

### Seven Minutes Can Make a Difference

A homeless dog on the street can find a shelter in seven minutes. That is correct, only seven minutes. Yet, for a homeless person it could take days, weeks, and even months to find a shelter. A couple of days ago, my mom and I were walking down Market Street in San Francisco when we saw a group of people huddled around a dog. It was apparent that the dog was lost and trying to find a home. It took only minutes, seven to be exact, before someone volunteered to take the dog home. Amazing. As we continued to walk down the street, we noticed a homeless person sitting on the sidewalk, begging for money. There were no people huddled around him, helping *him* to find a home. Seven minutes spent helping him could have changed his life. Something deep in my heart tells me that there is something wrong with this scenario. A dog could find help easily, but a fellow human cannot?

Our Bible tells us that it took six days for God to make the universe and everything in it. On the seventh day, He rested. The Book of Genesis states that when the time came for God to create humanity he said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small. Be fertile and multiply, so your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it into their control." God spoke these powerful words for a reason. He created humans to watch over the beautiful things He made, appointing us as the stewards of creations. The humans were the chosen ones, God's greatest creation.

Sometimes, however, we act like the servants of creation, paying more attention to the animals and plants rather than to our fellow humans. Sometimes we are forgetful of what He intended our purpose to be. There is a drought in the land, yet people continue watering their lawn everyday for fear that their grass will die. People stand in front of a bulldozer risking their lives, for a tree. A couple finds an apartment that is perfect for their struggling family's budget, but they refuse to move in because it does not allow pets. Housing developers cannot obtain permission to build homes for low-income families for fear of endangering native birds in the area. In these instances, we are acting as servants of creation. When God put humans in charge of the animals and plants, He did not intend for us to jeopardize our own safety in the process of protecting them. We must create a balance between the protection of God's beautiful creations and the preservation of human life.

As humans, we should always remember that by serving ourselves effectively, we are better able to preserve the environment God created for us. This benefits both humans and the environment equally thus striking a perfect balance. We need to look for the "win-win" in each situation, solutions that do not harm humans in their plight to protect God's creation. An example might be better pollution controls with automobiles or the development of more efficient factories so that waterways and our atmosphere remain clean and clear. God made us intelligent to deal with all of the challenges and obstacles that come our way. He created us to take care of our environment but He did not intend for us to jeopardize our health and safety in the process. We must not let God down by failing to think through problems and search carefully for solutions that will benefit all. Seven minutes may be all it takes to make a difference.