

Lessons from the Heart

Sound bites and decision

By Pastor Pam Ditson-McCall



We live in a time when serious and challenging issues are addressed with "sound bite" debates. Sound bites is a slang term for a very brief

broadcast statement, as by a politician during a news report. Perhaps with all the political advertisements filling our airways and newspapers my irritation toward this type of information or lack of information is on high! We live in a sound bite world. Many Americans will make major decisions based on very little information. Are you a sound bite theologian? Most Christians don't think of themselves as a theologian, that is a title for a pastor or seminary professors. All believers are theologians, because we live our lives based on our theology. Theology is simply the study of the nature of God and religious truth; rational inquiry into religious questions. Our goal, our challenge as Christians, is to always be seeking to understand what we believe about the Christian message of God and how then we, as individuals, and even as a community are to live in light of that message.

But do you know what that message is? How can one sum up how one feels about major social, moral and ethical issues in one or two sentences - let alone one or two scripture verses? With the ongoing debate of issues such as economic stability, environmental responsibilities, energy for the future, education as a priority, crime on the rise, abortion, gay marriage, the war in Iraq and on terrorism, and most recent the issue of immigration...what is one to do! Each generation of Christians has been burdened or blessed, depending on your perspective, to carefully, prayerfully, and armed with information to address the issues of their time. As Christians we must figure out the most fitting and faithful way

to act...drawing on our Christian sensibilities, both simple and complex. The best known guidelines of faithful living have always had to be interpreted and applied in light of changing situations.

It is time for all Christians and citizens of this nation to honestly sort out our agenda for the coming decades. If we continue forward with knee-jerk responses or worse, some dead-end analysis based on incomplete or one-sided information, future generations will suffer. When equipped with good information, carefully drafted priorities, and common purpose we will achieve all our Lord desires for us and future generations. Jesus' teachings were filled with the ordinary stuff of life. Yet the teachings were so profound that we follow them today.

My hope is that we will all seek with some clarity and purpose what Jesus' teaching call us to be. To have meaningful conversation, not conversations filled with accusations. To reject this desire to label people and rail wildly at those whose views differ from ours, but allow intelligent and informed conversations to emerge from the dissonance. Let the conversations begin!

Pam Ditson-McCall is pastor at the Flora First Christian Church.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Reward-based toilet training gets best results

QUESTION: Our 24-month-old son is not yet toilet-trained, although my mother-in-law feels he should be. Should we spank him for using his pants instead of the potty?



Dr. Dobson

"unlearned" by withholding those rewards. It sounds complex, but the technique is simple and very applicable to Karen's problem.

Why do you think she whines instead of speaking in a normal voice?

DR. DOBSON: No. I suggest that your mother-in-law cool down a bit. It is entirely possible that your child can't control himself at this age. The last thing you want to do is punish a child of any age for an offense that he can't comprehend.

If I had to err on this matter, it would be in the direction of being too late, rather than too early. Furthermore, the best approach to potty training is with rewards and encouragement rather than with punishment. Give him a sucker (or sugarless candy) for performing his duty. When you've proved that he can comply, then you can hold him responsible in the future.

QUESTION: Is there any way to prevent a child from having night terrors? It is happening in our house nearly every night, and it is really hard on my husband and me.

DR. DOBSON: Yes, you can usually prevent your child from going into stage-four sleep by giving him a minor amount of medication. I wouldn't suggest that you do that unless the night terrors are regular and disruptive to adult sleep patterns. You should talk to your physician about this matter if that is the case.

QUESTION: Should school children be required to wear clothes they dislike?

DR. DOBSON: Generally not. Children are very concerned about being laughed at by their friends and will sometimes go to great lengths to avoid that danger. Conformity is fueled by the fear of ridicule. Teens, particularly, seem to feel that "the group can't laugh at me if I am identical to them." From this perspective, it's unwise to make a child endure unnecessary social humiliation. Children should be allowed to select their own clothes, within certain limits of your budget and good taste.

