

The Cat in the Backseat

A chauffeur worked for a woman who liked to take her cat with her on errands.



During one trip, the uniformed driver dropped her at a shopping mall before refueling. The cat remained in the car, lounging on top of the limousine's back seat.

The confused service station attendant stole several glances at the feline passenger relaxing in back. Finally, he asked: "Sir, is that cat someone important?"

I don't know about that cat, but sometimes we don't feel especially important. Certainly, we shouldn't feel any more important than anybody else. But on occasion, we may find ourselves struggling with low self-esteem, wishing we could measure up to others – such as someone with a special talent or an interesting profession or personal charm that attracts friends easily.

Having a healthy self-image is important. Here is a story that underscores that point:

A man found an eagle's egg and put it in a nest of a barnyard hen. The eagle hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them.

All his life, the eagle did what the barnyard chicks did, thinking he was a barnyard chicken. He scratched the earth for worms and insects. He clucked and cackled. And he thrashed his wings and flew a few feet in the air.

Years passed, and the eagle grew old. One day, he saw a magnificent bird above him in the cloudless sky. It glided in graceful majesty among powerful wind currents, with scarcely a beat of its strong, golden wings.

The old eagle looked up in awe. "What's that?" he asked?

"That's the eagle, the king of the birds," said his neighbor. "He belongs to the sky. We belong to the earth. We're chickens."

So the eagle lived and died a chicken, for that is what he thought he was.

The tragedy of the story is that he was never the bird he could have been.

What about you? Who will believe in you if you don't believe in yourself?

And He (Jesus) said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. That is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39).