

# Considering Our Ways

## Proverbs 6.6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise

**CONSIDER:** To view or consider with continued attention; to study; to meditate on. To think carefully about before deciding. This word expresses the attention of the mind, but sometimes in connection with that of the eyes; as, to contemplate the heavens.

**Synonyms:** think about, contemplate · give thought to, reflect on · examine · appraise · review · study · mull over · ponder · deliberate over · cogitate about · chew over · meditate on/over ·

### 1. Consider Our ways, The honor of hard work

[Study Guide for Proverbs 6 by David Guzik \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

1. ([Pro 6:6-8](#)) The example of the ant.

a. **Go to the ant, you sluggard!** Solomon spoke wisdom to the **sluggard**—essentially, the lazy man or woman. That lazy person should learn from the **ant**, an insect proverbial for hard work.

i. The book of Proverbs speaks a lot about the value of hard work, and for good reason. The difference between success and failure, between potential disappointed or fulfilled, is often hard work.

ii. “No insect is more *laborious*, not even the *bee* itself; and none is more *fondly attached* to or more *careful* of its young, than the ant.” (Clarke)

iii. “Christ sends us to school to the birds of the air, and lilies of the field, to learn dependence upon divine providence, [[Matthew 6:25-29](#)] and to the stork, crane, and swallow, to be taught to take the seasons of grace, and not to let slip the opportunities that God putteth into our hands. [[Jeremiah 8:7](#)].” (Trapp)

b. **Having no captain, overseer or ruler:** The ant is **wise** and worthy of imitation because she works hard without having to be *told* to work hard. The ethic of diligence comes from within, and does not have to be imposed by a **captain, overseer or ruler**.

i. “Aristotle also asserted that ants labor without rulers to direct them. Modern entomologists have discovered a perfect social organization among ants, but, as Plaut notes, this does ‘not imply that there is a hierarchy of command.’” (Waltke)

c. **Providers her supplies in the summer:** The ant works hard when the work is to be done. In the **summer** and in the **harvest**, the work gets done. This means that the ant gives a good lesson in her **ways** and her wisdom.

i. “What a deal of grain gets she together in summer! What pains doth she take for it, labouring not by daylight only, but by moonshine also! What huge heaps hath she! What care to bring

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forth her store, and lay it drying on a sunshine day, lest with moisture it should putrefy."  
(Trapp)

## 2. Consider Our Ways, Avoiding Slovenliness

[Verse by Verse Study on Proverbs 6-10 \(C2000\) by Chuck Smith \(blueletterbible.org\)](#)

So the first little exhortation is against guaranteeing for somebody else. The second little exhortation is against slovenliness.

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. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when are you going to awake? Yet a little sleep, and a little slumber, and a little folding of your hands to sleep: and so shall thy poverty come as one that travelth, and thy want as an armed man ([Pro 6:6-11](#)).

**A little exhortation against laziness.** Go to the ant. Now, we are told that Solomon was a very prolific writer. That he wrote 3,000 proverbs, several songs, and he wrote books on biology and botany. And so he was a man who was very familiar with nature. And we will pick this up as we get to some other proverbs as he talks about the characteristics of other animals and insects.

**Communication encouraged.** But here he is saying, "Now go to the ant, learn of her ways and be wise." And watching ants is a very interesting experience. They are perhaps one of the most industrious of all little insects. The worker ants and how they go out and how they gather. How you see them. And I love to watch ants. I sometimes used to sit out in the backyard with bread and I'd just break off pieces of bread and throw it down and watch them as the little ant would get hold of it and try and pull it and pull it, and pretty soon another would get on and they'd hold the thing and just to watch them in their labor as they are laying up their food. So industrious. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; learn of her ways, and be wise. Which having no guide, or overseer, or ruler." And you wonder how they communicate. Yet, they evidently do communicate because you get a couple of them in your house and they discover something sweet, man, they communicate it to all their cousins and relatives and everybody else. And soon the whole tribe is in there.

**Working Together is Beneficial.** I've often thought about miniaturization, you know. Everything is, the whole concept is that of miniaturizing everything. Have you ever wondered how big an ant's brain must be? Talk about something that's miniature. And yet, there is no doubt the capacity to communicate and surely the capacity of working together. And I think that this is the lesson to learn. Without a foreman out there yelling instructions and everything else, somehow they get this bread, chunk of bread together and pretty soon, they're carting the thing off. You can see this chunk of bread just moving across the ground. It may take them a little while, a little struggling and all. But ultimately, they get things coordinated without a guide, an overseer, or a ruler. Yet, learning to just work together. "Providing her meat in the summer, gathering her food in the harvest."

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So be careful of laziness for a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of your hands to sleep and comes poverty. It's inevitable.

## 2. Consider Our Ways, Counting the Cost

Cost Defined

[COST - Definition from the KJV Dictionary \(av1611.com\)](http://av1611.com)

The price, value or equivalent of a thing purchased; the amount in value paid, charge or engaged to be paid for anything bought or taken in barter. The word is equally applicable to the price in money or commodities; as the cost of a suit of clothes; the cost of a house or farm.

2. Expense; amount in value expended or to be expended; charge; that which is given or to be given for another thing.

I will not offer burnt offerings without cost. 1 Chronicles 21.

