

The Journey Outline

Cat and Dog: Lesson 6 Outline:

One Sentence Summary: Satan's strategy is to get Christians to focus on things that are safe to God, but changes our focus off of God's glory.

A. Outline

a. Introduction

- i. We are looking at the differences between Cat and Dog Theology and asking the question, "Who is life really all about? Is it about us or it about God?"
- ii. One way to communicate the difference between these two attitudes is to look at the "ology's" that they study.

b. Body

i. The "ology's of Cats and Dogs

1. Dogs study "Theology" Theo stands for God. Ology is Latin for "The study of." Putting the two together, you get "The Study of God."
2. Dogs see life as one beautiful stained glass window and all God wants to do is to get behind that stained glass window and shine and radiate His glory in billions of different ways.
3. Each little bit of glass in a stained glass window is called a "Tessera" and every "Tessera" has a unique way of revealing the glory of God. Tessera Examples are:

a. Heaven Tessera

- i. As we look up into the night sky, we realize that the sky is one big sheet of stars. There are trillions of stars in our galaxy called the Milky Way. Our sun is one of those stars. And God has named every one of those stars! All of that reveals His Glory.
- ii. Ps. 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands."

b. Plant Kingdom Tessera

- i. The trees turn colors in the Fall, then fall off, but then they are given new life in the Spring
- ii. God created multitudes of flowers with colors, aromas and varieties and also created different kinds of grasses that grow in various climates.

c. Taste Tessera

- i. God did not have to give us taste buds. But, God wanted us to taste His glory. We can taste a watermelon, a mango, an onion, and some broccoli. Why? It reveals His glory.

d. Blessing Tessera

- i. God loves to bless us with time, gifts, talents, money, education, homes, and all of these are God's ways of blessing us.

4. Dogs love to sing about the stained glass window and the glory of God. They want to sing, "You...It's All About You! Everything is about you, God. The trees, the clouds in the sky, the clothes we wear, everything is from God and through God and to God.

ii. Satan's Strategy

1. Satan wants to keep people from knowing that it is all about God and he wants their focus on something other than the glory of God.
2. Satan wants to rob God of His glory and this is where Cat Theology comes from.
3. Satan uses a deck of cards and he is passing these cards out all around the globe. He had done well in the Muslim world, the Buddhist world, Hindu and unreligious peoples.
4. Satan wants to keep Christian from focusing on God and His glory. So he takes one of the tessera that God wants to use to reveal His glory, his desire to bless us, and gets many believers to say, "Forget about the glory part, God. Let's focus in on your desire to bless us! In facts, let's make it the central focus of what the Christian life is all about. God can you bless us with money, godly relationships and Christian co-workers, and a hassle-free and safe life."
5. Then we no longer focus on God revealing His glory through blessing us, rather we focus on receiving the blessings from God, and we become primary, God's glory becomes secondary. This is the essence of Cat Attitudes. Cats live for the glory of God, but it is secondary. This shift in thinking takes place slowly and over time it gets bigger and bigger until the entire Christian life is all about being blessed by God.
6. Deep down inside many Christians are singing: "Me...It's All About Me!"
7. Dogs study "Theology," Cats study "Meology!"
 - a. Life is about me. I want to study "me" in the Bible. What do I get when I go to heaven? How can I be blessed? What's God got in here for me?
 - b. In "101 Differences Between Cats and Dogs" we have tried to portray this showing how Cats and Dogs view their masters differently. Dogs see God as their master. Cats see God as their staff.
8. With self-centered Christians, their worship songs and prayers have a lot of "Me", "My", and "I's" in them. Their needs take first priority in the Christian life, and they are basically using God to advance their kingdom. They are not worried about God's kingdom.
9. Another tactic of Satan to get Christians to get their eyes off God's glory is to get us to switch from being self-centered to purpose-centered. These are safe issues that are close to God's heart that can keep us from focusing on God's glory.
 - a. Left Foot Baptist Church- It got its name when the Baptist church in that town split after a conflict about foot-washing. A controversy arose over whether the right foot or the left foot should be washed first when washing someone's feet. Those who thought the left foot should be first left the church and formed their own congregation.
Washing someone's feet in the name of Jesus is close to God's heart, but it took the focus off the big picture of God's glory for this church.

- b. “Right to Life” campaign- saving unborn babies is safe and close to God’s heart, but for some the effort could take them away from realizing that it is about God and His glory.
 - i. Dr. David Gunn, a doctor who performed abortions in Florida in 1993, was shot to death by a Christian man who was protesting outside the clinic where Dr. Gunn worked.
 - ii. The man, Michael Griffin, was at the protest and prayed for the soul of Dr. Gunn during the protest.
 - iii. The majority of Christian pro-life advocates do not go this far and are against destructive means to accomplish the protection of the unborn.
 - iv. Abortion extremist can be defined as “single issue terrorism.” Our zeal for one aspect of God’s glory can get blown out of proportion and we can become terrorists.
 - c. Helping your denomination is another issue that is safe and close to God’s heart that can keep us from focusing on God’s glory.
 - i. A large church in Atlanta had a missionary who worked in an apartment complex where 72 different languages were used(many different nations). Bob went to the Missions pastor to see if he could get some of the members involved in the complex. But he related that since this would mean them missing the Sunday morning worship, the Senior pastor would not allow them to get involved. If the members did not come to church, their numbers would go down and they would lose their ranking in the denomination. The Senior pastor was far more concerned about his church’s position in the denomination than he was about internationals being reached. That pastor was a Cat.
 - ii. Another pastor in Virginia once stood up and said, “When you get to heaven, don’t tell him you’re with the Assemblies of God. He doesn’t care. What he cares about is your walk with him...” That pastor was a Dog.
 - d. There are many areas of the Christian life that can be blown out of proportion such as : your role in serving God, or ministering to others, working with the youth, or the elderly, or the nursery. We can take something that is safe, and close to God’s heart and blow it out of proportion and our focus becomes primary, God’s glory becomes secondary.
10. Satan can use causes outside the church to become a higher priority over God’s glory such as: national pride, global warming, saving whales, or unwed mothers. However, they can consume us to the point that God’s glory takes second place.
11. Evaluate your stained glass window. Are you enlarging tessera that don’t need to be enlarged? Are you focusing on an area of Christianity that is safe and close to God’s heart, but away from His glory? Ask God to show you what is really going on.

iii. Conclusion:

1. The church, its pastors and leaders are communicating the gist of what the Christian life is about but with tons of mistakes. They are detrimental to walking in God's glory and Satan rejoices.