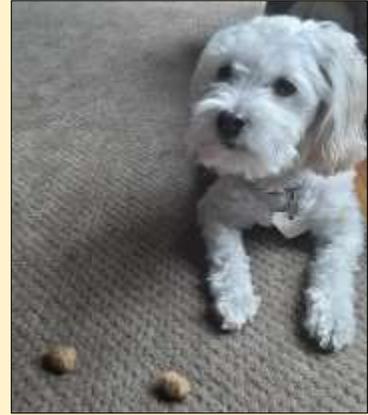


FINDING FOOD AROUND THE HOUSE

By now many of you have been introduced to our dog Daisy. Last week I shared how she loves to jump on the ottoman strategically placed at our front window to chase squirrels and chipmunks away from our bird feeders. You have also learned that often it is when I am walking Daisy that God gives me inspiration for my mid-week messages. Daisy is my inspiration for this week's message too.



Our dog has a tendency to take the food from her bowl and eat it at various locations throughout the house. Sometimes she will come into the living room and chomp away at her food on the rug. Other times she will carry it upstairs jumping up on one of our beds to chew away. Other times she will take it out to the pool area and eat away at it while we are in the backyard. It would be great if she would eat the food over her bowl in the kitchen but that is not our Daisy.

Sometimes, however, Daisy will carry her food to different locations in our house and leave it somewhere uneaten. I don't know if she gets distracted or excited by something else, but it results in us finding some of her dog food pellets in the strangest locations. Just this week I found that Daisy left a dog pellet right outside Coral's bedroom door in a perfect spot for Coral to step on it if she didn't happen to look down. This morning she left another one of the pellets at the bottom of our stairs. She has left two more in our living room, one under the coffee table and the other beside the couch.

No room is safe from Daisy leaving her food. I have found food in my upstairs office, our basement, our living room and our bathroom too. Even though Daisy is a small Shih Poo all of 12 pounds, her dog food is not small in size (nor small in price either). If you happen to step on one of her dog pellets you feel it. You have to be careful walking around our house because you never know where you might find some of Daisy's uneaten food.

Daisy leaving her food around the house got me thinking about how God wanted the Israelites to leave spiritual food in strategic locations around the house in order to be found. In Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 after providing the Israelites with the 10 Commandments, Moses encouraged them to make the Word of God and learning from it part of their everyday experiences and lives. In order to encourage them to do this, Moses gave the Israelites these instructions

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home, and when you are on the road. When you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates.

In order for the Israelites to make God's commands part of their everyday lives we see here that they need reminders around their house too:

- They were to talk about God's commands around the house,
- They were to write God's commands on their door frames and gates as a reminder.

By having these daily reminders, the Israelites would be able to teach themselves and their children the importance of trusting and obeying God in one's everyday experiences.

Reminders around our house are important to help us keep our trust in God at the forefront of our everyday experiences. Therefore, I wonder if we might need to take a lesson from Daisy and ask ourselves, are we leaving reminders around the house to "eat our spiritual food" every day? For instance:

- Where do you leave your Bible? Is it in a place where you will remember to pick it up and read it each day?
- Do you have a daily devotional book by your favourite chair that is visible so you will be reminded to be fed by it?
- Do you have a Hymn book out or a Christian CD that you can play as you are making a meal or putting away at something so you can sing along and be uplifted?
- Do you have a Christian channel on TV or a Christian station on the radio?
- Do you have a Christian Devotional that you can click on as you look at your e-mail on the computer each day?
- Or is there a certain chair, or place around the house that reminds you it is time to pray?

One of the best ways that we can make God and His promises part of our every day experiences is to have reminders around our house to pause and be spiritually fed. If we don't have these reminders, this recent Stay-at-

Home order is the perfect time for us to make the effort to do so. Just as we take time and effort to feed ourselves with food around the house each day, we need to do the same spiritually as well. If we just feed ourselves spiritually on Sundays, we will be depriving ourselves of God's food that can bless and sustain us each and every day. So, let's follow Daisy's example and leave some spiritual food around the house that we can find and be blessed and energized by each day.

If you happen to visit our house sometime after the pandemic is over, be cautious where you walk. You might find some dog food that we haven't seen yet.

God Bless, Stay Safe.

Pastor Dean