

LESSONS FROM CANADIAN GEESE

INTRODUCTION

- I. There are many breeds of “geese” in the world today, but the most beautiful and popular of the wild life geese are the Canadian Geese.
 - A. The male goose is called “gander” and the female is called “dame”.
 - B. In Massachusetts, there is a wildlife refuge and hospital, with a pond nearby, and there has been a pair of wild Canadian geese in that pond for years. Recently, the directors of the refuge noted that Arnold, the male goose, was limping, so they caught him and took him in for examination. Surgery was needed on his foot, so they began to operate, and while doing so there was a continual knocking at the door. Answering the door, they found the other wild goose, the mate to Arnold, wanting in. They permitted her to come in and be with Arnold as he recovered. The situation was similar to such an arrangement in hospitals for humans, but this involved two wild geese. The filming of this episode made Facebook.
- II. From this episode, we were prompted to investigate and learn more about the mating habits of wild geese, especially the Canadian wild geese, and see what lessons we as humans can learn from these beautiful wild creatures.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, we learn of the importance of married partners in life.

- A. These 2 geese are typical of **every** pair of all wild geese who are dedicated to each other, even though their becoming “mates” together does not involve signing legal papers and solemnizing the vows by a judge or minister.
 1. The selection of a mate is done **by** the male, who nods his head in the presence of the female he chooses, and if she is still single, she nods back, and the wedding is completed, and they are then so-called “husband and wife” for life .Wikipedia states:

“During the second year of their lives, Canadian geese find a mate. They are monogamous, and stay together for the rest of their lives. If one dies, the other may find a new mate. The female lays from 2 to 9 eggs, with an average of five, and both parents protect the nest while the eggs incubate, but the female spends more time at the nest than does the male.”
 2. Upon the death of one in the geese home, the survivor mourns in seclusion for a period of time.
- B. The roles of both in a geese union are much like in society today, with the female consecrating on the home, while the male is dominant in other matters.

II. 2ndly, there are other things to learn from the gander and the dame.

- A. 1st, we learn of the **devotion** that both mates are to have for one another, by being devoted partners, that the two partners in marriage life today make up the whole in marriage, Eph. 5:28-31
- B. 2nd, we are reminded that this devotion between mates is for the **life** of both mates.
 1. Both mates are responsible for bringing other life into the world and to provide for them.
 2. Both geese look after the eggs before they hatch, then care for the young geese after they are hatched and launch out on their own.
- C. 3rd, both male and female find their lives **complete** with each other in a partnership.
- D. 4th, both male and female **wait** till the second year of life before selecting and reproducing after their kind--when they are **mature**.
- E. 5th, both wait until they are properly mated before bringing offspring into the world.

1. Today, millions of children are born into the world, without knowledge of their fathers, and without their influence and guidance, because their parents couldn't wait till the marriage took place before they began their propagation.
2. Today, God approves of those who wait until marriage before becoming parents.
1 Cor. 7:1-4

- F. 6th, both mates in a union are **monogamous**—having only one partner for the time they both live, not as they did in the early days of humanity, and today as in Mormonism.
1. In marriage today, both husband and wife do well to keep themselves for each other.
 2. When they don't, they commit fornication, and give their mates justification for putting them away, and seeking a new mate in life. Matt. 19:9
- G. 7th, in the event of **death** of one in marriage the living mate has the right to have a new mate, providing the new mate is qualified to marry. Rom 7:2-3; Matt. 5:32; 19:9
- H. 8th, both male and female geese do not try to change their sexuality from female to male, or male to female, but what they are as God intended them to be according to birth.
- I. 9th, both geese are **happy** with their partnership, and the male does not lay an egg, nor does the female try to impregnate another female. Rom. 2:24-27

CONCLUSION

- I. During the life of Jesus on earth, Jesus urged the people to consider the fowls of the air, which we are attempting to do in this lesson.
 - A. We often use the expression "wild goose chase" when we **fail** to accomplish some task or mission in life, as if we have wasted our time.
 - B. However, we have **not** been a "wild goose chase" in this study, for we learn a lot from the wild Canadian geese, in that they are monogamous, devoted to their mates for life, are satisfied with their sexuality, and are not sexually interested in the same sex for sexual satisfaction.
- II. At this time, we extend the invitation of the Lord to any lost to become obedient to the gospel, or any wayward member to be restored.

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