



"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto

Can you imagine why God would instruct Job to have the people talk to the beasts, and the birds and even the earth? Job was very frustrated, but not with God, although we probably think he had every right to be!

Job had been through a lot. He had been rich and then everything was taken from him, everything material and human. He lost his wealth, and even his children and wife, but he never lost his faith. I can't imagine this happening to anyone. As far as we know, Job had done nothing to deserve this. One day when even his friends decided to mock him and his faith in God, he told them to talk to the animals, or the earth, and even the fish of the seas.

Job told them the animals could tell these people because they knew the power of the hand of the Lord. That seems so foolish, and yet so profound. It sounds like sarcasm and yet as we study, we know it is true. Are the animals human or do they have human characteristics? A brief study of some animals makes us realize they are very intelligent and sometimes show more love, wisdom and practical knowledge than we do.

The beaver knows how to build a dam and it uses the twigs and mud that is recyclable! It checks it for stability each day and is able to maintain it without outside help. The dams built by the beaver are a remarkable structure. It can be a problem for the farmer and landowners sometimes, but it can also be a part of the ecosystem by creating wetland and lush environments which attract fish, and ducks, and frogs for their part in nature. I don't believe this just happens. How powerful is your God to plan all this in His creation. When I talk with people that don't accept God's creation, I don't think they have ever taken the time to really look at all the beauty that surrounds us everyday.

The salmon knows when to go up the river to spawn and can find the path



each year. Scientists believe they have some sense of smell or built-in navigation system to help them find their way. They can migrate out to sea for several years and then return to the same stream where they were born. I do not believe that is by accident.

Birds know when to migrate south and when to go north again. They know how to build a nest for their young and stay with their young and teach them how to fly. They know how to gather food and take it back to the nest they have built from old twigs and grass they have found. Not all birds migrate and I wonder how some know they can survive the cold while others need to change locations according to the seasons. Some birds like the cardinal can withstand the cold winter and find adequate food all year long. Some feel the need to migrate long distances and the pattern of migration can differ according to the different species. Why don't they just stay where the food is plentiful all the time?

Geese go together in a "V" shaped flock with different ones taking the lead. Should we follow a leader sometimes like the geese and the sheep. Does that make them wise or dumb?

When we stop to think about just a few of the animals and their characteristics and wisdom we can perhaps understand why Job's answer to those mocking him showed his great understanding.

The knowledge we gain as we study the workmanship of our Creator can only deepen our faith that He cares for us.

Job concludes his advice by telling them to "speak to the earth", this must be the plants and trees. What do they know or more importantly, what can we learn from them? They know the seasons and we are told "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

We have the beauty of each season that we just take for granted, but someone set the seasons in order. Even the seeds know when to grow and which nutrients to take from the ground for their growth,. The crops mature in an orderly fashion so we can eat them when they are full of flavor. We can learn much from the earth, if we are willing to listen.

I think that Job was trying to tell the people complaining how much they could learn just by observing nature and God's work. Sure almost everyone has talked with an animal at some time. They respond, but not in voice usually!

I would be remiss if I did not mention an old wonderful childhood book written in 1920 by Hugh Lofting, The Story or Dr. Dolittle.

Dr. John Dolittle was a knowledgeable doctor in Puddleby-on-the-Marsh. But as his love for animals grew and he began to talk with the animals, his

Some people don't understand why I talk to animals. That's ok, the animals understand.

~Anthony Douglas Williams
mellareese.com

Hugh John Lofting was an English author trained as a civil engineer, who created the classic children's character of Doctor Dolittle. Dolittle first appeared in Lofting's illustrated letters to his children, written from the British Army trenches in World War I.

business began to fall off. A friend suggested that he take on a new adventure and see if he could begin to understand animal language.

His knowledge of the animal's language began to grow. One day he heard about an epidemic among animals in Africa and so he set out to see if he could help because he could communicate with the animals. He is especially drawn to the monkey because so many of them were sick and dying. As he talks with them, they become very fond of him and are saddened when he says that he is leaving. He helps many people and talks with many animals through knowing the animal's language.

As a gift before he leaves Africa for his home, he is given a Pushmi-pullyu. When he returns to England he again becomes successful and is able to help so many more people because he has learned the language of the animals! I believe that an animal can understand our emotions. Yes I agree with Job!

Animals are such good friends. They ask no questions, they pass no criticism. They listen quietly and love you unmeasurably.

Prayer: Father so often we don't appreciate everything around us and realize that you have made it all for us to enjoy. Help us to learn from You through the beautiful nature surrounding us, even the animals and the trees. Amen.

1. Have you ever talked to an animal?
2. Does talking with an animal bring comfort to you?
3. A pet is very often protective and very loving. Is this something we can apply to our life?
4. How can we learn from nature?
5. What did Job really mean when he told the people to talk to the animals and the earth?
6. Was Job right in his statement about animals?

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"People don't always need advice. Sometimes all they really need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen, and a heart to understand them."

