

Inspirational Thought

"Bees, Butterflies, Methods of Leadership, and the Mark of the Beast"

Excerpts from a sermon by W.D. Frazee

How do groups of people work together and accomplish anything if each group and individual is different from all the others? Everywhere we turn, it takes cooperation. Do we need that in the home, in the church, in the institution? But it's also important not to lose individuality. Balance is needed, like the blessing of both the bees and the butterflies.

Have any of you ever worked with bees? What lessons do the bees teach us?

Organization. Cooperation. Does every bee have its place? Oh, yes. How well organized they are. The queen has her work. The drones have theirs, and the workers, of whom there are multitudes, have theirs. Among the workers some of them are doing one thing and some another. But they are all doing what? Cooperating, working together.

But do you know how they do it? What is it that keeps those bees accomplishing those things? Well, I will tell you, folks, it is a regimented organization. The hive is everything, the individual is nothing.

In contrast, have you ever seen a swarm of butterflies all moving together? You don't see that very often, do you? Do they live in a hive? Do they have a queen?

I guess every butterfly is her own queen, isn't she. I would like that, wouldn't you? I would like to be my own boss, and nobody tell me what to do.

There are advantages in the butterfly life, aren't there? Just think,

the butterfly can go to this flower, fly over to this one, spend the night wherever it chooses, accountable to nobody.

"They don't produce any honey." [A student comment]

Somebody would think of that. Very good. Which do you think contributes more to this world's well-being, the bees or the butterflies?

"The butterflies do a lot of pollination." [A student comment]

But if we want some honey, we know where to go, don't we?

My point is, that in Christian administration we are to learn how to combine the advantages of the bees program with the advantages of the butterfly program.

The butterfly is an individualist. The bees are regimented. And God seeks through His church to demonstrate that He can get the advantages of group action without sacrificing the important advantages of individuality.

As a teacher, you need to know that. As a work supervisor, you need to know that. As a church officer, you need to know that. In the home, the school, the church, everything that you are connected with, there must be a studied effort and aim to get people to work together without sacrificing what? Their individuality. Because, if you get things done at the sacrifice of individuality, do you know what you are preparing people for, whether you did it in the school, or the church, or the home, or the workshop?

You are preparing them for the mark of the beast. That is right. The mark of the beast.

Let us go over to Revelation 17:13 and I want you to get a view of these people that get the mark of the beast:

"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" Revelation 17:13.

Notice, they have "one mind."

Do they differ? Not in this confederacy. But who is leading them?

The beast. And as the result, the fourteenth verse shows that they are doing what? Making war with the Lamb.

Oh, friends, what good would it do if you were so efficient in your work management, or your school management, or your home management, or your church leadership, that you got everybody to just work together like the storm troopers, and at the end the people that you taught to work that way end up fighting Jesus? If in the process of accomplishing these things we produce people who lose their individuality, I ask again, what have we accomplished? Worse than nothing, right?

When you get this viewpoint, then you will see why it was that Jesus kept on with His methods with the twelve disciples even though they did not show up to good advantage many times. It is better to fail a short quiz but pass the final examination than it is to get good grades day by day and flunk out at the end. Isn't it? And the final examination that is ahead of us is the time of trouble.