

Four Little Creatures with Great Wisdom

Have you ever thought, where does a wise man go to find advice? Other than Jesus, the wisest man that ever lived was King Solomon. The Bible says in I Kings 4:29-31a, "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men...." Then we read of the men who counseled Solomon in I Kings 12:6a: "And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father, while he yet lived...." And then sadly we read in I Kings 12: 8a, "But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him...." Instead of seizing the grand opportunity to receive the wisdom of the ages from the sages, Rehoboam listened foolishly to the advice of the young men with whom he grew up. Tragedy followed as the advice of youth split the kingdom. We do not know much about Agur other than the words we read at the beginning of Proverbs 30, which says, "The words of Agur." I suspect Agur to be one of those wise men who stood before Solomon. I would suspect as Solomon is scribing the book of Proverbs, the Holy Spirit breathes the words that perhaps Solomon as a young king heard from the old sage, Agur. I would like for us to do the opposite of young Rehoboam; I would like for us to follow the counsel of an old man named Agur who had a lot to say in the 30th chapter of Proverbs. I would like for us to go to the portion in Proverbs 30:24-28 where Agur begins by saying, "There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise." The basic instinct of a person is to model up, rather than model down. However, when God wants to impart wisdom, He will often tell us look around us and see His wisdom in the little things. George Washington Carver said, "When I was young, I said to God, 'God, tell me the mystery of the universe.' But God answered, 'That knowledge is for Me alone.' So I said, 'God, tell me the mystery of the peanut.' Then God said, 'Well, George, that's more nearly your size.'" Carver went on to say, "He told me, 'Separate the peanut into water, fats, oils, gums, resins, sugars, starches, and amino acids. Then recombine these under My three laws of compatibility, temperature, and pressure.' Then, the Lord said, 'Then you will know why I made the peanut!'" God showed George Washington Carver over three hundred uses for the peanut. I often think about God's implantation of wisdom to this great Christian when I eat a delicious peanut butter sandwich.

Today, let's take these four humble creatures: the ants, the conies, the locusts and the spider and glean wisdom for life.

1. CONSIDER THE ANTS

Proverbs 30:25: "The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." We see these small creatures have little power. Out of the imparted wisdom that God instills within them, they use the summer months to store up for winter. Proverbs 6:6-8 says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." The ants see beyond the present moment. Too many people only live for the gusto of the here and now. I'm sure you are familiar with Aesop's

Fable, *The Ants and the Grasshopper*. The fable describes how a foolish grasshopper plays all summer and then begs for food from an ant when winter comes.

The ant knows what time it is. He uses the present to prepare for the future. Winter is coming. Paul understood the challenges of the winter when he says in II Timothy 4:21a, "Do thy diligence to come before winter...." The winter of health deterioration is coming. You are not going to live forever. How are you preparing? I say to the youth, give the best years of your life to Jesus. I say to the parents, impart the necessity of knowing, loving and serving the Lord now. Remind your kids of Ecclesiastes 12:1: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." I say to the aged, you are not finished until God takes you home; winter's full blast has not hit you yet, otherwise, you would not be reading these words. Ecclesiastes 8:8a: "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it."

America has always believed that we were protected by oceans on both sides of our continent, however, as we approach the 19th year since September 11, 2001 we have learned there were signs pointing to an impending danger from enemies abroad who had planted their hate deep in the heart of confused young men strategically located on our otherwise peaceful shores. We should be like the ant and realize the approaching signs of winter do not promise doom and gloom; they mean that while it is yet the fair days of summer, we have time to prepare to make it through whatever the future holds.

We go to picnics. Ants go to our picnic as well. While we are goofing off, basking in the pleasure of the moment, the ant is going to work, picking up the crumbs of our play; they are preparing for winter.

2. CONSIDER THE CONIES

Proverbs 30:26: "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks." The conies are rock badgers. Its home is the rock. He is protected in the rock. Should he venture onto the prairie, he is dead meat. The birds of prey will swoop down or the fox will outrun the little creature. Should the eagle eye spot it on the rocks, before he dives to make it his lunch, the cony will head for the crag of the rock and be protected. God has given the little rock badger the wisdom to know where his security is to be found. Exodus 33:21 informs us, "And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock." It is a place of sustenance. Deuteronomy 32:13: "He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock." It is a place of our defense. Psalm 31:2: "Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be Thou my strong rock, for an house of defense to save me." The world does not have what we have in Jesus. Deuteronomy 32:31a: "For their rock is not as our Rock...." I Corinthians 10:4: "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

Oh, that we would be as wise as that rock badger! Get to the Rock. Get your family to the Rock. Stay on the Rock! Traditionally, it is believed that a preacher by the name of Augustus Toplady was caught in a terrific storm and in his travels found shelter

in the gorge of Burrington Combe in the Mendip Hills in England. Reminded of all that we have in Christ, he was inspired to write the lyrics of “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.”

3. CONSIDER THE LOCUSTS

Proverbs 30:27: “The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands.” The word “locust” comes to us from the Latin *locusta*, meaning grasshopper. One little locust will cause no harm, however, at the end of the 19th century a swarm of locusts swept across the plains of America. In the equation of our modern money, this swarm did 475 billion dollars worth of damage. Locusts have been known to destroy nations. We see the covenant community of the Old Testament and the Church in the New Testament illustrate this truth. One seemingly insignificant locust is no threat; yet combined in a swarm we are presented with near insurmountable odds.

You can have a personal faith, but you are not designed to have an individual faith. I have counted 61 times the word “saints” is used in the New Testament. I discovered that only one time “saint” is used in the singular in the New Testament and that is in Philippians 4:21: “Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.” Do you notice even in this one time “saint” is used in the singular and that it is done so in association with other saints? God doesn’t intend for us to walk in our Christian experience alone. I am concerned that during this time in our history we do not get used to not assembling. Hebrews 10:25: “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” The Church’s King is not visible, yet He guides us together to take Kingdom territory for His glory.

4. CONSIDER THE SPIDER

Proverbs 30:28: “The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.” It is an amazing thing that such a small creature and so fragile in comparison to the strength of a man can live in the palace of a king. You and I may never be invited to Buckingham Palace, but even with all the cleaning crews of Her Majesty, should you go looking for it, you will eventually find the spider and her web. The spider’s web has been likened to an extension of her hands. With her subtlety, she can find a place, even in a palace. With her hands and their extensions, she may capture her food. If we look at the next chapter in Proverbs, we see in Proverbs 31:13 and 16 that the virtuous woman works willingly and successfully with her hands. Consider that the church, the Bride of Christ is designated to be the extension of Christ’s hands. By His grace we find ourselves in the King’s palace. By Christ’s grace, we are seated with our Lord in Heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). And by His grace, we can influence people for Heaven while on earth.

-Pastor Pope-