

The Journey Outline

Cat and Dog: Lesson 5 Outline:

One Sentence Summary: Cats and Dogs have different emphases in their Christianity resulting in Mixed Up Priorities.

A. Outline

a. Introduction

- i. Bob tells a story about an English professor who writes a statement on the blackboard and directs his students to punctuate it correctly. Men and Women punctuated it differently.
- ii. Punctuations can change everything. It can change what you are communicating and what you are emphasizing. And if you happen to be emphasizing the wrong Syllable, your communication will come out wrong. You can communicate two different things.
- iii. This is what is happening in Cat and Dog Theology. The Cats emphasize humanity, mankind, and people. The dogs put their emphasis in a different area, God and His glory.
- iv. Two totally different messages are heard. And it leads to mixed up priorities in the Christian life.

b. Body

- i. Cats and Dogs live lives that emphasize things differently in the Christian life. Cats and Dogs live for the exact same things.
- ii. Cats say "I worship God for who He is and for what He's done for me." Dogs say the same thing.
- iii. Cats say, "I want our church to grow and I want us to be holy." Dogs say the same thing.
- iv. Dogs and Cats can say just about the same thing, but they will put different emphasis on it.

1. Worship

- a. Cats and Dogs worship God for the same reasons. But they put a different priority on why they worship God.
- b. Cats you see, worship God primarily for what He has done for them; secondarily, they worship God for who he is.
- c. A Cat loves to sing songs about Jesus' death on the cross and about how their sins are taken away and about how God wants to bless them. Their songs have a lot of personal pronouns such as "Me," "My" and "I" in them and primarily focus on their benefits. They are basically singing about themselves. Their Christianity has turned inward and they are, to a degree, self-centered. Their Christianity is all about them.
- d. Dogs worship God primarily for Who He is, secondarily for what He's done for them. A Dog's focus is on God, his indescribable character, His mighty deeds, His wisdom, His attributes. Their songs don't have a lot of personal pronouns nor do they talk much about their own benefit, but they primarily talk about God and His attributes.
- e. To tell the difference between songs, count the personal pronouns versus the references to God and see what benefits there are to the singer.

- i. The song “Who am I” has blessed many believers. There are 49 references to us and 30 references to God. That is a 1.6 to 1 ratio. This does not make this song bad or should make us feel guilty singing it, but it should wake us up and say, “There are a lot of references to me and what I get in that song.” A Dog would sing that song but he would want to balance it out by singing songs that exalt and magnify God simply for who He is, not simply for what He’s done for us.
 - ii. Dogs would be happy singing Chris Tomlin’s song, “Indescribable” It has 12 references to us and 24 references to God. The singer gets nothing out of the song but to become awestruck and fall on their knees and worship God. A Cat would sing this song but they would sing a lot more songs with them as the key focus point.
 - iii. Cat Theology is not incorrect, it’s just incomplete. A steady diet of Cat songs can bring you step by step closer to a very self-centered, Christian life.
 2. Both Cats and Dogs want God to bless them. Both Cats and Dog want to see God glorified. But they put different priorities on those two desires.
 - a. A Dog puts a higher priority on seeing God glorified than he does on being blessed by God. A Dog wants God to bless him but it is always secondary to seeing God glorified. For example:
 - i. Bob’s friend Mike Irvin is someone who exemplifies this. He runs a heating and air-conditioning business and we are in the same Bible study. One day we talked about integrity and our commitment to holiness and to the Father’s glory in our work.
 - ii. One of his men had gone out and given a quote on the job. Mike finished the job and told the man the finished price. The man said the quote had been far less. Mike checked with his employee and his employee confirmed the quote.
 - iii. Mike had two choices. Would he stand behind his company’s word and honor the quote, and in doing so, honor God while at the same time lose money? Or would he change the price on the man, dishonor God, and make money? Or would he find a compromise and at least not lose money?
 - iv. Mike chose the first choice. He lost money on a job because he felt it would honor God more. Honoring God to Mike was a higher priority over being blessed financially by God.
 - b. Cats put a far higher priority on God blessing them than they do on glorifying God. Cats want to glorify God, but it is a secondary priority in their lives.
 - c. Cats think God can be glorified by blessing them. They figure God will get great glory when He blesses them.

