

A Surprise in the Dark

The man in the shadows patiently watched as the family got all of its belongings into the car, checked everything, had the car loaded up, and pulled away for their summer's vacation.

The man in the shadows waited until it was dark, and then he went to the front door of the house and rang the doorbell.

When there was no answer, this man – seasoned burglar that he was – had no trouble picking the lock and getting inside.

As a precaution, he called out into the darkness, "Is anybody home?"

He was stunned when he heard a voice reply, "I see you, and Jesus sees you."

Terrified, the burglar called out, "Who's there?"

And again, the voice came back, "I see you, and Jesus sees you."

So the burglar switched on his flashlight toward the direction of the voice and was immediately relieved to see a caged parrot who recited once more, "I see you, and Jesus sees you."

The burglar laughed to himself, and then went to the wall and threw on the light switch.

Then he saw it.

Beneath the parrot's cage was a huge Doberman Pinscher.

And the parrot said: "Attack, Jesus, attack!"

Every time I think of that story, it makes me laugh. The imagery, the surprise, and the sudden ending all combine to tickle the ribs.

As funny as the tale is, however, there are at least three morals to be drawn from it:

1. Whatever system we may use to protect our possessions, nothing is foolproof.
2. As Robert Burns pointed out in his poem, *To a Mouse*, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry;" in this case, for both the family and for the burglar.
3. And most importantly, for real security of one's soul, trust the real Jesus.

– Beecher Hunter

