

“EVEN THE BIRDS BECOME IMPATIENT”

But they know when to be patient too!

We call her Ruffles. I am referring to one of the “Scrub Jays” (not to be confused with Blue Jays) because her beautiful smooth feathers were sticking out all over her little breast, making it look like she had ruffles, or an attempted mod hair style (I won’t voice my opinion on those). She and her faithful companion were usually sitting patiently on the fence by our sliding glass door, waiting for one of us to dole out a most generous supply of peanuts in the shell. At first they sit patiently until they hear sounds in the living room area. Then they expect their manna, and very soon! But when hearing us and the door is not opened, as soon as they think it should be, they begin loudly with their unique raucous voice to let us know they are not a bit happy. To see how seriously they want the peanuts we lay them right inside the sliding glass door on the carpet. “If you really want the peanuts you have to trust us, come and get them!” we say. After a bit of time pondering and twisting their cockey little heads, (you know what?) they dash in – quickly pick up their greatly much - loved peanut and are on their way, stashing it someplace and hurriedly return for more! After seeing this and it is such a joy, it struck me how much we are like these little bits of God’s creation. It seems so hard at times to accept and trust Him. Yes, we even hesitate but in the end we are able to put aside our doubts and fears and say, “Lord, I know you love and protect us always, never let me forget that.” Then with humility we wonder why we ever back off or question. It has been so very true of us these past 2 months as we have prayed and prayed for my husbands’ health. Maybe it was loudly and in our raucous way as we were not sure the Lord heard us asking and asking that surely our

desires were His will. Oh how true it is we want our prayers answered and not just now but **yesterday**. We did not know patience! Even so, we know we too have to trust Him to the fullest with an unending faith that it is His will over **ours**, a lesson that is not easy to come by - the realization that what is best will happen in **HIS** time not when we insist. (Matt. 6:25-29) Read the whole passage - or more! Oh, how much he loves and cares for us even when we think He is not listening! He has all our answers for our tomorrows.

My beloved husband of 52 years, succumbed to cancer Dec. 29th 2003 this next bit about the Scrub Jays seemed so unreal, but there are witnesses to this story! I will never ever forget these beautiful birds and the lessons they have taught me.

(Just another reminder, do not confuse the beautiful, gentle "Scrub Jays" with the Blue Jays! the Scrub Jay does **not** have a crest on its' head.) These birds became an even greater joy to Jerry in the later weeks he lived. He could do less and less but fed them their peanuts in the shell many times a day until he could not get up to do it, then I took over. It was such a bright spot in his day as he sat in his chair watching them, as they would come and go. He loved them so much and spoiled them as much as one would any other pet. Jerry would continue to call them, talk to them and they became much less fearful to hop just inside the patio door to get their peanuts. Everyday he was conscious he would ask, "Did you feed the Scrub Jays?" Of course, I said I did. The day he passed away there was no doubt that Ruffles (feathers still upheveled) and companion, was on our fence and stayed long periods, not going and coming as usual many times throughout the day, but this day they remained sat there

patiently. I had fed them earlier but was so distraught and as I looked out and saw them, I said to our friends Al and Susan, "Oh, I forgot to feed the birds, they are still sitting on the fence." I gave them their peanuts, however several were still there. But to my amazement they still just sat there, not hopping down like they always had. A bit later I looked up from Jerry's bed as he took his last breath and said to Al and Susan (Scrub Jays visible behind Al) "**He's gone!**" At just that same instant I saw the Scrub Jays fly away! To this day they have **never** come back! We watched, hoping they would return, but after 2 weeks Tim picked up the nuts and put them in the backyard. We suppose other Scrub Jays got them but we have never seen Ruffles and friend since the moment of Jerry's death! I couldn't help but think that as Jerry ascended to heaven they were right with him! Yes, we miss the beautiful Scrub Jays so much too!

Even these wonderful precious creatures of God's creation are patient and it seems they waited and when the moment arrived they knew it was time to be quiet and wait! Could it be they waited patiently for Jerry's last breath? I don't know but this I do know:

"I wait for the Lord, for with the Lord, my soul waits and in his word I put my hope". (Ps. 130:5)

*Even now Tim and I are waiting. There are so many decisions - there are fears of making a mistake concerning our future without our Jerry. We are being quiet, praying and listening, and waiting for the Lord's answers. God **Trust Him, be patient, HE has ALL the answers! IN HIS TIME!**"*