

The Journey Outline

Cat and Dog: Lesson 2 Outline:

One Sentence Summary: People centered Theology is self centered and God centered Theology is focused on God.

A. Outline

i. Review

1. Cat Theology- The Christian says, "Life is about God," but live and act as if life is about us. We get wrapped up in a self centered, people centered theology.
2. Dog Theology- The Christian says, "Life is about God,"
3. Dogs study Theology, "Theo," meaning God, "ology," the study of, therefore the study of God.
4. Cats study "Me-ology," the study of "Me" in the Bible. They are constantly going through the scriptures asking, "What does this have to do with me? What do I get out of this? How can this apply to MY life and make me happier?"
5. Although these aren't wrong, they are leaving out a key component which asks the question, "What does God get out of this? What is this going to do to God's reputation? How is God being glorified?" Dogs ask "What does God get?" Cats ask, "What do I get?"

ii. Body

1. We sometimes have a "software approach" to life. When typing, your software will fill in words it thinks we want to say. It's called "Auto Text" but Bob refers to it as "Auto Fill." It automatically types words for me without me having to think about it. It thinks for me.
2. My mind does its own "Auto-fill" about what the Christian life is all about. And it keeps me thinking about God and his desires for me. My "Old Nature Auto fill" tells me that God, and life, are all about me. This becomes my "default."
3. For example:
 - a. When I go to a music album that is titled, "God For Us," the cat in me says, "Yes, that's it! God is all about ME! He not only died for me, He lives for me." And the "auto fill" of my Catish ways, is filled in.
 - b. When sitting in the pew of a church, and the pastor is praying and says, "Oh God, you are a faithful God," my "auto fill" says, "Yes, He is faithful to me! He's completely concerned about me! I am not worried about God being faithful to His name, to his purposes. My "auto fill" keeps me focused on me.
 - c. When I hear the phrase, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life!" I think, "Yes, I know that. It IS all about MY life! What are God's dreams for me? I am not worried about other's lives, or what God's dreams are for them or for His name or for the nations. "Auto fill" keeps me happily focused on me.
 - d. At a prayer meeting and I hear someone pray, "Lord, we just ask you to bless our church..." The Cat in me is thinking, "Yes Lord, I agree! You know we need a bigger gym, new carpet, an organ. My "Auto Fill" doesn't think about how God's blessing the church can

result in the inner city being reached, about planting a church in an unreached people.

- e. “Auto Fill” changes the way Cats sing songs like the Vineyard’s song, “Jesus, lover of my soul,” Even though they sing the words, “Its all about You, Jesus, And all this is for you, for your glory and your fame,” Deep down inside they are singing,
It’s All About Me... Jesus
And All This Is For Me
And The Blessings I Receive
And somehow you can hear Satan laughing as he has lied to them, getting them to think “It’s all about me.”
4. “Auto Fill” is very real and very powerful. Sometimes we can hear the correct words to a song, but in our minds and hearts, we are thinking about the incorrect words. Our old nature defaults to “ME ology” and we’re not even aware of it!
5. Cat and Dog Theology has created two different motivations for getting to heaven. Although there is only one way of getting to heaven and that is through Jesus, Cats and Dogs find Jesus for two differing reasons.
 - a. Cats- walk away from hell. They are saying, “I don’t want to go to hell. I don’t want to go to hell. They invite Jesus into their life. They stop and pray, inviting Christ into their lives and then they praise God saying, “Wow, I’m saved. I’m not going to hell!” And the entire time, they were focused on themselves. They came into God’s kingdom through “ME ology.” And to them Christianity is all about not going to hell.
 - b. Dogs get to heaven differently. You see Dogs are walking toward heaven. They have fallen in love with someone who is so great and wonderful. He is glory, powerful, almighty, and wisdom. They give their lives to him.” They say “God is great.”
 - c. Matt. 13:44 The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Joy, that is what is to characterize the Christian life. Why? We’ve found a treasure, something that is so wonderful, so glorious, so inspiring that we’ve given our lives to it!
 - d. For a Dog, the treasure is a joy of discovery, but for a cat, it’s the relief of escape. Cats aren’t really joyful, but they are greatly relieved!
6. Cats and Dogs are different in regard to obedience. Dogs want people to obey the master. Cats want the master to obey them!
 - a. Cats pray, “Dear Lord, I want this, and this, and in the name of Jesus I claim it. AMEN. And the Lord becomes a living spiritual vending machine where they get to choose what they want.”
7. Cats and Dogs have different quiet times. They both spend time with God.
 - a. Dogs are focused on God’s glory. Deep inside a Dog is thinking:
 - i. Glory to god in the highest.
 - ii. Where is God’s glory shining in my marriage?
 - iii. Where is God’s glory shining in my attitude as a single person?

- iv. Where is God shining in my parenting or grandparenting?
 - v. Where is God's glory shining where I work?
 - vi. Where is God glory shining in the 10/40 Window?
 - vii. A Dog's first and foremost concern is for God's glory.
 - viii. A Dog's heart beats for God's glory, where as a Cat's heart beats for God's gifts. They both beat for God.
8. Different "Auto Fills" can create two different types of Lordship.
 - a. Dogs say, "Anytime, anywhere, any place. There are no limits God, please use me to make you famous, even if it means taking my life."
 - b. Cats on the other hand, say, "God, I want to make you famous too, but I don't DO suffering, and I won't go overseas either. Just keep me safe right here at home and I'll do whatever you ask..."
 9. A Cat and Dog's guarantee of salvation is different as well.
 - a. Cats know they have been saved, because they "prayed the prayer." If you ask them about their life is they say, "My spouse is leaving me, I hate my job, my kids won't talk to me, I am not having quiet time because I am angry with God."
 - b. Dogs know they are believers because they Hunger for God. They want to know him more and more. They prayed the prayer but later they started to hunger and thirst for God and to fall in love with Him with their whole heart and soul. He knows his relationship with God is secure.
 10. People centered Theology is self centered. God centered Theology is focused on God.
 11. A steady diet of Cat Theology that most Christians have feasted on affects every area of our Christian life, including our leadership and Christian teaching we hear in our churches and on the radio.
 - a. We may pray for miracles in our church but may not include other churches or churches in Iraq or China. It is self-centered.
 - b. Cats take any promise of God and apply it only to themselves and never see beyond that. Their "Auto Fill" will never have them looking beyond themselves.
- iii. Conclusion: Life is not really all about us. It is about God. Our lives, our families,... we exist to live for and radiate God's glory.