

Deeper, pt 2: Jesus and Dog Poop July 8, 2009

Several weeks ago we began talking about going deeper in our relationship with God this summer. If you remember, we started off by talking about how **if we truly love God** (when we say we love God)... then there are a couple of things that He should have from us. He should have our **hearts**, our **attention** and our **pursuit**.

It is very easy for us to say “yeah, I love God” ... when really what we should say is “I’ve got good feelings toward God... I’ve got these nice thoughts about God” ... because a lot of times that is all our ‘love’ for God amounts to... good feelings and nice thoughts.

Philippians 3:1-11 (handout picks up at vs. 5)

My story - Explain scripture

Of all people to be giving up what he gave up to simply know Jesus, **he gave up a lot**.

If you think about it: He had arrived. **He had it made**.

Paul’s life was consumed with obeying the law and upholding the Jewish traditions, but as Paul clearly said it was worthless. These things weren’t sin... they were good things. It’s viewed as a good thing to follow what the Bible says to do... right?

The issue was the fact that Paul’s life had been consumed with everything but Jesus.

There wasn’t necessarily a sin issue in his life. He strived to keep the law... he crossed every “t” and dotted every “i”. He did his best to follow the Ten Commandments perfectly. So when Paul is saying that this stuff that was in his life was worthless, he wasn’t just talking about SIN.

**Just like Paul, our lives can be so easily consumed by things... and it not be “sin”, yet it prevents us from knowing Jesus.

The Message translation of this passage of Scripture is quite interesting in the words it uses...

Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him.

The question I want to ask you tonight is: Is there dog poop in your life...? And I’m not even talking about sin!

A lot of times when we get to this point of discussing things in our lives that hinder us from our relationship with God... we like to make a checklist... God first... then playing the banjo... then this... then this... then this... but in reality:

ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE POOP COMPARED TO KNOWING JESUS. When we make a checklist like that in our mind, we’re really still hanging on to all that stuff... and Paul said he has thrown it in the garbage.

Now am I saying that we should stop living life and all become monks and nuns. No. But what I am saying is that this life has to bow when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. When our priorities are out of wack and we make decisions that sacrifice time with God because we want to do something else... you’re making your relationship with God the dog poop.

We have the opportunity to get to know the Son of God. We have the chance to personally know the God of the universe... the One who is eternal... the One who was never created...

Colossians 1:15-23

He isn't just some celebrity that everyone wants to shake their hand or get their picture taken with. **He is God.** The One who could say the word and you become dust... He is the One who wants to know you personally.

So again, do you have poop in your life? Are you more consumed with something else other than Jesus?

Maybe you're here and the dog poop in your life is sin. Maybe it's doing the religious thing like Paul was doing. Maybe it's something else... Maybe your life in and of itself is what consumes you. Compare to knowing Jesus, it is all poop.

So in this process of going deeper, the only way to do so is by being consumed with Jesus and counting everything else as poop.

You may be thinking "man, this is pretty serious stuff." I don't play games when it comes to Jesus. It **breaks my heart** to see this **opportunity of all eternity** passed by because of the things of this life that can and will consume our hearts...

This whole thing of counting things as dog poop is a process. Paul even said he hadn't arrived.

This is my challenge to you tonight:

Allow Holy Spirit work in your heart so that you will get to the point that everything else other than Jesus becomes dog poop in your life. This relationship with Jesus is similar to normal human relationships in that it's a process. Commit yourself to falling in love with Him... commit yourself to begin the process of counting all things as dog poop compared to Jesus... and take it day by day. Being enamored by Jesus is a daily choice.