

The Dove

Symbols, Metaphors, Similes



“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
Matthew 3:16-17

Many stained glass windows have a descending dove, and people just see a nice bird. I have seen the dove on Christmas cards, and think about the significance of it now. I didn't think of that always until I started studying the different similes and metaphors used in

the Scriptures. The dove is used several times in the Bible as a symbol. In this Scripture passage we witness God's sending down the Holy Spirit in the form of the dove. As I read this and studied it, I began to realize that God sends us every day to be witnesses for Him. What a privilege. Sometimes we may think it is a burden, but then if we put it in perspective, we know that it is a privilege. Can you imagine if God picks a small bird like the dove to do something great, what He expects of us?

As I sat in the family room, waiting for the doctor to call that my husband's surgery was over, I naturally was thinking "Poor me." Then I ended up being with people who were much worse off. My husband was having a port put in to make it easier for him to receive his chemo, but some others were facing more serious surgery, and yet others were having such simple surgery. Sure the cancer was not a happy event, but he was receiving treatment and he was getting a port which would make it much easier for him to receive the chemo. I started talking with people. I was feeling sorry because I was sitting there alone for a couple hours. Many others had two or three family members with them. But the Lord was there. I knew He was. And I knew that He was with my husband, and my husband had an assurance that was known to all with whom he came in contact. God always gives us the opportunity to do something if we ask. It may not be as important as the opportunity given



to the dove, but it is very important.

It is always a good idea to be careful what you pray for! I pray to serve each day, but that day, I wanted served. But, that was not what the Lord had ready for me that day. I began talking with the people next to me, and found that they had a great faith they were relying on as their husband/father was having part of his lung removed. I realized that I had that same faith, but I wasn't doing a very good job of showing it. So, I decided to do what I was supposed to be. I was supposed to be upbeat for my husband, and I was expected to show that in not only the way I treated him, but in the way I treated the other people around me. And, you guessed it; a gentleman came and sat next to me who was very nervous about his wife's knee replacement. I was supposed to tell him about my faith in a way not to be a "preacher", but to help him. As we talked, he realized that he also had the same faith,

but he was feeling sorry too. He hadn't taken time to turn it over to the Lord.

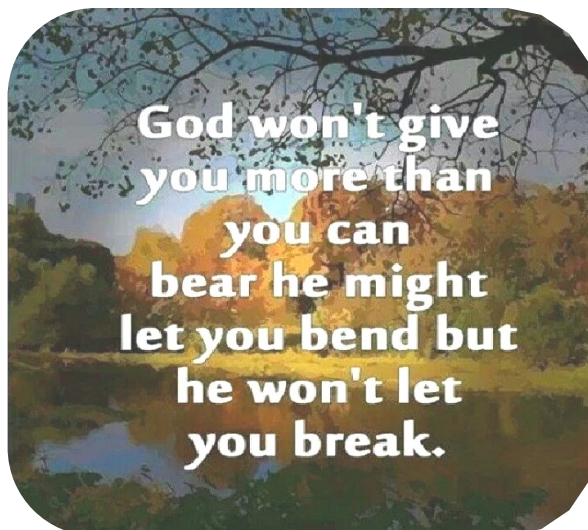
Why are we so hesitant to show our faith? Again, I go back to the dove. He was sent out to see if the land was beginning to dry up after the flood. As he delivered the branch back to Noah, God was showing Noah that it was now his time to serve. Are we ready to be sent out to spread the good news?

In a fairly well-known Christmas song "The Friendly Beasts," an old English Christmas Carol we hear:

*"I,' said the dove from the rafters high,
'Cooed Him to sleep that He should not
cry;
We cooed Him to sleep, my mate and
I.'*

'I,' said the dove from the rafters high."

It may be fictional, we say, but what a wonderful thought that even the bird could have been at this wonderful time. What a blessing.



"When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22



Prayer: God, You are so awesome, and we so seldom stop to realize all that You have given us, and also how we can give back. Please help us to see that we have a talent to serve You every day, and then teach us to pray so that we can do Your will here on this earth. Amen

1. We don't know if the dove was afraid. He might have been afraid of going to the baptism of Christ because he knew the outcome that would come in just a couple years. Would you have ever run away from a situation where you were called?
2. We all have talents. What are yours? Can you serve through them?
3. Can you carry the message of Christ's love in your heart so you can share it with those who need a little encouragement?
4. Our Scripture says "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We know that He loves us to, but is God pleased with our words and actions?
5. Can you take time to look at the dove in a different way? You will receive a blessing from the assurance it gives to know that God sent down the Holy Spirit for you and me.

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