- d. In Mike's situation, a Cat would pray, "Oh, dear Lord, please help him to see that I have to make money too! Please have him agree to the full price..."
 - e. Cats seek God to advance their bottom line...even when it might not glorify God.
 - f. According to Bob, When God's glory points to something other than blessing, when God's glory says, "Hey, I want you to scale back. Don't get as big of a house. Don't buy as nice a house. Don't buy as nice of a car or get as fast of a computer." A Cat thinks that must not be God's voice. "I see how God blessed Abraham. I love how He blessed David and Solomon and God must want to bless me too." So they trust God for the nicer house, car, and computer and possibly get in debt for it. Why? Because they know that God wants to bless them.
 - g. When God's glory asks Cats to suffer, like Jesus did to reveal the Father's glory, like the Apostle Paul did to spread the gospel, Cats don't want to suffer. Cats think that they gave their life to God so he could bless them, and they shouldn't have to suffer.
 - h. Cats and Dogs differ in regards to going overseas.
 - i. Cats when God's glory points to going overseas and they hear God saying, "Go to North Africa and proclaim my glory among the millions of Muslims who have never heard of my name," they really flip out.
 - ii. Cats would rather serve God in their comfortable middle class life.
 - iii. Cats freak out because they are primarily concerned about themselves. Cats find it very difficult to hear God's voice.
 - iv. Although Cats live for the glory of God, it's not their first priority. They have emphasized being blessed by God more than living for His glory.
3. Both Cats and Dogs want their churches to grow and they want everything done in the church to be holy.
- a. A Cat can place church growth as a higher priority over God's ways, and then things can go wrong.
 - b. For a Cat, if people are attending church, then they are growing and that is good for them and the health of the church. So they do whatever they can to be sure that people stay in the church, even if God's laws need to be bent just a little.
 - c. For a Dog, it's reversed. God's laws are a higher priority than church growth. And they fully believe that the needs of people will be met and the church will survive if they follow God's laws.
 - d. Sometimes a Sr. Pastor is more worried about the size of a church rather than the holiness of God. For example: There was a church where the Sr. Pastor wanted to let go of the Worship Pastor because of interpersonal relationship conflicts. But the congregation loved the worship pastor greatly, so the Sr. Pastor, using unbiblical methods, created circumstances so that the Worship Pastor had to resign and as a result of this the congregation lost confidence in the leadership of the church. Many

members left the church resulting in great destabilization and damage to God's people.

- e. These kinds of situations expose the primary heart of Cats and Dogs.
 - i. Cats focus on whatever it takes to keep people from leaving the church. Their primary concern is about the church growing, or making sure people don't leave. This is what drives Cat pastors and Cat elders... Their Motto is, "Do whatever needs to be done to minimize the damage: it's all about the church and its people."
 - ii. Dog leaders have a different focus. They are primarily are worried about righteousness and justice. They want to make sure no scriptural principles have been violated and that God has had full opportunity to do what He wants. They seek to ensure that all parties are reconciled because God demands it of them. Their Motto is, "Was God pleased with how we handled the situation? They would be trying to do everything they can to honor everyone concerned: the Leadership, the individuals involved and the church family."
- f. The difference between the heart of a Cat and a Dog is whether it is primarily about the church or primarily about God's law?
- g. Cats put a higher emphasis on the needs of the church. They want God to be glorified, but not if people are going to leave.
- h. Dogs want God's holiness lived out, no matter what the cost. If the people leave, they leave.

v. Conclusion:

1. There can be two different Christianities based on who the main character of the Bible is. They look so similar, but they can be so far apart.
2. It can result in two different churches, two different pastors, two different elders, two different congregations.