

Remnant Life Church  
February 2, 2020

**ON EAGLES WINGS**  
**Part 2b**  
**God's Ornithological Society – The Church**

1. Chicken
  - a. It is the most common and numerous of all birds in the world
  - b. Many of these types of the birds in the church as well
    - i. They are just sort of there
    - ii. Don't step out of the crowd
    - iii. Don't mind staying right where they are spiritually
    - iv. Only stand out by embracing and holding onto their struggles because it gives them a sense of identity
  
2. Pigeon
  - a. A loving, kind, and very friendly part of the church
  - b. Never takes a stand on anything
    - i. In their lives (conviction)
    - ii. In the church (the work that needs to be done)
    - iii. They can't be counted on
  
3. Crow
  - a. One of the most intelligent of the birds
  - b. Cunning and could be dangerous
  - c. Loves to "get" the leader
    - i. Asking a question of the pastor/leader or bringing up a concern does not automatically make a person a crow
    - ii. It is the heart of the person that will reveal who they are

This Morning –

4. Peacock
  - This is the male bird of what is called the peafowl
  - The female is the peahen
  - The peacock is known for two distinctions
    - Their shrill, piercing call
    - Their magnificent plumage
  - The purpose of the brilliant colors and size of the tail feathers is actually still debated
    - There are those who believe it is very simply to attract a female
    - Others that it is a show of health and vigor to promote a picture of strength to any other animals – and any ladies that may be nearby
  - Peacocks are native to India

- But because of their beauty have been a part of every countries art where they are found
- They are most often associated with a particular human characteristic: pride or arrogance
  - “Proud as a peacock”
  - An overconfidence that, while at first attractive, soon can become very ugly

### **In the Church**

- a. Flashy and showy
  - i. Peacocks in the church are exactly who you think they are
  - ii. Overly ambitious and filled with pride
- b. Constantly needs to be stroked and seen
  - i. Having a gift or a talent does not automatically make that person a peacock
  - ii. God gives gifts to His people but to be used to serve Him
  - iii. How can you tell the difference?
    1. If after doing something that was obviously well done, you get angry or your feelings are hurt because you don't think enough people told you what a great job you did – you're a peacock
    2. **Col 3:17** - *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
    3. **Col 3:23** - *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters*
- iv. To serve God means that, as a servant, you and your feelings are not what is most important
  1. What must be understood is that any skill, ability, gift, or strength you have is not from you, it was given to you by God
  2. This is why God must receive the glory for whatever you do well
  3. Why? Because something is lurking behind it ready to rush in if given the slightest opening
- v. Pride
  1. While the Bible does not mention the peacock it does address the most closely associated attribute
  2. Proverbs most directly
    - a. **Prov 11:2** - *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*
    - b. **Prov 14:3** - *A fool's mouth lashes out with pride, but the lips of the wise protect them.*
    - c. **Prov 16:18** - *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*
  3. **I John 2:16** - *For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.*
  4. Pride will not only damage the person, but it can do great harm to the church family as well

c. The peacock may be beautiful, but it is also always destructive

## 5. Pelican

- This bird is found in places all around the globe
- Characterized by its oversized, long beak with an expansive throat pouch
  - The pouch is used to scoop up fish and water which drains out of the pouch and the fish is then eaten
  - Also noted for their size
    - While there are only 8 species they are all large
    - Range in weight from 10 to 28 pounds
    - Wing spans of 6' up to over 11' found on the Australian Pelican
  - The other known aspect of the bird is its appetite
    - It is almost constantly feeding or in search of food
    - Many diving into the water to capture its prey
    - The hunt alone in the open water but also in groups closer to shore often beating their wings on the water to “herd” schools of fish into the shallows

### In the Church

- a. The person like a pelican only wants to satisfy its own appetite
- b. What does that mean?
  - i. Rarely does a pelican volunteer or become involved in something if there is not a direct benefit for them
  - ii. Selfless is not a word they understand
- c. When I think of a pelican, Judas come to mind
- d. Jesus being anointed by Mary is told in **Matthew, Mark, and John**
  - i. In all three it says the disciples chastised her saying it was a waste of something expensive
  - ii. Jesus rebuked them in all three
  - iii. But in **John**, he specifies that it was Judas who expressed concern
    1. **John 12:4-6** - *But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.*
    2. He did not care about the poor, but of what he was possibly missing out on
    3. That is the appetite of a pelican
- e. The pelican will also let everyone else do the hard work, the preparations, the things done in the background, while it just waits to feed on the outcome
- f. The pelican is a user without ever giving anything back

