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The Common Sense of a Billy Goat

By Teresa Hampton

Imagine for a moment, if you would, this scene. There are two mountain goats who meet each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of the animals to pass. On the left is a sheer cliff, and on the right a steep wall. The two are facing each other, and it is impossible to turn or to back up. How do they solve their dilemma? One of them lies down on the trail and lets the other goat walk over him – both then are safe. This mental picture of the goat lying down is an accurate demonstration of the word ‘humble.’ It also gives us a vivid mind picture of our Lord and His great sacrifice.

Jesus met sin and sinful man on a mountain path with a sheer cliff on the left and a steep wall on the right. How could he save man? He did what any savior would do. He lowered himself. *“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death...”* (Phil.2:8). Jesus went to the ground and allowed sin and sinful man to walk over him. And the result? The result was breathtaking! Man was saved because Jesus took that lowly position. What happened to Jesus? God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name above all other names. When His name is announced, every knee shall bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (2:9-11).

Imagine for a moment, if you would, *another* scene. There are two Christians who meet each other on a narrow ledge just wide enough for one of them to pass. On the left is a sheer cliff, and on the right a steep wall. The two are facing each other, and it is impossible to turn or to back up. How do they solve their delimma?

They could do what most humans do. They could start butting each other until both plunge into the chasm. On the other hand, they could have the common sense of a billy goat, and the beautiful humble spirit of our Lord.

Today’s Verse: *“...I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down, and I have power to take it again.”* John 10:17-18

Today’s Challenge: Read John 3:16-17, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-6, 1 John 3:16, 4:19

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