

The Bighorn Sheep

Colorado is a charming state, and Lola and I always enjoy our visits there. The beauty of the mountains is breathtaking. Among the interesting inhabitants thereof are bighorn sheep.

These animals, according to stories about them, will often allow visitors to the Rocky Mountain National Park to approach them from below and take close-up photographs. But don't try to get above them or the entire herd will run away.



The reason is that the bighorns' escape route from predators is always upward. On level ground, a bobcat or cougar can easily overtake the wild sheep. But scrambling up a boulder-strewn slope, the bighorns will get away every time.

The instincts of these sheep provide a spiritual lesson. Years ago, a speaker was heard to say, "No matter what

danger you face from trouble or temptation, don't let it get between you and God. As Christians, our escape route is always upward toward the Lord, never downward into sin or self-pity.

Psalm 5:3 reminds us to keep difficulty on the downhill side: *My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up.*

And in a beautiful testimony, King David described how God answered his prayer for help: *He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on high places* (Psalm 18:33).

All of us face trials and tribulation from time to time. But we can be sure of our footing when we walk close to Jesus.

– Beecher Hunter