

SPIRITUAL LESSONS FROM NATURE'S WORLD PART VI

Well thus far I hope you are enjoying our periodic visits to the zoo as we try and understand some of the correlation that seems to exist between the actions of God's creatures and the highest of all creatures "man"

Today I want to have us looking at a group from the zoo whose names begin with the letter L. First we have



I. The Lemming

The word "lemming" comes from a Norwegian word that means "destroying." This refers to the destruction on the landscape that can occur during a lemming migration. Lemmings are among the few creatures able to live in the far north, even during the coldest months of the year.

The peak in the lemming population is reached approximately every four years, causing heavy overcrowding. When this happens, some lemmings may move into unsuitable areas. This probably explains the occasional sightings of lemmings on sea ice well beyond land.

They have no means of determining that an expanse of sea water is not a small lake. When they are several miles out, their strength quickly ebbs away; then they sink and drown in the frigid waters. This probably leads to the mistaken idea that, lemmings commit suicide by running off a cliff and drowning in the sea. It is not suicide as folks think, but rather it is not realizing the dangers that lie ahead in their rush for new spaces, new places, and new food sources

Thought: Many people live their lives like lemmings. They live a fast pace and frantic life. They are constantly running here and running there, looking for new nesting and feeding grounds, as they feverishly try keeping up with the Joneses .

The main lesson from the lemming is simply this. Don't always follow the crowd. True, the crowd is going somewhere, but it may not be where you want to go, so why follow, just to follow the excitement and a possible wrong dream or idea. From the life of the lemming we see that it could turn out to be a bad dream



II. The Lobster

Next, I want to look at The Lobster, or as they say it in New England the Lobsta

Lobsters have a pair of pincers or "claws"--one is a heavier crusher claw and the other is a smaller feeding claw. In the spiritual realm lets be sure to use the feeder claw to feed ourselves and one another rather than the crusher claw that injures others. The crusher claw for the lobster is necessary for getting food. The crusher claw for the Christian is a source of injury to other tender souls

Lobsters apparently use complicated signals to establish social relationships. As humans we need to use **uncomplicated** signals to establish social relationships. The best signals we can use with one another in developing social relationships are kindness, gentleness, and humility

Eph. 4:32 actually says *And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Kindness is probably the most effective tool Christians have in their kit of virtues. Need to repair a relationship? Try not the crusher claw but instead, the feeder claw of kindness.

The firm, tasty meat in a lobster's claw and tail is a prize for seafood lovers everywhere. Tons of lobsters are caught yearly. Commercial fisherman use traps or pots (wooden cages) baited with dead fish. The lobster can easily enter the trap but cannot figure out how to leave.

Spiritually, that's the way with us, we can get into a problem but we can't as easily figure out how to get out of it. The devil, Satan, is always ready to catch and devour us if we do not have on the full armor of God.

So remember Eph. 6:11, *"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."* By wearing the full armor of God, we will be able to stand up to the devil and his tricks.

From the lobster lets not forget the lesson of the claws and the relationship signals for creating good relationships



III. The Lynx

The lynx is a solitary cat. Just the opposite trait however, is important for the Christian. We cannot grow or supply our needs without the input and help found in others, and in the church.

To be a lynx, a solitary, or a lone ranger type of believer in the congregation is **a recipe for failure, not success**. The Lone Ranger Christian, like the lynx, does not submit to anyones authority, even the churches.

Question: How willing are you to submit to church authority? **Note:** We will say we are but why not ask some one in authority for their opinion as to whether or not we have a submissive attitude ? The Lone Ranger Christian may enjoy Christian gatherings and even be the gregarious type, but his fellowship with other believers is always on his terms.

Question: Are you a lynx, in that everything has to be done your way, in your time, or do you allow others to set the agenda once in a while? These things are destined to bring failure not success to the church nor growth to the individual believers. Unlike the Lynx, we need to run, serve, look out for one another, in the pack known as the church.

Lynx are also very vocal creatures. They can make an amazing variety of hissing, chattering and yowling sounds. As Christians, we are to be vocal about our faith and the victories the Lord has given us, **but not vocal in our criticisms of one another**

James 4:11,12 says *Do not criticize one another, my friends. If you criticize or judge another Christian, you criticize and judge the Law. If you judge the Law, then you are no longer one who obeys the Law, but one who judges it. God is the only lawgiver and judge. He alone can save and destroy. Who do you think you are, to judge someone else?*

Thought: I don't know if we realize it or not but, fault finding and criticism **are not spiritual gifts**. Remember as someone noted There would be less faultfinding if all faultfinders had to come from the ranks of the **faultless!**

Then from this beautiful cat we find that the Lynx live in dens in rock crevices or under ledges which gives the lynx a safe place to rest. For the believer however, we have an even better place to rest. Psalm 91:1 -4 describes our safety like this, which is far better than the rocks and ledges of the Lynx

Live under the protection of God Most High and stay in the shadow of God All-Powerful. Then you will say to the LORD, "You are my fortress, my place of safety; you are my God, and I trust you." The Lord will keep you safe from secret traps and deadly diseases. He will spread his wings over you and keep you secure. His faithfulness is like a shield or a city wall.

Pretty good resting place wouldn't you say?

The greatest enemies of lynxes are wolves and mountain lions. For the Christian our greatest enemy is not a wolf or mountain lion but another type of lion, a roaring lion whos is better known as the devil. I Pet. 5:8 *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

And again another lesson from the solitary ways of the Lynx.

Christians need one another and the church to help protect and warn each other of impending danger. Alert eyes and ears, to watch over each other Like the lynx, or actually any animal we have studied thus far, we too must always be on the alert to prevent being overtaken by our enemy.

In leaving this section of our zoo visit, we see that this beautiful cat has left us with a couple important lessons in the spiritual realm.

As Christians we can not and should not be solitary like the Lynx

As Christians we, like the lynx, should be vocal about our faith but not vocal with criticism about one another in their faith walk, and about the church.

As Christians we should keep in mind our hiding place in Jesus just as the Lynx knows where its hiding places are and as Christians we should be on the look out for one another for the wolves in sheep's clothing and the one I Pet. 5:8 describes this way *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

So unlike the Lynx we need to run, serve, warn, and protect one another, in packs. It is safer that way.

In closing lets remember that we should not follow the crowd like the lemming but for safety concerning your forever why not choose to follow Jesus who provides a way of escape and protection along the journey.

To use this approach simply read the following, think about it, choose to do it, and follow the directions.

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 Subject line: (Salvation)