

# Calling the Bride

"And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" – John 8:32

A Ministry of CafeLoaqs.org

## The Sixth Day

### **Animals and humans have a lot in common - maybe too much.**

*And God made the beast of the earth after his kind...And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness and let them have dominion...over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Genesis 1:25,26,31*

God created animals and human beings on the same day. He created the animals each one after "his kind," but man was created in the image of God. After the fall and the entrance of sin the gap started to narrow between the species somewhat. We did not evolve from animals, but now it seems we just have a lot more in common.

A pastor related to me how one of the teenagers in his church was bragging to the youth pastor about how many times he'd had sex. When I heard this story I thought, "The only difference between that kid and the average dog is that the dog can't count."

Place a steak or a female dog in heat in front of the average mutt and he's going to go for it, unless he is thoroughly disciplined or restrained by something. Remove the restraints from a society and people aren't going to behave much better than their four legged friends.

Mankind takes much pride in technical advancements and intellect, but basic human nature is not that far removed from the animal kingdom whether we care to admit it or not.

My husband and I camped next to a horse ranch in California. The owner of the ranch told me that when the herd was larger she noticed that the brown horses would hang out only with other brown horses, speckled with speckled, white with white, etc. White humans and black humans still have trouble mingling sometimes, just like those horses. Well, at least we know now where the phrase "a horse of a different color" originates.

I observe the squirrels in our yard. They are very territorial. One day I heard a typical confrontation. Another squirrel had apparently been trespassing in our squirrel's backyard. He was very angry. After the confrontation was over, I watched in amazement as this outraged little creature returned to a tree branch. It yanked a leaf from its stem and angrily tore it into shreds with its tiny paws, all the while yelling at the top of its squeaky squirrel voice. I've seen people act like that, not much better than an average irate rodent.

A chipmunk was resting placidly on the end of a long stick that was leaning out over the edge of a woodpile in our yard. Another chipmunk saw him and flattened himself at the base of the stick preparing his strategy for war. Then in a flash he struck, zooming up the branch like a torpedo, knocking his unsuspecting prey off the stick. The other chipmunk fell a full seven feet, landing with a thunk on the forest floor, the victim of premeditated aggression. How many human beings possess the mentality of a chipmunk?

In Virginia we were staying by a lake. There was a deck next to our camper where we could sit and look out at the ducks. There were four ducks that were always hanging out together, three males and a female. I named the female Gloria. The males were Harpo, Groucho and Chico.

I would feed them and one day they all scurried up the steep bank and came onto the deck to get a better shot at the goodies. Some other ducks swam by on the water below. I decided to share a bit of the bounty with them and so I cast some bread out over the deck rail. Harpo, Groucho and Chico immediately barreled off the deck and raced down to the water to intercept the bread. Gloria stayed with me. I thought her good sense and lack of covetousness deserved to be rewarded, so I fed her. When the greedy trio below caught on, they raced back up the hill to the deck where they observed that Gloria had been reaping the bounty. They watched her swallow the last morsel. "All gone fellas. Sorry," I said as I extended my empty hands.

I watched all four ducks return to the water. Then immediately Harpo, Groucho and Chico attacked Gloria, beating her with their beaks. I watched in amazement as they held her under the water for quite some time. It's hard to be the victim of greedy ducks whether they are gang members, politicians or corporate pirates.

Living in the woods, I have had ample opportunities to observe the feeding habits of the mosquitoes. These creatures are driven by lust. It does not matter what obstacles they face to reach the object of their passion, they will never stop trying. Even when confronted with near death by swatting, they keep coming back, risking it all to gratify their desire. Once they've made contact, death by smashing is the inevitable end for a bug that can't think.

How many people are driven the same way? Whether it is drug addiction or sex, they'll risk aids and death for another high or another pretty face.

Unlike the animals, human beings have been created with the wonderful ability to think and choose. We have the capabilities to make better choices than the creatures that we have been designed to rule over. We have been created in the image of God and He values us. He has designed us to be so much better than a squirrel, a dog or a horse. Yet our Creator sees the depravity in our souls, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). And He gave us the remedy for that sin, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."-John 3:16.

Human beings can choose to repent, to humble themselves to receive Jesus, the bread of eternal life. We can invite Him to come inside and change us from within into the people He wants us to be. We can have dominion over the lower natures that try to control us and destroy our lives. We can live on a level much higher than the average dog or mosquito.

