

Confronting the Coyote

A news story in the Denver Post awhile back contained an interesting observation about life on a ranch -- and a good principle for human beings to follow, too. Like many sheep ranchers in the West, Lexy Lowler has tried just about everything to stop crafty coyotes from killing her sheep.

She has used odor sprays, electric fences, and "scare-coyotes." She has slept with her lambs during the summer and has placed battery-operated radios near them. She has corralled them at night, herded them by day. But the southern Montana rancher has lost scores of lambs -- 50 in one year alone.

Then she discovered the llama -- the aggressive, funny-looking, afraid-of-nothing llama. "Llamas don't appear to be afraid of anything," Lowler said. "When they see something, they put their head up and walk straight toward it. That is aggressive behavior as far as the coyote is concerned, and they won't have anything to do with that. Coyotes are opportunists, and llamas take that opportunity away."

Isn't that behavior important for people to understand? Instead of running from problems and opposition that may confront us, we are better served to meet those challenges head on.

Danny Cox, a former jet pilot and professional speaker who has addressed Life Care audiences, put it another way: "If you've got more than one frog to swallow, swallow the biggest one first."

This strategy holds true in the spiritual realm as well. As James wrote in the New Testament: "Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7) The moment we sense his attack is the time we should face it and deal with it for what it is.

--Beecher Hunter