all around it was a trap to catch you and then snare you. God placed something instinctively inside of these rodents where they knew not to fool with this after they got caught one time.

So if we humans could just learn from these creatures. And the problem with humans is, we are going to get stuck on that glue board the first time, God will come with his mercy pull us off and we will get stuck and lying and he will pull us out of this haven and give us a clean tag and we will go back and get caught in a situation and again smell that peanut butter and we will go back in and try to get out of this jam and go back to the same line, get stuck in the same place all over again. He will pull us out of fornication and break the habit and a fine woman will come along with a short miniskirt on and she will have on some perfume that we smell, that peanut butter again and we will go back and get stuck in the same glue, the same spot, the same trap all over again.

He will pull us out of gossiping, and teach us that it is wrong and it tears down other people and we will be fine for a minute, run around free and the devil will allow our ears to get a hold of some juicy news and then say "Keep this between me and you. Do not tell anybody." That thing smells good to us and it will start working on how our sensory or senses and we will go back and get stuck in the same trap, same peanut butter, all over again.

And humans have a tendency to defocus on the small things and lose sight of the big picture. My wife, she keeps a diary or a journal and whenever something upsets her, in or out of the relationship, she will write in her journal and get some of her feelings out in the journal, instead of just, you know, while she is angry talking with me about it and it blows off into an argument. She will just write it down and go back in and read it later and she always says that almost every time that she goes back another day and read this journal, she said that the thing seems so small in it. That thing, that same thing just overtaken her mind and life, worrying all day long. You see, when I go back and just read what was bothering me after I have calmed

down, after my hormones have slowed, these things are just so small. See, I could have been so embarrassed if I have brought this up and started an argument over it – The little things of life.

This is Valentine season and love is all in the air and just as people make new years' resolutions, couples, I challenge you to make a relationship resolution, not to distress over the small stuff this year. And I will tell you; these small things can creep in relationships so easy. Stuff like, he left the toilet sit open, she spends too much time getting ready, he leaves his underwear around on the floor, he kissed another woman, no, I was just playing, I was just trying to make sure you are not sleep over there, that is not a small item. I am just making sure you are all still with me here and paying attention. I saw some expression on that, "What!" You cannot let all of these stuff go.

No, I was just checking you there. But my wife even has an issue that one of the things that hurts her is if I get out of the shower and dry myself once I get out of the shower on the carpet, and if she goes and step in that dampness, she just cannot take it. So that is one of her pet pees or little things. I have heard my mother say that little foxes that spoil the vine and I just want you to listen to some of their true silly reasons that I found on court records for divorce filings and these are actual filings.

One man indicated in his filing as a reason for – he wanted a divorce from a three-year marriage is because he said his wife did not dress well. Another man, he filed for divorce because he said on the paper work that his wife had pimples. This is my favorite one, here out of all of them. This man filed for divorce and the judge just could not believe reading it. It said, I want out of this marriage due to the munching sound that my wife makes while eating. Another man filed for a divorce because he said that he felt his wife was extremely beautiful and reason that her beauty attracts a bit too much attention and feared that his wife would not be able to resist the attention. I will tell you, just the reasons people use to call it quit, nowadays, the little things, little foxes that spoil the vine.

The body of Christ focuses on two many of these things, small type of things, like somebody is in my sit. Sometimes, people cannot enjoy the whole service. They cannot even listen and receive the word that pastor have for me because they worried about somebody was in sit. I hope that did not happen tonight in somebody's sit. If you are in somebody's sit tonight, please move. Some people get upset and say, I did not get recognized doing the acknowledgements. So and so, they did not speak to me this week, who does she think she is, and they did not let me sing enough in the choir.

With so much of the world headed on the highway to hell. We do not have time in the church to fight over such trivia matters that do not affect the soul of mankind.

And I remember seeing a video that was going around, many of you might have seen it and it was over a pastor of a church, small church. I believe it is a Baptist church and this pastor outside of the church, he slapped one of the mother's other church and in a news, crews showed it up on this incident and they were interviewing him and they saw this very spiritual man, they knew he was a pastor and they figured it maybe he was trying to slap the demon out of a woman or something. And they interviewed him and said, what really was the cause and what possessed you to slap this dear sainted elderly mother of the church and the spiritual man, deep into word and spiritual, he said, "Well, she hit me first!"

