

COMPASSION MATTERS TO GOD

A one-page devotional about God's care for animals, and how compassion toward His creation reflects a godly heart.

Sometimes a simple verse carries a deep challenge. Proverbs 12:10 reminds us that compassion is part of godliness. The way we treat animals is not irrelevant to God. It reflects something about our hearts.

I started thinking more about this after a Bible study discussion about whether animals will be part of the new earth. While Scripture does not answer every detail we may wonder about, it does make one thing clear: animals matter to God. He created them with purpose, sees them, provides for them, and includes them in His Word.

Genesis 1:20–25 shows that animals are part of God's good creation. Psalm 104:11–14 describes Him providing water and food for living creatures. Matthew 10:29 reminds us that not even a sparrow falls apart from the Father's knowledge. Jonah 4:11 even includes animals in God's expression of compassion.

That means caring well for animals is more than routine responsibility. It can be an act of stewardship and a reflection of God's character. A filled water bowl, a gentle touch, proper care, protection, and patience may seem small, but biblical faithfulness is often lived out in small ways.

This does not mean animals hold the same place as people, since human beings alone are made in God's image. But it does mean that kindness toward vulnerable creatures matters. When we care for animals with gentleness and responsibility, we reflect the heart of a compassionate Creator.

REFLECT

- How does Proverbs 12:10 shape the way I think about compassion?
- Are there small ways I can reflect God's kindness in how I care for His creation?
- What everyday acts of stewardship might God be calling me to take more seriously?



*"The godly care for their animals, but the wicked are always cruel."
Proverbs 12:10 (NLT)*

PRAY

Lord, thank You for showing Your care throughout creation. Help me to reflect Your compassion in the way I treat others and in the way I care for animals. Make my heart tender, responsible, and attentive to what matters to You. Teach me to honor You in small acts of faithfulness each day.
Amen.