

Delightful Discoveries in Prayer

Prayer Lessons in Creation

From material by Glenn & Ethyl Coon

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 10: The Pulpit of the Fields

The Message from Creation:

“But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?” Job 12:7-9.

Statements like these show that God has a message in nature for all His creatures, endued with reasoning powers. Jesus taught the same thing in Matthew 10:29 to 31:

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.”

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?” Matthew 6:26-30. So Jesus verifies what is in the book of Job.

God’s care for His creatures is clearly shown: “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19. God will never let one down who trusts in Him.

SPARROW SONG

“Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heav’n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.”

“I sing because I’m happy.
I sing because I’m free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,

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And I know He watches me."

The promise of 2 Chronicles 16:9 says: "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." We need to capture this picture of our Lord, as being so eager to aid us that He is searching, hoping to find someone who will look up to Him for help.

Romans 8:31, 32 tell us: "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

The promise in Luke 11:13, shows that God is more eager to give us that which is for our good than are earthly parents to give to their children.

True Story:

There are nine witnesses to this story of answered prayer, and God's willingness to hear. It shows God's care for the creatures created on the fifth and sixth days of creation.

"There were five of us young people, besides our parents, plus two doctors, who witnessed this striking incident of answered prayer.

"We had a dog, an Alaskan husky, named Elmer. He was a perfect specimen of his breed. We had trained him to sit on the back of a bicycle, or motorcycle, with one paw on one side of the rider, and the other paw on the other side. His pretty face seemed always to be smiling as his tongue hung out. We loved to take pictures of him in this pose.

"One day, as Elmer came into the house with some of us children, we noticed him whimpering. As soon as we got to the light, we saw that it was his eye that was hurting him. It was very badly injured. Immediately we put him in the car and took him to Dr. Neal, our veterinarian. Dr. Neal examined the eye, and sadly informed us that the eye was gone! There was nothing left to do but to sew up the right eyelid.

"Since he had no equipment for this operation, he referred us to Dr. Bratcher. We went home and fell on our knees, just outside on the grass where we had formed a circle. There we wept out our hearts to God for our beloved pet, Elmer.

"After we arose from our knees, we decided to take Elmer right away to Dr. Bratcher, and have him sew up the eyelid that evening. We explained to Dr. Bratcher what Dr. Neal had told us.

"Dr. Bratcher looked at the right eye. Then he turned and examined the left eye. "Which eye did you say needs sewing up?" he inquired. Then he added, "Both eyes are perfect!"

"When we returned home, there was great rejoicing. That eye never caused Elmer any more trouble. We had our beloved pet for many years after."

This fits into the lesson of how Jesus is interested in the birds, even the little sparrows. Since He is interested in a pet dog, how very eager He must be to answer our prayers!

We all have a tendency to forget God's wonderful care for us. Jesus spoke of ten lepers who were healed. Only one returned to give thanks. You would think that anyone who had been delivered from such a fatal and horrible disease as leprosy, would never rest until he had searched out the One who had been so kind, and thanked Him, wouldn't you?

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This is part of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." It was in this sermon, that Jesus invited us to turn and look at the lilies, and the fowls of the air (verses 25 to 30).

I like the term "pulpit of the fields," just as the "tabernacle of the sun" gives the gospel; it must be that God has pulpits several places in nature. When we see a sparrow, as lowly as it is, it is a sermon from God's field pulpit. When we see a flower blooming, we can remember it is preaching a sermon from the pulpit of the fields. Every bird song is a sermon from that field pulpit also. Maybe it could be termed, "a musical selection"!

Here is a passage which speaks of the fowls of the air, etc. "These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good." Psalm 104:27 and 28.

Here are four specific thoughts from this passage:

1. The fowls wait on God. So why should we worry? Why should not we wait on God?
2. God gives them. He has also promised us, "Ask, and it shall be given you." Matthew 7:7.
3. What God gives them, they receive; "they gather." We have been learning about asking, believing and receiving. We are to listen to the sermon preached from the field pulpit. When God promises us a gift, we are to gather it. We are to receive it. That is what our Lord taught: "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matthew 21:22. And again, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. May it not be that the reason many of us do not get bigger answers to our prayers, is, that we have never learned from the sermon of the field pulpit? If the birds receive what God gives, should we not, in simple faith, do the same?
4. This lesson is a very practical one. The birds, the fowls of the air, are not lazy. God provides them their food, but they gather it. They do not expect God to shove it down their throats—like the baby birds do. They co-operate with God. He supplies their food—they gather it. God wants us to work with Him and not be lazy.

In these studies we can gain a concept of God as One who is very willing to answer our prayers. When He placed 3,573 promises in the Bible, as someone has counted them, He was not forced into making these promises, any more than He is forced into giving food to the fowls of the air. He gave us these promises because He is eager to supply our needs. And He wants us to ask Him, believingly, for all that we need, and then claim, or receive these blessings, that we might always know that every good gift comes from Him, our Creator; this is praying creatively.

From this field pulpit come the words: "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Matthew 6:30.

Psalm 145:14-16 The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

The Bible gives us a caution: "When thou hast eaten and art full, then . . . beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God . . . then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, . . . and thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deuteronomy 8:10-18.

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"How gentle God's commands!
How kind his precepts are!
Come, cast your burdens on the Lord,
And trust his constant care.

"Beneath his watchful eye
His saints securely dwell;
That hand which bears all nature up
Shall guard his children well.

"Why should this anxious load
Press down your weary mind?
Haste to your Heavenly Father's throne,
And sweet refreshment find

"His goodness stands approved
Through each succeeding day:
I'll drop my burden at his feet,
And bear a song away."

Let's try this and see what it will do for us. "Pray, Believe, Rejoice, Sing praises To God, Because He has Answered Your prayers." Testimonies, Vol. 7, Pg 274.

Review Questions

Note: fill in blanks for the correct answers to the following:

1. Can mankind learn from the beasts, the fowls, and the fishes? Yes _____. No _____. Job 12:7-9.
2. Do the birds and the lilies tell us that God is really interested in us individually? Yes _____. No _____. Matt. 6:25-34.
3. Does the Bible teach that good men will be kind to the dumb animals? Yes _____. No _____. Prov. 12:10.
4. Should we treat the creatures under us as we would want them to treat us were our condition reversed? Yes _____. No _____. Matt. 7:12.
5. When we meet with severe trials and disappointments in life, does the Bible say that God permits these because He wishes to teach us lessons? Yes _____. No _____. Heb. 12:5-11.
6. God has commanded us to respond to trials with joy, not sorrow. True _____. False _____. James 1:2, 3.
7. Does God willingly afflict the children of men? Yes _____. No _____. Lam. 3:33.
8. In all our afflictions God is " _____ " Isa. 63:9.
9. God assures us that whoever touches us, touches "the _____ " Zech. 2:8.
10. It is our duty to glory in tribulations, not because we love the pain, but because we know patience is being developed by this response. True _____. False _____. Rom. 5:3-5.

Answers found on answer sheet.