

Life's Little Lessons IX

A Lesson for the Birds?

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” (Matt. 6:26). While driving to a speaking engagement in Southern California, a preacher passed through San Juan Capistrano. The line “when the swallows come back to Capistrano” immediately came to his mind, and he began humming that old song. He recalled that for more than 150 years those golden-breasted birds have spent their summers in the eaves of the old mission located there. They always arrive on March 19 and leave on October 23, never missing those dates. Not once have they varied over the years. Even leap year does not change the times of their coming and going. And the swallows invariably start out before daylight on their southern flight.

Now, how would you explain this unusual phenomenon? Nature's guidance? Luck? Coincidence? Well, let me tell you. The swallow's Creator has put within those little creatures an instinct that tells them with uncanny accuracy when to head south and when to return. Their survival depends on this innate sense of timing. What meticulous care God exercises to guide the swallow and all the fowls of the air! But consider how much greater value we are to God than these tiny birds. (From Bible Illustrator)

No Means of Retreat

“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). When Cortez landed at Vera Cruz in 1519 to begin his conquest of Mexico with a small force of 700 men, he purposely set fire to his fleet of eleven ships. His men on the shore watched their only means of retreat sinking to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. With no means of retreat, there was only one direction in which to move, forward into the Mexican interior to meet whatever might come their way.

To be a disciple of the Lord, we also must purposely destroy all avenues of retreat. We must resolve that whatever price is required for being His follower, we will gladly pay. We have become citizens of the kingdom of God, and we will not retreat to the world.

Warm, Safe, and Comfortable?

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). I was cleaning out a desk drawer when I found a flashlight I hadn't used in over a year. I flipped the switch but wasn't surprised when it gave no light. I opened the flashlight and shook it to get the batteries out, but they wouldn't budge. Finally, after some effort, they came loose. What a mess! Battery acid had corroded the entire inside of the flashlight. The batteries were new when I'd put them in, and I'd stored them in a safe, warm place, but there was one problem. Those batteries weren't made to be warm and comfortable. They were designed to be turned on, to be used. (From Ted Engstrom)

The same is true with us. The Christian is not designed to be warm, safe, and comfortable. He must be “turned on,” letting his light shine, putting his love to work, diligently teaching God's word at every opportunity, and bearing up under persecutions and hardships.

Television for Dummies?

A recent poll reported that the more intelligent a person is, the less he or she will watch television. However, the poll was unable to discover a cause and effect relationship between the two; since that is the case, is it possible that the more a person watches television, the less intelligent he or she becomes? The Oxford University Press (2013) published a study which demonstrated a correlation between long term television viewing and a reduction in verbal ability

and behavioral control. Think about that (at least while you can still think) each time you reach for the remote.

Trust in God
By Norman Macleod

Courage, Brother, do not stumble,
Though your path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble,
Trust in God and do the right.

Let the road be rough and dreary,
And its end far out of sight,
Foot it bravely, strong or weary;
Trust in God and do the right.

Perish policy and cunning,
Perish all that fears the light;
But in every word and action,
Trust in God and do the right.

Some will hate you, some will love you,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from man and look above you,
Trust in God and do the right.

Through the Tears
Author Unknown

It's easy to be pleasant
When life flows like a song.
But the person worthwhile
Is the one who can smile
When everything goes dead wrong.
For the test of the heart is trouble
And it always comes with years.
And the smile that is worth
The praises of earth
Is the smile that shines through the tears.

A Moments Wisdom

--If you want to leave footprints in the sands of time, wear work boots.
--Knowing without doing is like plowing without sowing.
--Conceit is what makes a little squirt think he is a fountain of knowledge.
--If you would not be forgotten as so as you have passed, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing.
--Discussion is an exchange of knowledge; argument is an exchange of ignorance.
--Never part from another without kind words; they may be your last.
--The trouble with the world is not that people know too little, but that they know so many things that aren't true.

- No one ever climbed a mountain just by looking at it.
- This world would be much nicer if antique people were valued as highly as antique furniture.
- He who would tell you what he would do in your place, often does not know what to do in his own place.
- God's wrath comes by measure; God's mercy comes without measure.
- The first screw that gets loose in a person's head is often the one attached to his tongue.
- We are only young once, but some folks are immature all of their lives.
- We commend others to the mercy of God, but often show them none ourselves.
- Doing nothing must be the most tiring job in the world, because how does one stop to rest?
- He who cannot obey must not command.
- What people fail to learn from sermons, they later learn from experience.
- A reprobate is someone who loses God and does not miss Him.