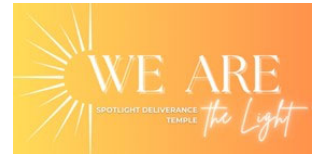


LESSON #9

Consider The Birds

God's great love includes every human being.



Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	Multiple authors. This lesson and scriptures are directed to all mankind, especially believers.
WHAT (Core Message)	YOU MATTER. No matter how insignificant one may think they are, God cares for and loves us greatly.
WHEN (Timing)	Written throughout Biblical history with a current and relevant message for today.
WHERE (Location)	Throughout the earth which God created.
WHY (Rationale)	God wants his creation to know that we are created with a purpose and value that cannot be measured. Above all creation, the man and woman are His chief creation holding dominion.

Introduction

Throughout scripture we see hundreds of references to various animals. Some on land, some in the seas, some in the earth and some that can function in every environment on the planet, like humans. Through animals we can see how we, as humans, fit in the full cycle of life on earth. We can also realize the brilliance and wisdom of God's creative process. Once we discover how awesome this creative work is, then we will understand how special and precious we are amongst all that God has created. If "*IN OUR IMAGE*" isn't enough to show how special and valuable you really are, keep reading...

Key Terms defined

KEY TERM	<u>CONTEXTUAL</u> DEFINITION OF THE WORD	WORD IN GREEK LANGUAGE	PRONOUNCE THE GREEK WORD	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
FOWLER		ixeutis or ikseutes		PSALM 91:3
CONVOCATION		ekklesia synklisi syngentrosi		Leviticus 23: 2-3
WAKE/ FUNERAL		agrypnia xypno		Luke 7:11-17
SHELTER		katafygio		Psalms 61:4

SECTION 1: PROVISION AND PLACE- SPARROWS

(Read Psalm 84:1-4, Matt 10:29-31)

If you were asked to choose from the millions of bird species, what bird would you choose to be? I would guess many would choose a mighty and fierce bird of prey or one that is fast or beautiful. Maybe even a bird that sings beautifully. I would also guess not too many would say I would want to be a sparrow. (LOL emoji right here:) Yet, Jesus chose this small, underwhelming, unremarkable, unimpressive, unflattering bird to demonstrate just how important each one of us are.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text focus:** Why do you think there are so many references to animals throughout the Bible?
2. What is extraordinary about the sparrow and why is this bird honorably mentioned in some scriptures?
3. **Application:** Psalm 84:1-4 is written as a poetic song. What is the ultimate desire of the author of this passage? Can you relate?

SECTION 2: ON EAGLES' WINGS

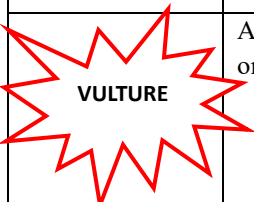
(Read Exodus 19:3-5, Deut. 32:10-12)

When thinking of Eagles, the power, the speed, the intelligence, the majestic beauty; It is easy to see why so many nations, emblems, brands and even scriptures reference or display this bird. The EAGLE.

E.A.G.L.E.S. EAGLES!!!

Discussion Questions

1. **Text Focus:** When the eagle "stirs the nest" what is it doing and why? How does God do the same with us, his human creation?
2. **Application:** Choose a bird from the list below. Read the attributes, behaviors and features, explain how to you, it reminds you of a scripture or how it mirrors the attributes of God.

CRANE	This bird is a tall, majestic wading bird defined by their long legs, long necks, and trumpet-like calls.	Isa 38:14 Jer 8:7
DOVE	Exceptional flight speed, powerful navigation instincts, and high environmental adaptability. They make soft cooing sounds. Considered clean and pure among bird types.	Lev. 15:7 Gen 15:9
OWL	Large forward-facing tubular eyes, flexible necks that turn 270 degrees, and soft feathers for silent flight. Specialized asymmetrical hearing with pin-point accuracy to prey and distress of baby owls	Lev. 11:16
RAVEN	Highly intelligent, and adaptable birds, exceptional cognitive skills including tool use and planning. advanced mimicry abilities that can replicate human speech.	Gen. 8:7
QUAILS	Earthy camouflaged plumage, and strong feet built for running. Short wings allow for fast, explosive upward bursts of flight reaching speeds up to 30–40 mph, but they heavily prefer running over long-distance flying.	Exod.16:13
PEACOCK	Best known for the male's vibrant iridescent plumage, an elaborate tail train covered in eyespots, and loud piercing calls.	1 Kings 10:22
 EAGLE	Incredible vision that allows them to spot targets from miles away. Muscular feet with sharp talons to catch and crush prey. Strongest flying bird. During breeding season parents sleep in the nest or in same tree to guard eggs. ***GEEK WORD***	Exod. 19:4
PELICAN	A stretchy, skin pouch hangs from the lower jaw to scoop up fish. The pouch can hold up to 3 gallons of water and fish , acting like a net. They are team players: They work together to herd fish into shallow water, so it is easier to eat.	Deut. 14:7
PIGEON	Strut with a rhythmic head-bobbing motion to stabilize and maintain constant vision while walking. Drink liquids continuously by sucking water through their bill instead of sipping and tilting the head back like other birds.	Gen. 15:9
 VULTURE	Amazing sense of smell to find hidden carcasses, they lack a syrinx, meaning they cannot sing and only make low hisses, grunts, or growls. Will travel hundreds of miles to eat dying or dead flesh. ***GEEK WORD***	Lev. 11:14

SECTION 3: UNDER GOD'S WINGS

(Read Psalm 91:1-4, Matt 23:37-38)

We are in the unique and special position to be loved and cared for by the God and creator of the entire world. Specifically designed to desire his presence, love and care if we apply wisdom to accept it, instead of rejecting it as the children of Israel did. There is nothing God wouldn't do for those whom he loves. Choose an animal no matter how great and powerful. No matter how big or small. No matter how beautiful and graceful. God loves YOU even more than those and He has His arms outstretched so we may draw near to his heart and the shelter he offers each of us.

Discussion Questions

1. Text Focus: God covers us with his feathers and will be as a “shield” for us. Explain what this statement means to you personally.

2. Application: In Matt 23: 37-38 Jesus laments over Israel because they rejected Him as the Messiah. They rejected the protection and nurturing he offered. Jesus stated he wanted to “gather their children together as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings”. What does this reveal about love and the concerning nature of Jesus toward us?

Conclusion

The Bible tells us that nature itself reveals God. It reveals God because God created it. Like an artist that places their signature within a painting or work of art. God's signature is in all He has created. Just as God created the human family, He is revealed to each of us and through each of us. That creative connection ties us to our creator with a bond that cannot be broken. There is nothing that can separate us from His love and care. Let us draw nigh unto him and He will draw nigh unto us. He offers us all the care, protection and provision we will ever need if we only trust him.