



Devotional Study Guide Journal



March 23rd

Stupid Bird!

It was all HIS fault. He got out in the middle of the road to eat who-knows-what and got hit by a car. Now his wing tip dangled and flopped as he wildly tried to get out of the road.

“Stupid bird!” yelled another fowl. What an idiotic thing to do! You KNOW those cars come racing through here. You had to see or hear it coming, but NO, you had to take one more bite. Now, look at you!”

“I know I really blew it, but I’m trying to get out of this lane,” said the bird, “Can you please help me? I’m not very good at walking. My feet are made for swimming and I’m flapping as hard as I can but getting nowhere.”

“Nope, sorry,” said the bird. “If I help you, you will never learn to stay out of the road. Hopefully, this will teach you a good lesson,” he insisted. “You made your bed, now lie in it, I say.”

Another bird squawked in and said, “I think he’s learned his lesson! Here, dear bird, let me give you some advice.”

“Oh, thank-you!” said the helpless wounded bird flapping and trying to get somewhere to no avail. You could see he was growing weak and tired.

It was very clear the second bird wanted to help. He said, “Try flapping this way,” he demonstrated, “and lift those feet up a bit while leaning forward...like this! If that doesn’t work, try rolling toward the side of the road.”

The floundering bird was so confused by now, but tried to take the advice. But endless flapping was becoming more and more painful, and he wondered what was “rolling”? He’d never done that before. He tried to lift his feet, but no matter how hard he tried he couldn’t take the second bird’s advice.

The second bird, tired of watching him try and fail said, “Well, if you aren’t going to take my advice, I can’t help you.”

Then the poor bird saw it...another oncoming car...right in his lane. He flapped and squawked and tried lifting his toes and all the while wondering what “rolling” meant. The car appeared larger and larger until...

SWOOP! A larger bird descended and grabbed the now horrified bird and lifted him up just in time to avert what seemed to be his final fate. The larger bird gently deposited his friend into a pond of water. He couldn't fly and was in much pain, but he did still know how to swim.

"Thank-you," said the bird in his weakest but happiest chirp.

"You are welcome," said the big bird as he sewed up the broken wing and then wrapped it so it would heal. "You say right here while I get you some food."

When the big bird returned and fed him, the rescued bird waited for a well-deserved lecture and more advice, but they never came. Instead, the stronger bird gently guided him to his personal corner of the pond where there was a safe place to swim and an abundance of food until he could be on his own again. Somehow this undeserved and unconditional love was just what he needed.

When the healing was done, and the bird was getting ready to leave, he asked, "What do I owe you for all you've done for me?"

"Nothing," said his friend, "Seeing you whole again is reward enough for me."

The stupid bird was stupid no longer. He had been loved unconditionally and this love had made him whole.

The now wise bird said to his savior and now friend, "Then I shall help someone as you have helped me. Thank you, dear friend. I will always remember you."

This filled the gracious bird's heart with joy, and he squawked with joy. The now wise bird lifted his wings and flew on his way. Looking down he saw the perfect snack right in the middle of the road, but amazingly without one piece of advice, he flew a different way directed by the love that had saved him.

Luke 10:30-37

Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. ³³ But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

³⁴ So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' ³⁶ So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" ³⁷ And he said, "He who showed mercy on him."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."