

May Pastor's Page continued

Me, being the sucker that I am for my cats, took pity on her and asked if she wanted me to open the window more. I know, she's a cat and I know I am not getting an answer, but all of us pet owners talk to our pets. I walked over and opened the window wide enough to allow her to lie down near the screen. Of course, as soon as I did this she promptly jumped off the window and walked away leaving me to shake my head and think how cats like to do things the difficult way. Even if you make life easier for them (like opening the window so they can sit more comfortably, put dish of food right in front of them....) they will almost always take the hard way or make it harder than it needs to be.

This, however, does not apply simply to cats or dogs. As parents we think the same things about our kids. We can guide them in making some aspects of their lives easier but they seem to almost always take the harder path. We can show them an easier way to do a math problem but they will almost always make it more difficult. We can show them easy ways to learn a spelling word and they still will find a more difficult way to learn. And when they do that, we, as parents, shake our head and say to ourselves, "How are they going to make it in this world?"

Before we think ourselves superior when it comes to making life easier, let us not forget that we take the hard way all the time when it comes to God guiding us. God is always trying to guide us so that our lives might be a little bit easier. He is prompting us not to go down a certain path but we almost always ignore him and go down that path. We go down the path that leads to more road blocks and bumps along the way. God makes it easy for us to share the gospel by putting opportunities in front of us, and yet we take the complex way. Instead of going after the opportunity God has put before us (using kind words and actions, asking if someone would like prayer....) we say that sharing the gospel needs to be something where we have to know Bible chapters and verses, we have to know a formula (like the Roman road). In times of loneliness God wants us to come to him for comfort. He wants us to pray, to talk to him. He wants us to lay our burdens at his feet. Instead, we take the complicated way. We look for comfort in the wrong places, and we carry our burdens on our own. When we have to make a decision, God wants to guide us in that process. He wants to show us where we should go or what we should do. Instead of simply going to him and asking him what we should do or where we should go, we make the decision process complicated. We make lists and weigh pros and cons; we stay awake for nights on end with worry and indecision weighing us down.

I am pretty sure God shakes His head at us often. I am pretty sure He says to himself "I gave you advice, I showed you the way and you did not listen. You took the harder path." He might even say... "If you had listened to me you would not be in this mess. If you had listened to me you would be ahead of where you are now. If you had listened to me you could have saved someone's soul."

When I was shaking my head at my cat it dawned upon me that God does not make our lives harder; we do. God does not make faith hard, we do. God does not make being a disciple and the making of disciples hard; we do. We make things so much harder than they need to be and when we do that we miss things. We miss doing what God asks of us. We miss trusting in God. We miss sharing the gospel message with others. God might be complicated but following him and having faith in him is never complicated.

So instead of making things so complicated and hard, let's take some time to see what God wants us to do and how he wants us to do it. I am pretty sure if we do as He guides us, we will find that faith, making disciples and being disciples is not a complicated as we make it.

May God bless you in all that you do.

Pastor Sharon