

Parables from the Farmyard

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Romans 1:20 “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

∞ *God’s nature, attributes and power can be learned from viewing and meditating on the created world. In our pursuit to know God more as Christians or our journey to find him as skeptics, I believe scripture makes plain the fact that time spent observing creation is of most value!*

Psalm 8:1, 3-4 "Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens... When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"

Psalm 19:1-6 “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above^l proclaims his handiwork.”

Psalm 95:3-5 "For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land."

Psalm 104:24-25 "How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number – living things both large and small."

Isaiah 40:26 "Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."

Colossians 1:16 "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

∞ *Before we consider some parables found in nature, we must first understand what exactly a parable is.*

What is a parable?

A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels. The word "parable" comes from the Greek word "[parabolē](#)," which means "comparison" or "illustration." Parables typically employ everyday situations and characters, making them accessible to a wide audience. (Christianity.com)

Jesus' answer in Matthew 13:10-16 to the disciples cannot be ignored. Although parables are meant to level with the hearer, **divine and life-changing understanding cannot come without God's sovereign blessing on the hearer – vs 10 & 16.**

- ∞ *Examples of when the word was used:*
- ∞ Matthew 13-18: "Hear, then, the parable of the farmer." *Various responses to hearing the Word of God. We are not meant to get caught up on what kind of seed it might have been, or what boots the sower was wearing!*
- ∞ Matthew 13:24 "He set another parable before them, saying, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field..." *Does it matter what kind of weed was planted amongst the wheat?!*
- ∞ Matthew 21:33 "Hear another parable. There was a man who was a master of a household, who planted a vineyard, set a hedge about it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower, leased it out to farmers, and went into another country." *Again, the point here has to do with the Jewish nation rejecting God's messengers and ultimately prophesying of His own death. One must be careful in applying meaning further than intended.*

So where are the Parables today??

Romans 1:20 "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

- ∞ *I took a look around my neck of the woods, and here is what I found!*

Weasels

- ∞ *Weasels undergo a seasonal molt, turning their brown summer fur to white while retaining a black tip on their tail for predator distraction. This color change is triggered primarily by daylight length rather than temperature and provides camouflage against snow, helping them to avoid predators like hawks, owls, foxes and coyotes.*
- ∞ *Interesting fact: they are quite ambitious, consuming around a third-half of their bodyweight daily! While usually hunting smaller prey like mice or voles, they will sometimes take on rabbits or birds (or chickens!)*
- ∞ ***So why the winter weasel? Although winter (often symbolic of death, trial, hardship) can appear to be all-consuming, the weasel shows us with his black-tipped tail that all is not lost. His brown furry coat will return, and with it a new season of revival, life and hope!***
- ∞ *Although sin and evil appear consuming all around us, God has not abandoned us!!*
- ∞ *Genesis 20:6 is an example of divine restraint, to preserve God's plan for Abraham and his offspring. "Yes, I know that you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against Me. That is why I did not let you touch her"*

- ∞ *In 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7, Paul speaks of a restraining force that holds back the "man of lawlessness" until the appointed time: "And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way". This passage highlights God's control over the timing and unfolding of end-time events.*
- ∞ *The Psalms frequently celebrate God's protective nature. Psalm 91 is a profound declaration of divine protection: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'" (Psalm 91:1-2). This psalm assures believers of God's protection against various dangers, emphasizing trust in His power and faithfulness.*
- ∞ *The New Testament also affirms divine protection. In John 17:15, Jesus prays for His disciples, saying, "I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one". This prayer reflects Jesus' concern for His followers' spiritual safety and God's ongoing protection over them.*

Pigs

- ∞ *Pigs in the bible get a tough break on several occasions:*
- ∞ *Leviticus 11:7-8 declares them unclean to each or touch.*
- ∞ *Linking them to cultist activity (Isaiah 66:17)*
- ∞ *Jesus said do not throw your pearls (things of value) to the pigs (Matthew 7:6)*
- ∞ *2 Peter 2:22 "What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."*
- ∞ *Pigs will roll in the mud when outside temperatures rise to keep cool and prevent overheating. This is because they have very few sweat glands and a barrel-like, heat-storing physique. Rolling in the mud can lower an animal's body temperature by 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, making mud more efficient than sweating. It'll keep adult pigs cool with wallowing behavior.*
- ∞ ***What's the take-away? God created pigs like this. It's in their nature, and they cannot do otherwise! A pig will ALWAYS roll in the "mire". They are by nature a clumsy, roll-in -the-mud creature by virtue of their very DNA.***
- ∞ *Read 2 Peter 2. Details God's view of a backslider, false teachers. Imagine from God's point of view a person that has professed to be clean/holy (a washed of pig) only to bathe in the filth of sin once whole-heartedly! We can better understand His disgust for this very thing.*

Chickens

- ∞ *Chickens have been a staple around our place for a while!*
- ∞ *Chickens are domesticated descendants of the red junglefowl from Southeast Asia, with domestication beginning at least 3000 years ago. Today, there are an estimated 28-34 billion chickens worldwide, making them more numerous than humans.*
- ∞ *They can sprint up to 9 mph (14 kph)!!*
- ∞ *Contrary to the stigma around “bird brains”, chickens are highly social and intelligent. They communicate with over 30 different vocalizations, each having a different message regarding warnings, nesting cues or social signals. They can remember individual humans, flock mates and even associate people with positive or negative experiences.*
- ∞ *The Bible illustrates one of my favorite barnyard illustrations: Psalm 91:4 says “He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.”*
- ∞ *When Jesus was lamenting over Israel’s rejection of Him, He said the following: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”*
- ∞ *Seeing the great lengths a hen goes through to protect and shelter her chicks and a powerful example of the kind of care God has for His children. It is tender, ferociously committed, and sacrificial beyond measure!!*

Woodpecker

- ∞ **Proverbs 13:16 “Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly.”**
- ∞ **View Video* I’m sure there is more to be said here, however this is a humorous yet practical example of Solomon’s warnings against being foolish!*

Conclusion

- ∞ *One of the saddest developments of our day is the move of urbanization and the driving of people indoors, mostly in front of screens/artificial realities.*
- ∞ *Excessive screen time effects our physical, cognitive and emotional health.*
- ∞ *I want to encourage my peers to consider prioritizing some time each day outside in nature – by means of a walk, a drive, or simply sitting on the porch. Seek to know more about God by the means He has provided for us – His creation!*