

Case Study Part 4 – “Planet”

4.1 Responsibility for Waste and Garbage Clean-up

During some of our BAM (Business as Mission) conferences, we have heard comments that taking care of planet Earth is costly and burdensome. “Why bother?” they said, given that a new heaven and a new earth will come – after all, everything in its present form will eventually be burned up!

Well, it is like saying to ourselves, “Why bother taking care of ourselves and nourishing our bodies? They will eventually return to the dust, for from dust we were taken, and to dust we shall return.”

The answer is STEWARDSHIP. We are entrusted with planet Earth to cultivate, to flourish and to enjoy, and to take care of it, not to abuse or exploit it.

Psalm 65:9 “You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.” (NIV)

Job 12:7-10 “But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.” (ESV)

Genesis 2:15 “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.” (ESV)

Genesis 1:26 “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (ESV)

Case Study

A 9.5-metre sperm whale was found dead in a national park in Indonesia, with

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nearly 6 kilogrammes of plastic waste, including 115 cups, in its stomach. Scientists estimate that we are adding eight million tonnes of plastic to the ocean each year.

In India, 80 kilogrammes of plastic were being removed from a cow's stomach after a three-hour surgery in Bihar. Thousands of cows die in the same manner.

Billy, an eight-year-old cow who was the darling of locals and visitors on Pui O Beach on Hong Kong's Lantau Island, was found dead on the beach. A post-mortem examination showed that its intestinal tract and stomach were blocked with enough plastic bags to fill two rubbish bins. Billy liked to graze for food at camping areas near the beach and may have swallowed huge amounts of plastic trash discarded by the tourists and beachgoers, mistaking it for food.

The plight of these animals has become a major concern for society. People discard waste in plastic bags, and animals searching for food consume the plastic along with leftover food. The plastic accumulates in their rumens and becomes hard. These animals appear healthy, but that is just an illusion — they often die a slow and painful death due to starvation. Sometimes, animals like turtles and seabirds get entangled in discarded items like nets, and die of suffocation or starvation.

Destroying God's creation!



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Discussion

1. What can we do individually, and corporately, as businessowners to minimise usage of plastic and polluting materials to protect and preserve God's created order?

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2. Review and re-assess our production, processing and packaging practices and identify ways we can cut down wastage and pollution and help reverse climate change. List them. Implement them.



Resources for Business Owners in Singapore (and as a reference for those overseas)

<https://sso.agc.gov.sg/Acts-Supp/29-2019>