

## Spiritual Lessons from Nature's World Part II

Intro: If you remember our first trip to the zoo we stopped at the cage of the badger, the pasture lot with the cow and we did a flyover with the albatross.

But since admission to this zoo is free, we want to take another quick trip see what we can learn from our friends in the animal world. This week we want to check in on 3 more of our friends so lets begin with



### I. The Beaver

- The beaver is quite an animal and one that we can draw some spiritual lessons from, so lets spend some time with this furry, flat tailed, big toothed, critter
- Beavers are vegetarians that often prefer to eat plant growth, such as clover, grasses, raspberry canes and aquatic vegetation.
- Beavers often live 20-30 years in captivity. A lady by the name of Dorothy Richards had a beaver that lived over 20 years in an addition to her house.
- Beavers are active mainly at night, but occasionally can be seen out and about during the day.
- Beavers are known to be the largest rodents found in North America and Canada.
- An adult averages between 40-60 lbs. Newborns often weigh about one pound.
- The Beaver's powerful tail that is 5-6 inches wide serves as a rudder when swimming and it has a number of other uses including such things as assistance in standing on land so they can cut trees and also as a warning when in the water.

- Beavers mate for life but if the first mate dies, they often find another

But what are some spiritual lessons that we can learn from this amazing creature?

A. They perceive needs in their surroundings and then actively set about to do something.

Too many times, Christians are apparently blind to the needs around them.

When the beaver sees what they feel is a need on a stream they set forth to try and build a dam to correct it.

- The lesson here is that when we see needs around us, we should start planning and then actually begin doing something to meet that need.

B. They are also patient creatures

In a day when we think things should be done yesterday, the beaver goes about his work one tail load of mud at a time and one stick at a time till the job is done.

Romans 12:12 says what? *Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful.*

And of course there is a passage in James 5:7,8 where we see the value of being patient like the beaver. *Dear brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who eagerly look for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They patiently wait for the precious harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. And take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.*

So like the beaver, lets take life one scoop at a time, even if sometimes it is mud and then also take life one stick at a time and we will get the job done and with less stress. **Remember:** Bean by bean, the bag is filled

C. They are also determined and tenacious

In other words, they don't give up easily. People may tear their dams down one day but the next day or so they have started to rebuild. When people don't get what they want, or see what they want achieved in a short time the tendency is to give up. But not so with the beaver. He hangs right on, no matter what, until after many long battles reality finally sets in for him.

We want to give up too easily don't we? Especially when things get difficult. **Remember:** It is often the last key on the ring that opens the door. If you find things in life going tough for you,

also like the beaver, just be patient and persistent and you will one day have a pool of joy to swim in.



## II. The Bison

The bison belongs to the same family as cattle but is a larger animal because it has fourteen ribs compared to thirteen for cattle. The bison has larger legs than cattle, and can jump higher and farther.

The Bison is very gregarious - living and running in herds Like the cow, the bison regurgitates - to bring partially digested food from the stomach back into the mouth where it is chewed further. It also has very good eyesight and an acute sense of hearing.

When God created the bison, He gave it a great size. The adult bison is able to deal with all kinds of predators. Even when a human approaches, the bison exhibits little fear and stands its ground.

With the advent of the rifle, the great bison slaughter so radically depleted the herds that the Indians' way of life was completely changed and by 1885 fewer than a thousand bison remained on the Great Plains.

But lets think a moment about the spiritual lessons and other thoughts from the bison

A. From is great size we need to remember that we don't need to be afraid of things because of this verse

Romans 8:37 *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

B. From the great herd slaughter don't forget, when we feel we are getting shot at in life, relationships and circumstances, Remember Isaiah 54:17 says *"No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This*

*is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.*

C. Just as the bison finds protection by staying close to the herd, so we find protection from spiritual enemies by staying in fellowship with God, obeying His Word, and of also, staying close to the rest of the herd, the church family.

Don't forget Hebrews 10:25 *Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.*

D. The practice of **Regurgitation** - or bringing partially digested food from the stomach back into the mouth to re-chew . I would suggest that we practice this when we are forced to deal with

1. Our desires We need to chew them over and over to be sure they are God's desires for us or our desires for ourselves

2. Our plans Look before you leap. In other words as another person put it, if you fail to plan, you plan to fail



### III. The Centipede

The centipede is an interesting little creature. They can live for 5-6 years and can be found almost any place on earth except the deepest desert and the polar regions.

There are about 3,000 species of centipedes. They get their name from the Latin centi which = 100 and Ped which = feet. Actually the most number of feet found on one is about 350 but the average is about 30. Besides walking, they use their feet to hold their prey and inject their venom.

The centipede eats earthworms, insects, and spiders although some of the larger ones hunt mice, small birds, toads, and reptiles. It is interesting that as they walk all their feet go in the

same direction. **Thought:** Can you imagine what it would be like to try and get somewhere with all 30 feet going in different directions. Feet are important and I would like to think about our feet for a few minutes.

**Question:** Do you think much about your feet? Did you know that each of our feet has 26 bones in it and about 150 ligaments? The foot is quite unique and complex and I can tell you for a fact that if your feet hurt, sometimes you just hurt all over. But although we only have two, we sometimes use our two feet for bad things as well as good things.

To help us here, remember that the centipede's legs all move in unison and in the same direction so lets look at a couple of directions we need to consider what our feet should take us **away from**

I Corinthians 6:18 Here we see that we are to run away from sexual sin.

This is difficult today as we are bombarded on every side with commercials and pictures, all of which want us to try it in improper ways. As someone wisely said, Don't keep your eye on temptation while praying not to be led into it.

I Corinthians 10:14 What are we to flee from here? Idolatry!! Fleeing from those things that we hold more important than God. They could be such simple things as our jobs, our families, our money, or a variety of other things

D. L. Moody reminds us, You don't have to go to heathen lands today to find false gods. America is full of them. Whatever you love more than God is your idol.

In I Timothy 6:10-11 *We are to let our feet take us from the love of money and all the things which that love will drive us to attain and any cost. Money is not wrong, nor is it bad, unless it takes precedent over our desire and availability in serving the Lord.*

II Timothy 2:22 says *Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust.* In other words lets let our feet take us away from the things that would cause us to act like less than spiritual adults.

- *Secondly, what our feet should take us towards*

Psalm 133:1 How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live together in harmony!

Here we see that God wants our feet to be going in the same direction just like the centipede when it comes to the work of the church. This means he wants us to be unified and have the same goals for the church and her ministry even though we might find several ways to accomplish them.

In other words we all need to believe and walk in agreement that the goal for the church is growth, discipleship, evangelism, and ministry. The **question** is, are the feet of the folks in our church headed in the same direction?

II Timothy 2:22 again where we read *Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue or run towards faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*

Matthew 10:14 *Here we see that we do not need to waste time trying to talk to some people who are not ready to receive the good news. : We can by faith walk away and let our feet carry us to some other willing soul who is ready for some good news*

So as we think about the centipede and its feet, as well as our own, we learn that there are times where our feet should be taking us away from some **bad things**, as well as taking us towards some **good things**.

Next time we take our shoes off or put them on lets think about our feet and which direction they are taking us.

In closing I would suggest that there is one thing we should be especially alert for so that our feet can take us swiftly to it before it is too late. This is running to get the wonderful gift of salvation. To get this special gift so that you, by God's wonderful grace may enjoy eternity with him, all you need to do is read, believe and receive the following.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I

receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at [lapeerchurch@gmail.com](mailto:lapeerchurch@gmail.com) Subject line: (Salvation)