



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 8, 2019

SWITCHING IT UP

PASTOR ANDY

A FEW MONTHS BACK MY SISTER GAVE US A KITTEN. WE ARE NOT CAT PEOPLE (DOGS ALL THE WAY) BUT WE THOUGHT IF SHE WAS AN OUTDOOR CAT, SHE WOULD KEEP THE MICE AWAY. BEFORE MY SISTER GAVE HER TO US, SHE TOLD US THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE MOST RESERVED KITTEN SHE HAS EVER HAD; VERY SWEET AND LOVES TO BE HELD. OUR REACTION WAS THE SAME – WHATEVER. WE HAVE NEVER HAD A CAT BEFORE AND WANTED IT TO STAY AROUND THE HOUSE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ALLOWED IT TO STAY IN THE BASEMENT THE FIRST FEW WEEKS, SO IT KNEW THIS WAS ITS HOME. THIS HAS TURNED INTO A PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT AND THIS CAT SLEEPS IN THE BASEMENT ON THE COUCH WITH ALL THE PILLOWS AND BLANKETS.

I EXPECTED THIS CAT WOULD LOVE GETTING THE MICE BUT MUCH TO MY DELIGHT, IT ENJOYS TERRORIZING THE SQUIRRELS. I HAVE HONESTLY NOT SEEN A SQUIRREL WITH BOOTS ON THE GROUND SINCE JUNE. SHE SITS ON THE GROUND OR THE FENCE AND JUST STARES UP INTO THE TREES. YOU CAN HEAR THE SQUIRRELS, BUT THEY DARE NOT MAKE THE TREK TO THE GROUND FOR FEAR OF HER. HENCE, I WAS ABLE TO HARVEST ALL OF MY INDIAN CORN, PUMPKINS, & GOURDS, AND THEY ARE STILL BEING USED AS DECORATIONS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN 9 YEARS I CAN SAY THIS. EVEN MY BB GUN WAS NOT A DETERRENT THE SAME WAY THIS CAT IS.

THIS CAT IS THE FIRST TO GREET US WHEN WE COME HOME, AND I EVEN ALLOW HER TO LAY ON MY WORK BENCH WHEN I AM CARVING. SHE HAS GENUINELY WON OUR HEARTS. NOT ALL CATS MIND YOU—JUST OUR CAT. WHICH IS WHY WE WERE SAD WHEN SHE DIDN'T COME HOME FOR TWO NIGHTS. LONG STORY SHORT, SOMEONE SAW HER BY THE TREES AND THOUGHT SHE WAS LOST AND TOOK HER TO THEIR HOUSE. LIZ HAPPENED TO CHECK FACEBOOK AND SOMEONE HAD POSTED HER ON THE "LOST CAT" PAGE. I WALKED THE ALLEYS AT NIGHT FOR TWO NIGHTS LOOKING FOR HER. WHY? SHE'S MY CAT AND SHE'S AWESOME. SHE IS WORTH GOING AFTER.

AT THE FEEDING OF THE 4000 (MARK 8) JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES, "I FEEL COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY HAVE REMAINED WITH ME NOW THREE DAYS AND HAVE NOTHING TO EAT."

THE PEOPLE OF THIS PASSAGE ARE GENTILES. THE COMPASSION IN THIS PASSAGE IS A LITERAL PHYSICAL FEELING. JESUS IS TELLING, TEACHING, AND ILLUSTRATING TO HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE FEELS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN THEM; DIFFERENT LIKE CATS AND DOGS. THE JEWS HAD GROWN VERY PREJUDICE AND VERY ARROGANT OF WHAT IT MEANT TO BE "CHOSEN" BY GOD AND ALIENATED THEMSELVES FROM ALL OTHER PEOPLE GROUPS. JESUS WANTED THEM TO SEE THAT HE LOVES THE GENTILES AS WELL AND HE WANTED THE DISCIPLES TO SERVE THEM THE WAY HE WOULD.

THE WHOLE JOURNEY TO THE GENTILE REGION (EASTERN SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE) WAS FOR THE DISCIPLES TO BEGIN TO SEE WHO THEIR TARGET AUDIENCE WILL BE IN TIME TO COME. THE RESPONSE OF THE GENTILES TOWARDS JESUS WAS CLAMOR AND RESPECT. HIS DISCIPLES NEEDED TO SEE THIS. THEY NEEDED TO SEE THAT THIS IS THE WAY "THEY" WILL RESPOND TO ME. YOU CAN NOT KEEP SALVATION TO YOURSELF. YOU NEED TO GO TO THOSE THAT ARE HARDEST FOR YOU AND YOU JUST MAY BE SURPRISED BY THEIR RESPONSE. THEY WILL BE LOVING, RESPECTFUL, AND FAITHFUL TO JESUS.

LET US SWITCH THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT. DOING SO, WE MAY FIND OURSELVES PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THE LOVE WHICH WE DID NOT EXPECT BUT CHERISH.