The question is – do we want to?

# Pigs

*And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw Him, they besought Him that He would depart out of their coasts.- Matthew 8: 34*

Pigs are very intelligent animals. I met a woman and her husband who raised them and one of them they kept as a family pet. This pig lived in the house with them and was housebroken. They just loved her.

The woman and her husband had their own maintenance business. They had been doing very well, then suddenly their business began to decline and they were not getting any more calls.

One day, the woman was outside and she heard the telephone ring. She came in the house just in time to see her pig lift the receiver off its hook with its mouth. The pig set it down then oinked into the mouthpiece several times. Then she picked up the receiver once again and deftly set it back onto its cradle hanging up on another bewildered potential customer.

Piggy was promptly removed from the house and returned to a pen in the yard. Soon afterwards business returned to normal.

We all have pet pig sins we would like to keep. They're fun to play with, but we don't really see the damage they can do to us.

When Jesus sent some demons into a heard of swine, the decision the townsfolk made concerning the Lord was in essence - let's keep the pigs and ask God to leave.

We want to hang onto our pet pig sins of lust, indulgence, greed and the like, but we don't realize what it is going to cost us in the end. It's better to let the Lord have His way. When He calls again, this time, be willing to let go of the pigs and ask the Lord to stay.

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## Worms

An acquaintance of mine related this story to me about one of the officers he served with in the Navy.

He said his friend was a Christian who had failed miserably. I wasn't told exactly what sin it was that the man had committed, but it was serious. It drove him to his knees in repentance before God.

In agony the man wailed, "God, I am a worm!"

And in the profound moment of silence after that confession, the man heard the Still Small Voice of the Lord say,

*"No you are not a worm. The worms obey Me."*

From "The Still Small Voice" by H.D. Shively



*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. -*

*Isaiah 40:31*

Art by J.L. Shively from "The Art of J.L. Shively - Art with a Message"

# Before and After - Sheep, Goats and Samaritans

*...and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, ... Luke 10:33*

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter ten, verses thirty through thirty-seven, Jesus told a parable in response to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" If we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, then who is qualified to be our neighbor? This parable is called, 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan.' In Jesus' day the Samaritans were objects of much prejudice by the self-righteous Jews; yet, Jesus makes the Samaritan the hero in this story that goes like this. -

A man is robbed, wounded and left near death on the side of the road. He is completely ignored by the religious ones who go out of their way to avoid him. Yet we see that the Samaritan "had compassion" on him and inconvenienced himself to help the wounded man. He treated his wounds, took him to an inn and stayed with him until the next day. He gave money to the innkeeper before he left, and told him to spend what was necessary to meet the wounded man's needs. He gave of his resources and his time without hesitation.

The point of the story is, our neighbor is anyone who needs our help within our capacity to help them. We are not to turn away from the needs of our fellow man, no matter who they are. We are all made in the image of our God.

We notice in this parable that there are three people types; the one who needed help, the people who didn't help, and the one who responded to the wounded man's needs. Let's keep these people groups in mind as we turn the pages in our Bibles and read what happens when Jesus returns in Matthew 25:31-46.

If we look at this passage carefully, we will notice that we are seeing the outcome of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. We can see the same three people groups illustrated for us here; the Least of These, the ones needing help, the goats who didn't help them, and the good, compassionate sheep who did. We understand now how important our Samaritan parable really is for us to comprehend at this moment before the Lord returns. The Lord tests the righteous (Psalm 11:5) and the Samaritans, the sheep, passed that test.

The ramifications of how we respond to the needs we see around us has eternal rewards. The sheep are rewarded and the goats are punished. The goats obviously lacked the one ingredient that the Samaritan sheep have in abundance because they are saved; they know their Lord and that ingredient is compassion. The scriptures show us that without love or compassion we are "nothing" (I Corinthians 13:2).

Jesus wants us to see Him as the wounded one abandoned on the side of the road who needs our help. And that help isn't only helping to meet someone's physical needs. When we share the Gospel, we are quenching their spiritual thirst, we are clothing their nakedness with the covering of salvation; we are feeding them eternal life, releasing them from the prison of their sins and healing their souls.

If we can apply the principles of Jesus' simple parable of the Good Samaritan before we face His judgment seat, then we won't have to ever worry about what will happen after.

*And the King shall answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it to Me.' - Matthew 25:40*