

Luna The Killer Whale



Luna, a young juvenile killer whale, first appeared near the mouth of the Gold River in Nootka Sound, British Columbia, nearly four years ago. Somehow he had been separated from his pod of orcas by a distance of a few hundred miles. In his isolation he turned to boaters and fisherman for companionship. He would swim near boats and do antics such as spy hopping, fanning his tail, or rolling over for attention. Often he would let boaters touch him with an oar or a broom. Nootka Sound had plenty of salmon for the lone orca and over the years he grew to an adult size of more than two thousand pounds.

Treating a highly intelligent wild orca almost as a pet posed serious problems. One day Luna swam too close to a moving boat and got a deep cut over his eye. Many people in the region realized that it was only a matter of time before Luna's close contact with humans would eventually cause the animal serious harm or even death.

Those people were right. A day came in the spring of 2006 when a 104 foot long tugboat named the General Jackson towing a heavily loaded barge ploughed its way across Nootka Sound. Luna, looking for attention, swam near the giant tug and started doing his antics. Soon all the sailors aboard the tug were at the railing watching and snapping photographs of the friendly killer whale. Luna had a habit of swimming under moving boats. However he had never swam under boat as powerful as the General Jackson. The sailors watched him go under their ship but he never came up alive. The 1,700 horsepower engine turning the large propeller caused an enormous suction, and he was drawn into the churning blades and sadly killed.



Killer whales are highly social animals, and they need others of their own kind to make them happy. Since Luna lacked the friendship of an orca pod, he turned to humans for company. Killer whales are a lot like humans in the sense that they are both highly social and need others like themselves. However, they are also different in an important sense, only humans were made a "living soul." This means they were given a soul which will live on and continue to exist for all eternity. It also means he has a heart that can come to know and love his Creator. His heart is made in such a way that it needs to know and love God to be truly happy. Of all creatures on the face of the earth only man has this deep need.

Luna got separated from his pod and turned to human beings for company. Man has gotten separated from God through sin and has turned to all sorts of things to take God's place.



However, none of those things will ever fill the God-shaped vacuum in man's heart. No man is ever truly happy until they can come to know God. And no man can ever know God until they are justified by faith. "Blessed (or happy) are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Romans 4:7-8). This blessedness or happiness is the portion of all those who put their faith in God's Son. At the cross He gave his life in the only sacrifice for sin that God will accept. All the benefit of that sacrifice is transferred to the sinner's account the moment he believe on Jesus Christ as his Savior. The sins which kept him separated from God are atoned for, or covered, and forever done away. God then "justifies" or declares him righteous in His sight. "But to him that worketh not, but believeth in him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5). Those who are justified are given the power or privilege to come into his family and know him as their Father. "But as many as receive him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John. 1:12).

Some of the folk in Gold River British Columbia saw the handwriting on the wall concerning Luna. They knew he would come to grief if he continued to live near men and wasn't returned to his pod.



We live in a world of sinners who are constantly saying to God by their thoughts, words, and actions, "Not your will but our will be done. Our lives are our own. We will do what we want with them." Dear friend can you not see the handwriting on the wall concerning them? Can you not see that somewhere down the road, each one must come to grief for their sinful lives? And what a grief they will come into! The bible says, "The wicked and all nations that forget God shall be turned into hell." (Psalm. 9:17) Men who persist in living their lives apart from God will be banished from his presence at death. Banished, their never dying souls will spend eternity in the darkness of hell where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Hell is a place of unutterable grief which will never end.

It is not God's will that any man perish in such a place. He wants all men to come to him in repentance and faith in his Son so they might be saved.

Luna's place in life was with his pod. Instead he died an early death because he became habituated to the company of men. Humans have become habituated to sin, and they will die an eternal death if they don't find the Savior.



Will you pass through life trying to fill the God-shaped void in your heart with created things? Will you try to do the impossible by making yourself happy when you are still in your sins? When God offers you the immense gifts of eternal life, forgiveness, and justification from sin through faith in Christ, will you shun his offer as if all is well and you have no need for such things in your life? Then, dear friend, the handwriting is on the wall. You may live a number of years, maybe more and maybe less, but shortly God will bring you into judgment for your sins in the horrific place called hell.

There is no lasting happiness apart from Christ. Sin has made that an absolute impossibility. Come to Christ today and find the blessedness of knowing your sins are forgiven and your iniquities are covered by his atoning work on the cross. Come to Christ and know the only true happiness that man, the sinner, can ever find! "Through this man (Jesus Christ) is preached unto the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 13:38).