

## **DAISY AND THE PAINTER**

In early March we had a painter come in for three days to refresh the paint on our living and dining room walls as well as in our kitchen and hallway. It is never easy when a tradesperson comes to our house because our dog Daisy always puts up quite a fuss. She barks aggressively at them when they first arrive, and even when they try to make friends with her, she will show her teeth and snarl at them. I have found it interesting over the years that Daisy is getting quite a reputation amongst some of the tradespeople.

A couple of years ago I got a reference from my plumber about an electrician. When the electrician came to my house, he told me the plumber had already warned him about Daisy. Age has not mellowed Daisy when it comes to contractors. When the painter arrived, on the first day, Daisy barked and growled at him. I kept Daisy on her leash the entire day and she stayed up in my office while I did work so that she would not try and attack the painter. When he arrived on the second day, he was greeted with more growls and barking. I had a meeting so I took Daisy to my mom's house so the painter could work safely.

By the end of the second day, we began to notice a difference with Daisy. Nadine had Daisy on her leash as she was talking to the painter and decided to let the leash drop. Instead of barking at him, Daisy just wandered around the area in which he was painting doing some sniffing and inspecting. Daisy kept her distance from the painter but at least she was not barking aggressively.

When he arrived on the third and final day I greeted him at the door with Daisy on her leash. Daisy did not bark like she did on the previous two days. Instead, as he put down his supplies she went over to him and began licking his hands. I took her upstairs while he began to work but noticed shortly afterward that Daisy had made her way back down to where he was working. I went down to make sure everything was okay and saw Daisy lying on a chair in the living room watching him while he was applying a second coat on the wall. She spent the entire day watching and sleeping on the chair beside him while he worked and never growled once.

It was so interesting to see this change in behavior that Daisy had toward the painter during the course of three days. A few days later we saw evidence of the impression the painter left on Daisy. Nadine and I noticed something on Daisy's tail and discovered it was some of the paint that was used earlier in the week. Obviously, a wag of her tail on that last day touched a wet wall or paint tray.

Daisy had to develop trust with the painter over the first few days in order to come to friendlier terms with him. Part of what may have helped her to develop that trust was staying close to Nadine and me those first two days and seeing that we were comfortable with him around. This experience got me thinking of how when it comes to developing relationships with others, we must overcome any concerns and fears we may have and start to trust them in order to become closer. Jesus makes it very clear to us in Scripture how much He desires to have a relationship with us. Because trust is so important when it comes to having a relationship with somebody, Jesus told us we can do so with Him when He said:

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust also in me." (John 14:1)

Jesus said this when He was sharing with the disciples that He would prepare the way that leads to eternal life. Jesus said we can trust Him, and He proved that by showing how much He loved us by taking our place on the cross so that our sins would be forgiven, providing the way for us to experience eternal life. The fact that we celebrated on Easter Sunday that our Savior is alive and risen shows we can continue to trust Jesus as we develop our relationship with Him.

Hopefully we have made the decision already in our lives to trust Jesus and enter into a life changing relationship with Him. If we have not, then maybe we can learn from Daisy and stay close to somebody who does trust Jesus and learn to do the same as she did with us and the painter. The other way we can learn to trust Jesus comes from the paint discovered on Daisy's tail. As Daisy learned to trust, she got nearer to the painter's work and it left a paint mark on her. As we learn to trust Jesus more, let's get closer to His work on the cross. We may not get a paint stain, but we will see a stain of His blood that was shed on the cross for us. May that stain serve as our reminder how much Jesus loves us and how we can always trust Him to do what is best for us.

It has been almost four weeks since the painter was at our house. The paint stain still remains on Daisy's tail as a reminder of her journey of trust. May Jesus' words and actions on that Good Friday, as well as that mark reminding us of the blood He shed for us, be our reminders we can always trust Jesus.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean