

## Lessons from a Puppy – Mar. 16, 2022

### **Intro: Jesus used common things to teach spiritual lessons.**

If we're open & receptive, God can use anything to teach us.

Our new puppy has reminded me 7 truths about God and life:

1. To **keep her safe**, we close doors and take things away from her.
  - a. God sometimes has to do the same – He may close doors...
    - i. Keeps us from going down paths that lead to trouble
    - ii. Takes away things that will be our destruction.
      1. **Rev. 3:7** – “What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open.”
      2. **Rev. 3:8** - “I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me.”
        - a. God knows how to get us into the right places.  
You don't have to be strong... Keep being faithful.
        - b. Don't walk away... deny God... feel unloved.
    - iii. Scarlett comes right back. Doesn't stay mad.
      1. We've got to stop being angry at God.
      2. He's not depriving us, He's protecting us.
  2. Scarlett belongs to us, so we will **provide** for her needs.
    - a. She doesn't have to scavenge for food. No street dog. Has a Home
    - b. We love her - so will give her all she needs: food, medicine, bed.
      - i. God provides for our needs, too.
        1. **Phil. 4:19** – “And my God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”
        2. **Matt. 6:31-33** – “don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God[e] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”
      - ii. God invented manna, He can provide whatever you need!
        1. It's not impossible. It will appear. (She knows it's coming)

3. We provide for needs, but **also give** treats & toys...
  - a. God wants to bless us abundantly. . . more than needs.
    - i. **Eph. 3:20** – God “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think”
  - b. Goes beyond all we ask or think; more than we can imagine, desire, comprehend ... after we’ve learned dependence/surrender.
    - Gives Him great joy to see us happy, content
  - c. God isn’t moody. He’s love 24/7. He’s always preparing ahead.
    - i. **James 1:17** - “Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”
      1. Scarlett will sit & wait, but she knows its coming!
4. If we **don’t see** Scarlett, she’s up to something . . . trouble.
  - a. Adam & Eve hid from God after eating the apple.
    - i. **Isaiah 59:2** - “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”
  - b. Being away from God will lead to trouble in our lives. Darkness.
    - i. Jesus on the cross felt darkness. “Why have you forsaken me?”
    - ii. Absence from God is absence of love, comfort, peace.
    - iii. We need Him. We need to stay close to God.
      - We need His direction (light), identity, purpose & meaning, loved, accepted, & have prayers heard.
5. When she’s scolded or afraid, **she runs to us**.
  - a. In times of trouble in our lives, we need to run to our Master... even the Prodigal Son knew to go home
  - b. God wants to assure us we’ll be ok. He wants to comfort us.
    - i. **Psalms 63:7** – “Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings.”
    - ii. **Psalms 91:4** – “He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.”
    - iii. **Matt. 11:28** – ““Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

6. Scarlett doesn't want to **give up** tp rolls, paper... holds close in paws!
  - a. It's not good for her; can cause serious problems.
  - b. We do the same. Refusing to give up what we shouldn't have...  
Refusing to give up what is temporary and won't last.
    - i. We focus on the stuff of life and not the reason for life.
    - ii. How much energy we spend on things... so little on doing 4 God
      1. **Matt. 6:19** – “Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.”
    - iii. Jim Elliot said – “*You're not a fool to give up what you cannot keep to gain what you cannot lose.*”
  - c. Sometimes we refuse to give up bad habits, attitudes, sin.
  - d. It separates us from what we really want: love, joy, peace.
7. Scarlett needs to be with other dogs... **socialization**
  - a. Dogs learn from each other as well as from their Owner.
  - b. We also learn from each other.
    - i. **Prov. 7:17** – “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”
    - ii. Our Socialization is important, too.

For You, God, in 2022. Have an open mind... let God show you how to live for Him. To draw closer to Him this year. Make this year meaningful.

Song of the week: “**You Always Take Care of Me**”

Stay positive. Test negative. Get vaccinated.

Easter – April 17 - 32 days.