QUESTION: My 4-year-old daughter, Karen, is a whiner. She rarely speaks in a normal voice anymore. How can I break her of this habit?

DR. DOBSON: A process called "extinction" is very useful in situations like this. Here is how it works: Any behavior that has been learned by reinforcement (i.e., by rewards) can be

Because you have rewarded that sound by letting it get your attention! As long as Karen is speaking in her usual voice, you are too busy to listen to her. Like most toddlers, she probably babbles all day long, so you have often tuned out most of her verbiage. But when she speaks in a grating, irritating, obnoxious tone, you turn to see what is wrong. Therefore, Karen's whining brings results; her normal voice does not, and she becomes a whiner.

In order to break the habit of whining, you must simply reverse the process. You should begin by saying, "I can't hear you because you're whining, Karen. I have funny ears; they just can't hear whining." After this message has been passed along for a day or two, you should show no indication of having heard a moan-tone. You should then offer immediate attention to anything she says in a normal voice.

If this control of reward is applied properly, I guarantee it will achieve the desired results. Most human learning is based on this principle, and the consequences are certain and definite. Of course, Grandma and Uncle Albert may continue to reinforce the behavior you are trying to eliminate, and they can keep it alive.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.family.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

Pray for our nation to seek God

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Luke 7:13 Pd. Adv

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DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School SW=Sunday Worship

AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Vernon Stingley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Joe Hornick, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.
BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Rev. Chuck Rockey, pastor. SS: 10:50 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 10:30 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Will be meeting at the Delphi Middle School gym on Monroe Street. The worship service begins at 10:30 AM. All are welcome!
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. Sun. Nite Praise 6:02 p.m.
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drake, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES: 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Rev. Cheryl Montgomery, interim pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.
DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.
DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.
DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.
DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.
DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Schneck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.
FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.
FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. Wed. Family Night: 7pm
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Chad Hoesman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.
FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Louis Sandos. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.

FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 10:15 a.m.
FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Keith Raderstorff, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
LIVING STONE CHURCH: Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. Stan Williams, pastor. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3771
LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST: 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.
OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.
PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.
ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.
ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfeifer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Rev. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.
WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: meet at Burrows Fire Department, Greg & Michelle Britt, pastors. SW: 9 a.m. (574) 652-2280
YEANON UNITED METHODIST: Dave Inskip, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

Carroll County Postmasters are reminding the public of early deadlines for mailing packages and letters to servicemen and women for the holiday season. Customers can confirm delivery by using Delivery Confirmation. Delivery Confirmation provides customers with the date, ZIP Code and time the package was delivered. This information can be accessed online at www.usps.com. All packages and mail must be addressed to individual service members, as required by U.S. Department of Defense regulations. A complete list of mailing deadlines can be found at area post offices or at www.usps.com.

Postal Service announces holiday mailing deadlines

Comet staff report

Carroll County Postmasters are reminding the public of early deadlines for mailing packages and letters to servicemen and women for the holiday season.

Customers can confirm delivery by using Delivery Confirmation. Delivery Confirmation provides customers with the date, ZIP Code and time the package was delivered.

Announcements

THE CHOSEN ONES from Manchester, Ill., will bring a family ministry in song on Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. at Valley View Baptist Church, Flora.

St. Matthews Lutheran Church will host a **SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING** Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. The church is located at 1301 S. Washington St. Offering will go to support the Carroll County Food Pantry. For information call Rev. Dale Larson at (765) 564-

ered. This information can be accessed online at www.usps.com.

All packages and mail must be addressed to individual service members, as required by U.S. Department of Defense regulations.

A complete list of mailing deadlines can be found at area post offices or at www.usps.com.

3200 or email stmatthewslc@tds.net.

Monticello Presbyterian Church will host a **HOLIDAY BAZAAR** Nov. 16 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A coffee shop, luncheon, and dinner will be available, as will many crafts, food items and more. The church is located at 104 N. Illinois St.

Advertising Pays!!

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