

## "Blackbirds and Bluebirds"

I am always looking for everyday life illustrations that communicate a spiritual truth. Jesus was the master of this. He talked about a man buying a field that contained a hidden treasure, a man who went out to sow some grain, a father with a rebellious son, and many other illustrations from everyday life.

Earlier this summer, my wife and I were trying to capture some photos of Mountain Bluebirds. These are beautiful birds, and the males are indeed very bright blue! There are many of them in the mountains, but not near as many as our blackbirds. We have blackbirds by the thousands!

We were driving up in the park on this particular day when I became aware of something that troubled me. Even though we were looking for bluebirds, I found myself focusing on the blackbirds. They were everywhere! I have nothing against blackbirds, but they are not nearly as beautiful as bluebirds, and they were not what we were looking for. I suddenly realized that I had allowed that which was abundant to cause me to lose my focus on that which was far more beautiful.

As I thought about this, I was reminded of something the Bible has to say about the last days.

### **2 Timothy 3:13 KJV**

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

We are living in a time when this scripture is being fulfilled. To see this, you only need to watch the daily news. Over and over, I am stunned by what I hear. The evil in this world is like flocks of blackbirds masquerading as beautiful in an attempt to deceive. You see them everywhere every day.

There are times when I wonder how dark things will get before Jesus comes back. I don't know, but I can truthfully say that already, it is darker than I

ever imagined it would be. Our world has lost its moral compass, and the stench of sin is everywhere. We are duplicating what God saw in the days before the flood.

### **Genesis 6:5 KJV**

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

But that is not all I have to say about our world today. I want you to know that there are also bluebirds! They are not as plenteous as the blackbirds nor as easy to spot, but they are there wherever you go. I speak of the redeemed of the Lord, the chosen of God, the bride of Christ. And yes, the Bible also talks about them.

### **2 Timothy 2:19 KJV**

19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Because we spend so much time in a place where people come to visit from all over the world, we have often enjoyed meeting and sharing our faith with them. They don't hold up a sign that says, "I am a believer," but you can tell within minutes when you encounter them. They are beautiful and genuine. They are your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

So, I admonish you not to get so focused on the blackbirds that you miss the beautiful bluebirds. If your search parameter is limited to your church, you will be disappointed. But if you realize how vast the true church is, you will be blessed again and again.

**THERE ARE BLUEBIRDS EVERYWHERE!**

AND THAT MY FRIENDS IS THE TRUTH!

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### EPILOUGE

I finished writing this on July 8th. I had a doctor's appointment for my annual "wellness" visit that afternoon. Why you are required to see a doctor when you are not sick is a question I have not been able to answer. Don't get me started!

As I got to the hospital entrance, a little old lady asked me if I would open the door for her. I was glad to do so, and then we both walked together to the elevator. She had a very strong English accent, so I complimented her on it. She didn't feel it was anything to be proud of, and as proof, she stated that right now, England is in a terrible political mess.

We both checked in and then went to the waiting area, where we sat across from each other. After a bit, another woman came and sat down next to me.

The English lady greeted this other lady, who promptly complimented her for her accent. The English lady smiled at me and then told the other lady the same thing she had told me.

I then joined the conversation with the observation that every nation on the planet seems to be in a terrible mess. When I said this, the English lady said, "Well, do you know what God says about all this? God says, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and heal their land." She then added, "I think it's time we start praying." Immediately, the other lady gave a firm "Amen," and I also joined the amen chorus.

**What a thrill it was to meet two new bluebirds!**

