

Just Chickens**970706**

A farmer happened to be walking by the chicken yard when he heard an amazing thing. The chickens were talking to each other! He stopped to listen and he found that they were discussing their own status in life. Believe it or not, each one was trying to impress the others about how good they were. They were even comparing themselves to the farmer himself! One chicken said, "I meditate daily on the ways of the farmer and have dedicated my life to be like him." Another said, "I have been filled with the Human Spirit, and He gives me the power to do amazing things." Others described the beauty and goodness of the eggs that they laid. Only a few were quietly going about the business of being chickens. The farmer listened for a while and then walked away, slowly shaking his head. He said, "That's pretty big talk from a bunch of chickens!"

Could God's amazement be much greater when he looks down at man and listens to us debating on our spiritual superiority? Here we have the Creator of the Universe and the Author of all Good; He is so far above man in every respect that the idea of comparison is ludicrous. True, God desires that we be like Him: Perfect and Good. But we must have the perspective which helps us realize that we are nothing compared to Him. We should be praying "You are the Greatest, I am the Worst; You are the Highest, I am the Lowest!" Paul had the right perspective when he considered himself the greatest of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

We have all known people for whom we could do nothing right. They acted as though they were God. What are they going to say when they finally get to meet Him? I can imagine some people that I have known arguing with Him when that moment comes. I can even see them telling Him what He did wrong. I don't think that this will go over very well.

Remember the story of Job? Here was a man who followed God: God bragged about him to Satan because he knew his heart. But even Job in all of his humility was given a lecture on God's greatness. In Job 38:1-5 we read,

"Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?"

The rest of this chapter and the next is filled with the somewhat sarcastic questions God asks of Job. Then in chapter 40:2 God said to Job, "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" To which Job replied in verses 4-5, "I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer-- twice, but I will say no more." Then God spends the rest of this chapter and the next further showing how little Job knows.

Isaiah says it all in Isaiah 55:9, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." We must think of ourselves as chickens in his sight. Or perhaps like grasshoppers, or ants. Or maybe amoebas. But that still would not be the proper comparison. And yet God loves us as His own children. This does not show the worth of man but the overwhelming magnitude of the Goodness of God. We must do all that we can to stay out of any discussion of our own spiritual worth and the idea that we are right and anyone who believes different is wrong. May God have mercy on us, for we are all sinners!

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