



BARNES *on the Bay*

August 15, 2022

Life Lessons from a Hermit Crab, #6

Lofty Goals Are Not Out of Reach!



SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION: Proverbs 16:3

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established” (ESV).

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: "Lofty Goals Are Not Out of Reach!"

There are about eight hundred species of hermit crabs, separated as either land or marine. Of the land hermits, their sizes can vary greatly. The Ecuadorian crab can be less than half an inch; Strawberry crabs: one-to-three inches; Indonesian crabs: three-to-five inches; and Caribbean crabs: five-to-six inches. The largest land crab is a hermit in its youth but will shed the external shell in adulthood. This crab is the Coconut crab, reaching about ten pounds. (See picture, bottom left.)



A Coconut crab climbing a tree.

Each of these hermits is capable of reaching new heights by climbing, even being found in the branches of tall trees. One of the most resourceful is the Coconut crab, so named because it uses its large pincher to pinch off coconuts from the tree. If the coconut does not break upon falling, the crab can use its strong pincher to crack the shell. Whether small or large, these hermits are not deterred from distances, heights, or challenges.

What would appear daunting for these creatures only becomes a goal of reaching upward for what it needs in life. Neither should life's challenges deter us from meeting the tasks before us and rising above them.

Goals in life are worth considering, even if a little lofty, but there is something to keep in mind. Life goals need to be founded in God's will, and these will be consistent with the teachings of

God's Word. Nothing can be right if it's wrong, according to Scripture. But with biblical approval and God's peace in its pursuit, "lofty goals are not out of reach." Proverbs 16:3 reminds us to "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established" (ESV). As believers, we don't live merely for ourselves but for the Lord and others. Any actions not committed to Him and for His pleasure in us would be an engagement in God-forsaken efforts. Such will not have His blessing nor His defense of them.

However, with God's pleasure resting upon us, nothing can stand in the way of His will being completed through us. The Apostle Paul confirms that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). And if there remains any doubt, he goes further to say, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (4:19).

What worthy, lofty goals rest in your heart that you would like to pursue in God's will and for His glory? Reach upward to see amazing things accomplished through your life and for the Lord! I once heard it said, "Whatever God orders, He pays for!" If you have found biblically sound goals in and for your life, God having convinced you of it through His peace, He will help confirm His work through you for His glory. Don't be fearful of rising above where you are. The sweet fruit of accomplishment is not far above. Reach forward and upward!

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

We all have to admit that in our growing older, our "get up and go" has "got up and went!" And if we're not careful, our moments of relaxation can slip into days of an aimless pattern of life. We don't necessarily have to go at life at the same pace as in years past. However, this week, and even today, holds the promise of enjoyable progress in living if we'll but see it and reach out for it. This week, give thought to what the Lord may want of you to be a blessing to others and Him. Allow the Lord to use you in ways you perhaps never considered before. You might reach for heights you will never attain; however, what you accomplish is better than never reaching at all.

MEMORIZE THIS VERSE FOR STRENGTH & DIRECTION

*"Commit your
work to the Lord,
and your plans
will be established."*

Proverbs 16:3