

The Journey Outline

Cat and Dog: Lesson 1 Outline:

One Sentence Summary: There are two different fundamental foundation perspectives that indicate whether your Christianity is People Centered or God Centered.

a. Outline

i. Introduction

1. Goal of this series: To see the Bible from an entirely new perspective that will apply to every area of your life.
2. Julian Beever's chalk drawings on pavement surfaces.
 - a. His work distorts the picture in order for you to see what he is envisioning.
 - b. His work can only be seen correctly from a certain angle.
3. The Bible can only be understood correctly from a certain angle.

ii. Body

1. There are two very fundamental foundation perspectives we can take with looking at God's word that can change everything in the Christian life.
2. Those two different foundations are discovered when asking a very simple question:
 - a. Who is the main character of the Bible?
 - b. Who is life really all about?
 - c. Is it about God or is it about us?
3. The average Christian will say the Bible is all about God. But they live and act as if it is all about them!
 - a. People Centered view of the Bible asks:
 - i. What do I get out of this?
 - ii. What did I get out of Jesus' death on the cross?
 - iii. What do I get out of salvation?
 - iv. What do I get when I go to heaven?
 - v. What's in this Christianity for me?
 - b. God centered view of the Bible asks?
 - i. What does God get out of Jesus' death on the cross?
 - ii. What does God get out of saving me?
 - iii. What does God get out of me going to heaven?
 - iv. What does God get out of this Christianity?
4. What difference these two perspective make in the area of prayers?
 - a. People centered view ask:
 - i. What can God do for me?
 - ii. What can I ask God for that will help me?
 - b. God centered prayer ask:
 - i. What can I ask God for to advance His kingdom?
5. What are the different ways to view God?
 - a. Person centered believer asks, "What can God do for me?"
 - b. God centered believer asks, "What can I do for God?"
6. What are different ways to have understanding of Church:
 - a. A people centered Christian asks, "What can the church do for me?"

- b. A God centered Christian asks, “What can I add to the church to bring God glory?”
7. What are different ways the Pastor views the church:
 - a. A people centered pastor will ask, “Were the people pleased with my message?”
 - b. A God centered pastor asks, “Was God pleased with the message?”
 8. Most of us have been trained to have a people centered perspective of God’s word and life. It isn’t wrong, but it leaves out a lot.
 - a. If you are asked, “Why did Christ die for us?” most would answer, “To save us from our sins.” This is a people centered perspective.
 - b. Most of us when asked any kind of theological question it goes through an instant filter in our minds that says, “What do I get out of this?” or “What’s in this for me?” So we think, “It’s all about me!”
 - c. We could ask, “What did God the Father get out of Jesus’ death on the cross? He got glory, honor, praise, worship and more. We don’t think about these things, naturally.
 - d. “What is the primary reason for not wanting people to go to hell?” So they won’t suffer is a people centered perspective. David in Ps. 30:9 says, “What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness? David is more concerned about what God gets out of his death than he is worried about himself.
 9. If it were all about us,:
 - a. Why is $\frac{3}{4}$ ’s of the world is covered with water where we can’t exist?
 - b. Why does the sword fish have brilliant and beautiful colors in the water, but when you bring it to the surface, the color totally fades away after 30 seconds and we can’t enjoy it?
 - c. Why are there sounds our ears can’t hear, but animals can?
 - d. Why does the eagle have better eye sight than we do?
 - e. Why does a baby horse walk at birth, but we humans take nine months just to begin to crawl?
 - f. Why are there galaxies we cannot see?
 10. Maybe it is NOT about us. Maybe God created it just the way it is because it’s about Him and He likes the way it is. He enjoys the galaxies we can’t see. He delights in the horse walking. He loves to see us learning to crawl. It’s about God and all He delights in and all he desires to do, not what we get.
 - a. Col. 1:16 For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and FOR Him.
 11. Everything around us is here for God. The galaxies, the clouds, the trees, the fish and even you and I exist, for God. We are here to bring Him pleasure.
 12. Thinking life is about us, or life is about God will result in tow types of Christianity. We call it, “Cat and Dog Theology” here in the states and “Cat and Dog Attitudes” overseas.

13. Dogs and cats act very different. An old joke says, “A dog says, “You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, ‘You must be god.’ Where as a cat says, “You pet me, you shelter me, you love me, ‘I must be god.”
14. This joke represents Christianity today. Cats say, “This book is all about us. God did everything for us. Life is for us.”
15. Dogs say, “No, this book is all about God. God did everything for Himself. Life is all about Him.”
16. In every person, you are going to find Cat attitudes and Dog attitudes. They permeate our lives, because inside all believers is an old nature and a new nature.
17. The old nature has been crucified with Christ, but it asks “What can God do for me?” It sounds spiritual, but the primary concern is still the person.

iii. Conclusion

1. There are Christians that view things from the wrong side of life. They read the same Bible we do. They attend the same churches we do. But their perspectives of life are very different.
2. Two Christianities. Two Foundations.