

Gospel Lighthouse Church
10/27/24
Community Outreach II
Ant Wisdom

Text: Mark 16:15 and 20. Proverbs 6:6, 30:24-25.

Introduction : Matthew and Luke give more details about Jesus' last days on earth. Mark summarizes them in a few short sentences, the main emphasis is, the Lord doesn't want anyone left behind; expressed in the Community outreach letter, point #7. The text provides a model through a symbiotic relationship.

There are two primary categories of relationships, parasitic and symbiotic.

- Parasitic is where one species benefits while the other is harmed. The parasite gains advantage to the detriment of another.
- Symbiotic is a close relationship where both species benefit from each other. It's interdependent.

The symbiotic nature in outreach is highlighted in the textual phrases "And He said to them"—Mk. 16:15a, "And they went", --v20a, and "the Lord working with them"—v20b. This reaching out was symbiotic and not parasitic. This is the relational model God designed from the beginning. He made them male and female—Gen.1:27.

This involves perseverance a principle Jesus revealed concerning prayer—Lk. 11:5-10. GLC is committing to this principle strategy relative to our neighborhood, complimentary to other ongoing outreach.

- This symbiotic practice is depicted by ants, which we're told to consider and become wise—Prov.6:6, 30:24-25.

Ants are one of the most abundant creatures on earth. For every person walking around, there are perhaps 16 million ants. One secret of the ants' success is their ability to **cooperate**.

Leafcutter ants live in highly organized societies with many kinds of workers. Each worker has just the right size and equipment to do its job. The largest are the soldiers, which protect the colony. Their large mandibles can slice leather as well as human skin.

Several different-sized workers, called "media," harvest the leaves. The largest media ants cut the big leaves and pass the pieces to smaller ants, in assembly-line fashion. Another kind of worker tends the white, fluffy fungal gardens. The smallest ant is the gardener, which "weeds" the garden. They can weigh 300 times less than the soldier ants. (<https://answersingenesis.org/creepy-crawlies/insects/symbiosis/>) Symbiosis—The Cooperation of Life | Answers in Genesis

- This symbiotic relationship by divine design is reiterated—Eph.4:15-16. NLT version.

This text confirms we all have something to give, and therefore we all can help each other out with our goals.

Specific things included in our strategy.

1. Come together.
2. Collectively pray.
3. Concentrate (focus together on the common purpose).
4. Center on the creative strategies birthed as our hearts are knitted to a common goal of restoration. (I believe the people at GLC are very creative and can add to, like a "The Jethro ministry").
- Jethro – Excellency, his abundance, advantage, and profit; it connotes the concept of **addition** - Strong's #3503.
5. Explore things the city has targeted for neighborhoods/communities and collaborate.
6. Commit to surveying and responding to realistic needs.
7. Commit to enhancing and practicing "no neighbor left behind."

Conclusion: This is consistent with GLC's vision of restoration, part of this year's theme Triunity including *realignment and reorganization for effective impact*. We are going to pray, plan, adopt strategies and persevere in expanding outreach, by targeting our neighborhood. I am convinced God will help us be creative and committed.

JDF

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