

A REMINDER AT MY BIRD FEEDER

The weather was so beautiful on Easter Sunday that after the service and my afternoon nap, I took time to refill our bird feeders. I know every time I do this, I am not only feeding the birds but also the many squirrels and chipmunks around our property. It seems that the squirrels and chipmunks at times take more food from the feeders than the birds. Sometimes our dog Daisy puts an end to it by jumping on the ottoman strategically placed in front of our window and barking at the squirrels and chipmunks and scaring them away. She is fine with the birds at the feeder but not with those other two visitors.

On Monday morning I happened to look out my kitchen window to our back yard feeder and noticed a squirrel and chipmunk were there at the same time. What was interesting about this was the much larger squirrel was sitting on top of the pole waiting patiently as the smaller chipmunk was eating from the feeder attached below. Usually when I have seen a squirrel and chipmunk at the feeder at the same time, the squirrel chased the chipmunk away. Not this time. The squirrel just sat there patiently waiting for the smaller chipmunk to finish eating. Once the chipmunk finished and scurried off, the larger squirrel made its way down the pole from above to begin eating. It was interesting to see in this instance how the bigger squirrel showed care and compassion for the much smaller chipmunk.

We don't always see care and compassion coming from those who are much bigger and above us. This has been one of the complaints that people have been making this past year during COVID-19. Many tough decisions and choices have had to be made by our Premier and Chief Medical Officer of Health during COVID-19 that have been perceived as favouring larger organizations and groups over the small. For instance:

- *Small retailers have felt treated unfairly when they were closed while larger retailers such as Walmart and Costco remained open.*
- *Smaller restaurants are angry that they are forced to close when it is larger manufacturers and warehouse facilities that are having the outbreaks and not restaurants.*
- *Kids sports leagues like hockey and basketball feel that it is unfair that they can't have games, but it is okay for the NHL to play.*
- *Small regions where there have been few outbreaks are upset that they are being forced to close when it is big centers like Toronto, York, Peel and the Greater Horseshoe area that are having the large outbreaks.*

Employees in these small restaurants and businesses say it is unfair that the people above them in big government are making decisions that cost them a pay cheque, but these same officials have not lost a single pay cheque throughout this pandemic.

These are just some of the examples during this past year where it is being perceived that those who are bigger and in power are showing little concern for the smaller people. I don't provide these examples to dispute whether the government has done enough or not enough when it comes to these decisions. I use these examples to point out that at times it can be perceived that the powerful have little concern for the "little peoples' needs". Perhaps at times during this pandemic you have felt a bit like the little person whose needs are being overlooked: Examples might be:

- *Feeling isolated and alone rather than feeling heard or connected to something /someone more powerful,*
- *Feeling your needs are being overlooked and not taken into consideration,*
- *Feeling forgotten rather than remembered,*
- *Feeling insignificant rather significant,*
- *Feeling out of control rather than in control about what is happening to you.*

At times this pandemic may have made you feel like you are that "little person" who is being overlooked and forgotten. The GOOD NEWS is this is not the case. Just as that bigger squirrel showed care and compassion for the smaller chipmunk, we have a "BIG GOD" WHO SHOWS CARE and compassion toward us.

One of the truths that comes out in *The Bible* is how our Big God is always on our side to help us overcome large challenges in front of us. Think of these examples from Scripture:

- *How our "Big God" helped a small David defeat a giant Goliath,*
- *How our "Big God" knocked down the large walls of Jericho,*
- *How a "Big God" took a boy's small lunch and fed a multitude of people,*
- *How a "Big God" had Peter and the disciples recast their empty net and fill it to the top with 153 fish,*
- *How a "Big God" defeated the big problem of death by raising His Son back to life.*

Two blessings that come from Scripture are knowing:

- 1) That no problem is too big for God to overcome,
- 2) This same “big God” cares for us and provides for us.

Jesus stressed this point in Matthew 6 when He taught:

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for Your Heavenly Father feeds them, and aren’t you more valuable to Him than they are? Can your worries add a single moment to your life? (Matthew 6: 25-27)

We may not feel at times, as the little people, that our needs are being taken into consideration by government or those in power. However, we are blessed to have a “Big God” above us who sees us as valuable and precious and looks out for all our needs. Jesus made reference to our Heavenly Father to remind us of this.

For me on Monday morning when I wanted to look at the birds at my feeder, He used a squirrel and a chipmunk to reinforce the same message. Envision what I saw at my feeder: just as a bigger squirrel watched from above while the smaller chipmunk’s needs were provided for, our “Big Heavenly Father” is watching from above providing and caring for us every moment of every day. What do we have to truly be worried about when we remind ourselves of God doing this for us?

It is a good thing that Daisy doesn’t have a vantage point to look at our backyard feeder. She may have chased the squirrel and a chipmunk away before I received the reminder from God. She still has her front yard vantage point to enjoy chasing the squirrels and chipmunks away.

Enjoy Spring, Enjoy God, Keep Safe And

GOD BLESS

Pastor Dean