

“The godly care for their animals, but the wicked are always cruel.” Proverbs 12:10 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 12:8-11

This is not a complicated, nor difficult thought at all. It's pretty simple, God created all things - living or not. He created plants, animals and humans. He also created rocks, water and air. Because he is the creator and life giver, we also should be good stewards of all creation and givers of life and care itself. The godly care for and about ALL living things and ALL things those living things need for support. There are natural cycles of life and death and all living things take in nourishment and reproduce. Of course, we love our pets, but we also should have a respect even in having to kill an animal for food or harvest the results of vegetation. I'm not happy with folks who push over extraordinary boulders amazingly perched on a pile of rocks. If a wind or storm knocks it down, fine. But, do we have to destroy or cause havoc just for a sense of fun or power? No! There are those who cause immense harm for nothing more than sport, fun or power, and not just to living things. I'm with C.S. Lewis when it comes to the idea of vivisection - it shows an evilness about us when we hurt or destroy for pleasure. The wicked, they are ALWAYS cruel. That should be the hint right there! What are my motives in not caring or being mean to God's creation. We don't have to be bullies on and off the playground of this planet, right?

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Dad,

I am sad and embarrassed at my past behavior of destroying or being careless about this planet and all the beauty of living and non-living on it. As a follower of Jesus, I should care and be the best environmentalist, best caretaker of the planet there is. Not to de-prioritize humans, but to behave as you taught us to be stewards and manage the resources (living and non living) you've given us. I know it's difficult to plan and choose to build and care for humans, but not at the selfish expense of our planet, our temporary home. It's not just animals, it's everything you've entrusted to us.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root