



BARNES *on the Bay*

August 8, 2022

Life Lessons from a Hermit Crab, #5

A Covering Must be Secured

SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION: 1 Corinthians 15:22

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: "A Covering Must be Secured"

In the life of a hermit crab, one thing is paramount: the shell. It provides a place for hiding and protection from predators. And attempting to separate a hermit from its cover is quite difficult. Once there, it will fight endlessly to stay there, even to its own demise. For the hermit crab, it knows that its covering is essential for its wellbeing, and it will do everything possible to protect and keep it.

It seems that humankind's natural objective is to find what is most important and secure it. Of course, that attempt branches out to various pursuits. For some, that desire leads to the quest for sensual pleasures and others to amassing money or possessions. Still, others pursue power or prestige. But frequent are the stories of those who acquire such but are still left empty or dissatisfied. Some even become suicidal. But that doesn't seem right. It appears inconceivable that these achievements would fail to bring happiness and fulfillment. How can such be?

Humans are not brute beasts hunting for the satisfaction of the next meal, and our joy in life is not ultimately found in the number of nuts we can gather for winter. Instead, there is a central, created element within the soul of individuals that only God's presence can fulfill. And any other possessions or achievements will only satisfy temporarily and temporally. Yet there is within us a longing for a security and eternal shelter for our souls.

We must come to grips with what is most important in life now and for eternity. Doing so will bring true joy here and hope for tomorrow. And this satisfaction is not found in what we acquire but in that which becomes our covering. Paul expresses it this way in 1 Corinthians 5:22, "For as in Adam all die, even so **in Christ** shall all be made alive" (emphasis added). We must seriously consider what is most important about life and make certain that it is assured! Life here is not about possessions or prestige; it is about securing what is most important: the eternal soul in Christ! He is our covering, protection, and security.

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Jesus asks a serious question for all to consider in Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Even if we were to acquire everything the world alone has to offer but lose the presence of God here and for time without end, what value would such hold? None. And this is where the emptiness of anything other than God's presence fails. The covering of being in Christ starts here and will provide you with all that is needed throughout eternity!

"Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (emphasis added; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK:

First, understand that possessions or assests are not sinful within themselves but that these are not the lone pursuit of life.

Second, love for these things above the Lord are sinful. "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:6-12).

Third, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Made a Director?

Debbie and I had the privilege of spending a little time helping with the Westminster-Canterbury Benefit Sale. This event raises funds for the WC Fellowship Foundation. Even with this being our first year volunteering at this fundraiser, I was already made a "director." Well, you get the point!

So many WC residents have worked hard and spent much more time preparing for and working on this event. It was impressive to see all the items for sale, the bargains available, and the dedication of those volunteering. And thanks to all who followed my direction!