I will tell that the petty things, little things that we get involved in. A few weeks ago, I was in a shopping plaza with the family and we looked out in this parking lot and it was the first time I had ever seen this happen but we saw a car coming across the parking lot and while the car was driving, all of the sudden, the wheel actually came off of the car and you have seen cars in yards where they up on blocks, well this car went from moving about 15 miles an hour to just instantly stopping and the whole - I am not talking about the tire bursting, I meant the whole wheel came off the car and just went to the other end of the parking lot, and it was just amazing, I have never seen a whole wheel just come off while the car was moving like that and he almost didn't know what to do, just headed our way. I said, "Make sure this wheel does not hit us."

And it was just surprising, we were not expecting it and it is just a revelation. It is like the church and how this car no matter what type is. A car can be a Rolls-Royce, a Maserati, a Mercedes, no matter how fine a body of this car is, just like the body of Christ, if you got a few nuts and as a Christian and you are a member of the body of Christ, no matter how fine that body is, and you go to a shopping mall and somebody get on your nerves and you have to knot, it can throw the whole vehicle out of whack and stop the whole thing. No matter how anointed your church is, no matter how good Pastor Nathaniel preaches and how much you like the word. No matter how anointed he is, no matter how much you like to see Elijah's laugh. They would not care no matter many; they do not care how many children Pastor James have.

All they would know is that this Ark representative was a nut. They do not care about how much word, how many messages we have online, they will not care about any of that, all they would know is there is one nut that was lose out here in this mall. They will not be able to hear any message of Christ over this one nut of this vehicle and it may be a person that is on their way to hell - a decision point in their life that you have the opportunity to minister to. But a situation when they see you acting a nut, I will throw off the entire image of the body of Christ. And I just pray that God that if you are in this situation acting nut that have an Ark t-shirt at that time. That is my request, that if you know have nut tendencies, wear a different type of shirt. As the cliché goes, the devil is in the details and Satan tries to use the

small things to upset God's big plans and he used one small little piece of a fruit to bring sin into the entire human race then he took the offspring of that first couple Adam and Eve and he whispered in Cain's ear, "You know that God likes your brother Abel better, don't you? That you know that is why he liked his sacrifice better", he used one little whisper of jealousy and made him kill his own blood brother over such a small thing.

In Proverbs 30, it says there, "Before things which are little upon the earth but they are exceeding wise, the acts of our people not strong yet they prepare their meat in the summer, the conies are about a feeble folk yet make their houses in the rocks. The locust have no king yet go they forth all of them by bands. The spider taketh hold with their hands and it in king's palaces." And we are in a financial winter and we need to observe wisdom from the small things to see the big picture. Proverbs 30 talks about the ant preparing in the good times and saving for the bad times and my parents always told us to work hard and to save at least 10% of whatever we earned for rough times because sooner or later, rough times will come and the coney as a rock badger, a bit larger than a prairie dog and because conies are the color of the rocks, they almost are impossible to see as long as they remain among the rocks.

And if a coney decides to go off on the prairie venturing away from the rock, then is vulnerable. The biblical writer seems to say that if you have the wisdom of a coney, you will know where your security is in God himself. Next Proverb 30 talks about the locust, what the locust cannot do alone, it can do in community with others, and at the turn of the 20th century, a plague of locust in the planes of the US did over 500 million dollars worth of damage in less than one week. That is why the devil tries to create so much division in the church, because he knows that together, the church is a force that will transform the world, but divided, it is a force that is transformed to look like the world.

And lastly, the spider, because God uses the least of people, ultimately once put into his hand and anointed, they will be in king's palaces and join fellowship with the king and the spider has a great power to take the tiniest of the finest treads of web and weed them into a beautiful tapestry that has the power to snare birds. So the next time you are outside, take time to stop and observe, look at the little things that God created and gain wisdom from it. There are big lessons in the smallest of things of life. Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word.