Have we eaten at all at the kings cost? 2 Samuel 19.

The cost of maintaining armies is immense and often ruinous.

3. In law, the sum fixed by law or allowed by the court for charges of a suit awarded against the party losing, in favor of the party prevailing, &c. The jury find that the plaintiff recover of the defendant ten dollars with costs of suit or with his cost.

4. Loss or expense of any kind; detriment; pain; suffering. The vicious man indulges his propensities at a great cost.

5. Sumptuousness; great expense.

### The Concept of Cost

Planning : We all endeavor to plan ahead. However, many times we do fail and it's often because we refused to count the cost ahead of time. What does it mean by count the cost? Does that have something to do with money? Well, maybe but not necessarily. Put simply, when you count the cost, you plan. You take inventory of everything that needs to happen before you pursue a goal.

**“Jesus is the only significance. Beside Jesus nothing has any significance. He alone matters.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “The Cost of Discipleship”**

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At Any Cost: If we say that something must be done **at any cost**, we are emphasizing that it must be done, even if this requires a lot of effort or money. Our focus must be on eternal value not temporal value, Mark 8.36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

**“Be not anxious! Earthly possessions dazzle our eyes and delude us into thinking that they can provide security and freedom from anxiety. Yet all the time they are the very source of all anxiety”** Dietrich Bonhoeffer, **“The Cost of Discipleship”**

Concept of Cost from A Worldly Perspective

[All the things you should know about the concept of cost and its kinds \(unacademy.com\)](https://www.unacademy.com/learn/business/cost-accounting/concept-of-cost/)

The best way to understand cost is by understanding that it is the sacrifice that one makes to obtain multiple services and goods. Traditionally speaking, the cost is the relationship between the production value of input and its level of output. The concept of cost is quite important to know as it helps in the running of the business, and it is an important expenditure to make. In the end, the cost is an expense. All the factors that play a part in the production of the commodity have something to do with the cost. For instance, labour costs we measure in terms of benefits and wages. **The historical cost concept requires the valuation of an asset at multiple values.** Such as the fixed asset cost we measure with the help of its depreciation value. To understand the concept of cost more thoroughly, you must know how many types of costs are there. We can conclude that the **historical cost concept requires the valuation of an asset at a nominal value.** Cost analysis is an important factor to know about as it relates the financial factors of production to its physical factors. We can say that cost helps us in making decisions that are related to the prices of a commodity. Such as, all the manufacturing enterprises consider the ratio between the price and cost as markup. It is this cost that represents the difference between the selling price and the respective direct cost of the commodity. Though costs are the base of any of the pricing decisions, they act only as a starting point. It is the market condition and multiple other factors that determine the price of a commodity.

Concept of Cost from the Biblical Perspective of Discipleship

[What does it mean to “count the cost” \(Luke 14:28\)? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Luke-14-28.html)

In [Luke 14](#), Jesus lays out the terms of discipleship. There were great crowds following Him. Everyone loved the miracles, healing, and free food. Jesus was cool, the talk of the town, and the latest fad. But He knew their hearts. He knew they desired the benefits of what He *did* rather than an understanding of who He *was*. They loved His gifts, not the life He was calling them to. So He explained what it takes to be one of His followers:

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has

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laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" ([Luke 14:26-33](#)).

Jesus said a lot in those simple illustrations. He quickly put an end to the idea that He offered some kind of welfare program. Although the gift of eternal life is free to anyone who asks ([John 3:16](#)), the asking requires a transfer of ownership ([Luke 9:23](#); [Galatians 5:24](#)). "Counting the cost" means recognizing and agreeing to some terms first. In following Christ, we cannot simply follow our own inclinations. We cannot follow Him and the world's way at the same time ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)). Following Him may mean we lose relationships, dreams, material things, or even our lives.

Those who are following Jesus simply for what they can get won't stick around when the going gets tough. When God's way conflicts with our way, we will feel betrayed by the shallow, me-first faith we have bought into. If we have not counted the cost of being His child, we will turn away at the threat of sacrifice and find something else to gratify our selfish desires (cf. [Mark 4:5, 16-17](#)). In Jesus' earthly ministry, there came a time when the free food stopped and public opinion turned ugly. The cheering crowds became jeering crowds. And Jesus knew ahead of time that would happen.

Jesus ended His description of the cost of discipleship with a breathtaking statement: "Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" ([Luke 14:33](#)). "Renouncing" may mean we give up something physically, but more often it means we let go emotionally so that what we possess no longer possesses us. When we become one of His, we cannot continue to belong to this world ([1 John 2:15-17](#)). We must make a choice, for we cannot serve both God and Mammon ([Matthew 6:24](#)). The rich young ruler, when confronted with that choice, turned his back on Jesus ([Luke 18:18-25](#)).

We cannot earn salvation by lifestyle change or any other good deed ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). But when we choose to follow Christ, we are releasing control of our lives. When Jesus is in control, pure living results ([1 John 3:4-10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

In Jesus' [parable of the sower](#), it was only the soil that allowed the seed to put down roots and bear fruit that was called "good." If we are going to be disciples of Christ, we must first count the cost of following Him.