



Creation Instruction Association

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Matthew 15 on Prayer

As you pray for anything from God keep in mind the Canaanite Woman who had great faith in Jesus. Matthew 15:22-28 reads: "a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, 'Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.' But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, 'Send her away, for she cries out after us.' But He answered and said, 'I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' But He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs.' And she said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered and said to her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

Just as this woman appeared to be ignored after begging for mercy and rejected a second time after asking for help, we too often feel as if our prayers are not heard, nor answered how or when we would like them to be. Jesus could have answered her prayer immediately but instead He tests her desire and faith in Him. This woman did not give up once her "prayer" was not answered, rather she went to Christ again (third time) in humility and recognized Christ as her master and Lord, the same manner in which we

should pray. By admitting herself a "dog" which in the time of Jesus was racial slang for the Gentiles, she also showed humility. Rather than getting angry and blaming Jesus for not loving or caring for her (as we often do), she humbles herself and asks again for help despite the disciples plea for Jesus to send her away. Often times the world is screaming at us to go on our own and look to anything but God for help. This woman did not follow the ways of the world but rather had faith that Christ would heal her daughter.

How many times do we pray for a long time (in our eyes anyway) and give up on praying as time passes and rather try to solve things on our own? Does this demonstrate a true desire for what we are asking? Do we meekly ask as "dogs" or do we go before our Creator as one who deserves what he asks for? Does this show faith or trust in God's power? This woman obviously had a strong faith in Jesus and she showed it in her humility, worship and persistence. May we too have such great faith in our prayers knowing that Christ not only hears them but will answer them as well. Maybe not when we think they should be answered, but nonetheless He will answer them in His own time when it is best for us. Amen- it shall be so!

Birds--God's Amazing Creatures

Many people think birds are just feathery creatures that fly around and make a mess of your car. Evolutionists view them as a glimpse of the past when dinosaurs once roamed the earth (Some birds supposedly evolved from dinosaurs). Creationists on the other hand, see Gods great care for his children and an amazing design by our Creator.

Birds exhibit many amazing design characteristics, one of which is

their bones. In many cases the bones are so lightweight that they weigh less than all the feathers. Though the bones are relatively hollow, they have been reinforced by a number of struts and spars strung throughout their body. In addition, the bones contain tiny air sacs which increase the efficiency of respiration and cooling, not to mention flight. In fact, a good flyer may use only a quarter of the air it breathes for respiration while the rest flows over the enhanced surface area of the hollow, strutted bones to aid in cooling. The many air sacs running through the bones even allow a bird to breath through a severed limb.

Evolutionist have many speculations of how flight came to be. Some say birds walked up hills and jumped down while others say some learned to fly by jumping up to catch bugs and insects. I would hate to see the beginning of this process. Imagine a nearby cliff with hundreds of dead birds at the bottom; all from the evolutionary advancement failing upon the first try. God on the other hand tells us clearly where and how birds came to be: "Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens" (Genesis 1:20). Today, birds exhibit such an amazing maneuverability, God's name can only be praised. The larger feathers on a birds tail and wings rotate allowing it to steer. The humming bird beats it wings in a figure eight pattern allowing for even greater fascination. This creature is less than 2.5 inches; half of which is the bill and tail.

Birds have the highest body temperature of any animal which serves as a source of the much used energy of flight. This high body temperature, rapid circulation of blood, and an extremely efficient digestive system all allow birds to be true energy savers with the food they eat. The Golden Plover will fly 3,000 miles and only lose two ounces of body weight.

Almost half the body weight of a powerful, flapping bird is made

up in its breast muscles which powers flight. In addition, birds have no sweat glands which would only moisten the feathers and add extra weight. The skull, like the rest of the bones, is also made up of a honeycombed structure to reduce weight.

When in flight, legs are tucked close to the body for aerodynamic perfection. Some birds are even able to reach speeds of over 180 miles per hour. Amazing design is shown in the fastest bird, the peregrine falcon. This bird has special baffles in its nostrils which protect the internal organs from the extreme air pressure which results from the high speed flight.

