

The Journey Outline

Cat and Dog: Lesson 7 Outline:

One Sentence Summary: Cats focus on God's love, mercy, grace and forgiveness and not on His judgment, discipline, hatred of sin and wrath.

A. Outline

a. Introduction

- i. Bob told the joke between Gerald Robison and his wife about Gerald making up half the bed. Gerald paid attention to only half of the bed. Cats pay attention to only half of God.

b. Body

- i. Cats focus on God's love, mercy, grace and forgiveness. But they do not know the other side of God, his judgment, discipline, hatred of sin and wrath.
- ii. Dogs know the other side of God. They know He hates sin, that he has wrath that must be quenched, and that He is a God who judges and disciplines.
- iii. Cats say, "I don't want to hear about that.. Let's just talk about God's love."
- iv. In Deut.28,beginning in verse 15, God says that when we obey Him, He promises to bless us; but He also told the Israelites that when they disobeyed Him He promised to curse them in many areas:
 1. City or country, food provision, fertility, crops, cattle and animals
 2. He would send curses, confusion and rebuke in everything they put their hand to until they were destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil they had done if forsaken Him.
 3. Wasting diseases, fevers, inflammation, heat, drought, boils, being ruled by other nations, etc.
- v. God's response to individuals
 1. Hezekiah- 2 Chro. 32.24-26 He is a good king, but one day became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed and God spared his life and agreed to give him 15 more years. Shortly after that he showed his enemies all that God has blessed him with, which was the sin of pride. God, through Isaiah rebuked him for that. Hezekiah repented and did not experience the judgment of God in his lifetime, but his ancestors did experience the judgment.
 2. Application: We could infer that no matter how wonderful we are as a Christian, no matter how valuable we are to God's kingdom, no matter how high we are in the leadership of the church, if pride or any other form of sin gets in our way, the Lord can allow discipline or consequences to affect us.
 3. Moses was used mightily by God to lead the Israelites to the promise land. However, in Numbers 20:14 He disobeyed God's instruction by striking the rock twice to provide water to the people. God told him that he had not honored him before the people and therefore would not be able to lead them to the promise land.
 4. God is holy and He will not settle for anything less in us.
- vi. God's response to corporate worship
 1. Amos 5:21-23 Amos was a minor prophet who spoke truth to the Jews who were outwardly religious, meaning they went to the temple, they

- worshiped, they offered sacrifices...but they were rebellious. God said he hated, despised their feasts, assemblies, their offerings. He would not listen to their music.
2. 2 Chronicles 7:19-22 After the glory of the Lord had come down after Solomon had dedicated the temple, He warned them if they turned away and forsook his commands and worshipped idols, he would reject the temple.
 3. Buildings mean nothing to God even when His glory has been manifested in it. God is a holy God who hates sin and judges sin in our lives and in our churches . We must remember that Judaism and Christianity are first and foremost about a relationship, not buildings.
- vii. Our disobedience toward God can become so bad, that God will not only judge us, but He will be against us.
1. God has been patient with the Southern Kingdom of Israel and He sent many prophets to warn them to not act like the unsaved nations. In Jer. 21.3-10 King Zedekiah, who was an evil king, ask Jeremiah to ask the Lord for help against the invasion of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. But God replied, “I myself will fight against you? I will strike down those who live in this city? I have determined to do this city harm and not good?” Israel has sinned and done evil and **God had given them over to their enemies as a consequence of their disobedience.**
 2. God’s love is not greater than His holiness. He is fulfilling the curses He said would come against them in Deut. 28.
- viii. Cats think that God doesn’t judge disobedience in the New Testament, but God does respond to disobedience in His people.
1. Acts 12:21-23 Herod one day gave a public address before the people and they called him a god, and not a man. Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, and angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.
 2. Some Cats think that God still judges non-Christians, but as for believers, ours sins are forgiven and we should just rejoice in His love.
 - a. In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira sold some property and lied to Peter about the amount of money they received from it. They immediately died for lying to the Holy Spirit.
 3. **God judges non believers and believers the New Testament.**
- ix. God can judge a church.
1. Acts 1:8 God commands His disciples to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the remotest parts of the earth. In Acts 8, the Christians are persecuted and Bob believes this is God’s judgment of them for not witnessing outside of Jerusalem. The persecution scatters the Christians to Judea and Samaria which fulfills Jesus instruction in Acts 1:8.
- x. Judgment in the New Testament is usually called discipline and the scriptures are clear that God disciplines those He loves. Cats don’t want to deal with this because Christianity is all about them and they do not understand why God would allow tough times to come to them.
- xi. Dogs realize there is a majestic purpose for the judgments and the disciplines in both the Old and the New Testaments. God brings tough times into our lives to draw us closer to Himself and to radiate His glory in more wonderful ways.

xii. In the OT God was trying to get people to repent; In the NT it is not only to repent, but to become more like Christ.

1. James 1:2-4 Tells us to rejoice when you face trials, because they result in you becoming mature and complete.

xiii. Cats believe Christianity is about being blessed by God and they want His presents far more than His presence. If anything takes away the blessings they see it as punishment and that is a penalty.

c. Conclusion

i. Cats don't think God's discipline or judgment would apply to them because they only know half of God.

ii. God never punishes, He always disciplines.

iii. Hebrews 12:7 says to "endure hardship as discipline.

iv. When tough times come into your life, see them as being from God and ask God to not take you out of it until it has accomplished the purpose that God sent it for.

v. Embrace all of God. He is a God of love, mercy, hatred of sin, judgment and discipline.