## 6. Owl

- There are about 200 species of owl that are all solitary and nocturnal birds of prey meaning they hunt and feed at night

- Found all over the world with the exception of the polar caps and some remote islands
- The owl is physically a very interesting bird
  - Unlike most birds of prey with eyes on the side, the owl's eyes are front-facing
  - The eyes are fixed meaning it has to move its head to change its field of vision
  - Because of this, their necks contain 14 vertebrae (humans have 7) meaning a greater range of flexibility to even include past the point directly behind it
  - Their circulatory system is also such that it does not cut off blood flow when making extreme neck rotations
  - Their vision is far-sighted making their ability to see prey at a great distance very acute and accurate
  - They range in size from 1 oz to nearly 10 pounds
- Their feathers are of such a fabric and placement that they have the ability to fly without making any sound
  - The feathers are serrated and coated with a velvety substance that makes their motion through the air soundless
  - They also fly much more slowly creating less of a visual as well as allowing them to hear and see the slightest motion below them
- The owl has garnered the label of the symbol of wisdom
  - “Wise as an owl”
  - Most likely from the appearance (thinking) to the length of man’s relationship with them
  - Items shaped and painted to resemble an owl from ancient Greece before Jesus was born
  - Also Italian mosaics with the image of owls
- The Bible only references owls in the OT and most often as a part of the list of birds the people were not permitted to eat – unclean
- Any other references though are negative and often spoken of with the Jackel

### **In the Church**

- a. Appears to be very wise
  - i. People will often seek out someone like an owl to get their thoughts or input into something they are dealing with
  - ii. And there is usually a measure of wisdom present in this type of person but, there is also something else
- b. The owl is also closely associated with the occult
  - i. In satanism, the female counterpart to lucifer is Lilith
  - ii. Their claim is that she was the first created wife of Adam and left the garden and was replaced by Eve
  - iii. The symbol of lilith, and subsequently many demonic aspects, is the owl
  - iv. This carried over into the pagan worship rituals carried on by both the Babylonians and Sumerians who both practiced child-sacrifice to their demon-god Molech
    1. Molech was given the form of an owl
    2. This is why God so vehemently condemned any association of Isreal with either of these nations

- c. The owl-type person uses wisdom to be accepted but has a hidden agenda that is designed to take glory from God
- d. The owl in the church has one purpose, destroy the work that God is doing
- e. This church has experienced at least one owl and perhaps two but God protected us

## 7. Canary

- A small, colorful, and pleasant bird with an attractive song as its call
- The canary belongs to the finch family
- The name of the bird comes from the name of the islands not the other way around
  - The Island name is from the Latin *canariae insulae* which translates to "islands of dogs"
  - So naturally, the official image of the islands would be...a bird
- The birds were most famously used as an early warning in the early days of mining to detect carbon monoxide build up as they would react to the gas more quickly than humans giving them time to escape
  - They would sing the warning
  - Sing like a canary became a well-used metaphor for someone (especially in organized crime) who was going to tell the police what was happening and turn over his associates.
- Of course the most famous of all canaries is one who I used to watch on Saturday morning cartoons as a boy – Tweety
  - By the way, Tweety is 79 years old (first cartoon 1941)
  - Which means Sylvester is one hungry cat!

### In the Church

- a. The church canary is a very gifted bird
- b. What they do they do very, very well
  - i. Often better than anyone else
  - ii. But that's all they do
  - iii. If there are opportunities outside of their gift area they won't participate
    - 1. Many times there is a fear of failure
    - 2. Other times it is because they may not do it better than everyone else
    - 3. Many times there is a little bit of peacock in the canary
- c. Their gift most often becomes a cage
- d. In the Bible, the song of birds is only referenced once in **Ecc 12** as a caution to the people to not forget the great God (Creator) of their youth
- e. The canary is very beautiful and makes a lovely sound, but it never contributes very much outside of its own song

There are other birds we have not mentioned – the vulture, the parrot, the woodpecker, and the cuckoo

Elements of all the birds we have mentioned (chicken; pigeon; crow; peacock; pelican; owl; canary) are good, beautiful, and necessary

- They add to the flavor and the variety of the church
- But their darker and often hidden aspects can also bring trouble, division, and destruction

**Important Note:**

- Not every question brought to a pastor is from a crow
- Not every gifted person is a peacock
- Not every person hungry to know and do the things of the church are pelicans
- Not every person with wisdom is an owl

Our hearts must be on guard

- Not to spot these things in other people
- But to see them first in ourselves

*1 Cor 3:10-15 - By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*