All of these design factors and the flying "know-how" are what allow the 24 pound Andean condor to fly hundreds of miles effortlessly. The birds steer by changing the angles of their wings and twisting its tail which can serve as a rudder or a brake when landing. Some birds soar high up near the heavens as they know how to ride the rising wind currents of thermals. They will be carried high to the top and will glide down until reaching another thermal which carries them up high again.

As for the flight feathers, they are simply miraculous. Evolution has tried to explain these wonders by reducing them to frayed scales of reptiles. However, the feathers, when looked upon under a microscope, are each composed of millions of parts. Believe it or not, a Plymouth Rock hen has 8,325 feathers while the swan holds 25,216. On average, a songbird has anywhere from 1,100 to 4,600 feathers and the bald eagle has over 7,000. Each feather has a central shaft with 200-600 barbs breaking away from this shaft. Each barb then has around 800 barbules which contain hooks extending out and interlocking with the hooks from a neighboring barbule. When all meshed together they act as a very strong, wind resistant wing. If the mesh is broken when these hooks unattach themselves, the bird simply preens itself with its beak and the feathers, "zipper" up again. An eagle feather has more than

250,000 hooks and a pigeon feather is made up of more than a million parts. In order to keep flight in balance birds grow and lose feathers in pairs. If a feather is lost or grown on the left wing, one is lost or grown on the right wing as well.

God also blessed birds with amazing eyesight. One area of the retina contains more than 1.5 million visual cells while the same area in a human eye has only 200,000. This explains how the hawk can hover above a field and pick out a mouse on the ground below.

Finally, most birds have a built in wet suit as feathers are coated with an oil secreted from the birds body. This oil allows the feathers to shed water and remain dry. New born ducklings will often rub against their mother to coat themselves with this oil.

It is nice to know that God cares so much for His creatures. Not only are they beautiful to watch but they also send comfort to us as God's people. We read in Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Here we have the assurance that God is not only providing for the birds but also for us. Furthermore, God has given us dominion over these wonderful creature because we are His special creation: "God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'"(Genesis 1:26). Praise God!

Christ in Creation!

Many people do not realize that the entire Trinity can be found in the first few verses of Scripture. We read from Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." It is not hard to see the first person of the Trinity here-- God. Not far after in verse

two we read, "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." Again, the Holy Spirit is easy to pick out in this verse. An interesting addition here is that the Hebrew word for "hovering" actually signifies a back and forth movement or a vibration. This word is only used three times in the Old Testament. In Jeremiah 23:9 it is translated as "shake" and in Deuteronomy 32:11 as "fluttereth". Here we see the Spirits energizing affect on the earth.

Finally, we reach verse three which states, "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light." It is here that Christ is often not noticed but when reading the New Testament we clearly see His presence. John 1:1 shows us that Jesus was the Word which was spoken by God at the beginning of creation and specifically, here in verse three as he writes, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." Clearly Jesus was not a passive observer of this great creation. Again in Hebrews 1:1 we read, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds." Again, it was through Jesus, the Word, that all things were made. Finally, Ephesians 3:9 states, "and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ." What a marvelous testimony to Christs powerful and loving service for us.

Just as the Father is the source of all things and the Spirit is the energizer of all, Jesus Christ Himself is the revealer. Just as Christ through His word brought light into the world at the beginning, He still continues to reveal a different kind of light to us through the written word of Scripture. Indeed, Christ is the light of the world as

John 12:46 so strongly states, "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness." Interesting also is that from the start of creation (Gen 1:3) there was light, yet the sun is not created until three days later. Again Christ's light shines forth at the time of Creation. Likewise, in the heavenly dwelling to come, Revelation 21:23 shows us that Christ will continue to be the light of the world whereas John saw, "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."

May Christ's word with the Holy Spirit continue to shine forth in your life, changing old ways into new, confusion into understanding and darkness into light. Amen.9-14.