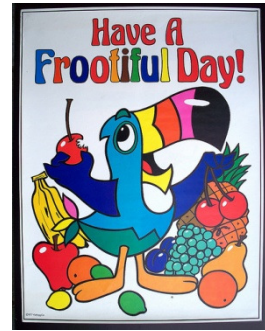


# Something Smells Like Christianity

By Doug Hamilton

This morning I wanted to start the lesson by quoting a famous American. He was born in 1963 and has been on millions of cereal boxes throughout the years. His British accent always gives him away and he is one of the most colorful individuals to hit the media. His name is Toucan Sam and he has been the face of Fruit Loops from the beginning. He has a famous quote, "Follow your nose; It always knows." Toucan apparently had a great sense of smell and it earned him gainful employment for the last five decades. Let's go ahead and take his advice and follow our noses. The title of this morning's lesson is "Something Smells Like Christianity."



## 1. Something Smells Like Perfume: A Christian's Humility

- Luke 7:40-47 And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." <sup>41</sup> "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup> Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly." <sup>44</sup> Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. <sup>46</sup> "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. <sup>47</sup> "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."
- The initial call of the Christian is to have humility in respect to Jesus Christ. This woman humbly anointed Jesus' feet, a point of great humility, with her tears and perfume. This is one of the most humble moments of the scriptures. She was a person of low character, yet she is an example of what we must always have in our relationship toward God. Christianity smells like perfume and it is called the Christian's humility.

## 2. Something Smells Like Pigs: A Christian's Reception

- Luke 15:11-21 And He said, "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. <sup>13</sup> "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. <sup>14</sup> "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. <sup>15</sup> "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup> "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving *anything* to him. <sup>17</sup> "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men." ' <sup>20</sup> "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

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- He went out as a son, but came back as a servant. He went out with a loaded wallet, but came back broke. He went out smelling like cologne, but came back smelling like pigs. This man worked with the pigs, something that was absolutely repugnant for the Jew. Having grown in up Iowa, I did much work on the pig farms. If there is a lesson to be learned it would be that the smell of pigs does not come out of the clothes without a serious double or triple cleaning. What would have it been like for a man that did not even have enough money for food? This man smelled like pigs.
- The father who was waiting for the possible return of the son ran to greet him. You find no mention of the father turning his head and grimacing from the horrible smell. Brothers and sisters, we must understand the reception that God the Father holds for all those that come to Him. We smelled like pigs when coming to Christ, yet He possessed the ability through Christ to still receive us into the kingdom. A Christian's reception smells like pigs.

### 3. Something Smells Like Incense: A Christian's Generosity

- Philippians 4:14-19 Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.<sup>15</sup> You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;<sup>16</sup> for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.<sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.<sup>18</sup> But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.<sup>19</sup> And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- The Philippian congregation was a poor congregation that understood the power of being generous. They often gave all that they could and even beyond their ability (2 Cor 8:1-4), setting the example for other congregations to follow.
- It was the Philippian passage that Paul described their giving spirit as a "fragrant aroma" unto God. The term that he used came from the grain offering of the Levitical Sacrificial system. That offering was considered a gift presented unto God and was mixed with frankincense. *Leviticus 2:1-2 'Now when anyone presents a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour, and he shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it. 2 'He shall then bring it to Aaron's sons the priests; and shall take from it his handful of its fine flour and of its oil with all of its frankincense. And the priest shall offer it up in smoke as its memorial portion on the altar, an offering by fire of a soothing aroma to the LORD.* It included the incense because it would add an acceptable aroma to be fumed up to heaven unto God.
- Do you want to know what Christian generosity smells like? It smells like sweet incense in the nostrils of God.

### 4. Something Smells Like Barbeque: A Christian's Commitment

- There was an offering unto God called the burnt offering. It was the offering of total consumption of flesh on the altar of Burnt Offering. It was basically a barbeque that

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allowed the meat to be fumed up to God, symbolic of the commitment that the people of God are to have toward God.

- Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.
- 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- Hebrews 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- When we are living with a Christian's commitment, it smells like barbeque. We are saying to the Father, "I will be totally consumed by You and for You."

### 5. Something Smells Like Fish: A Christian's Evangelism

- Luke 5:1-8 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; <sup>2</sup> and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and *began* teaching the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets *began* to break; <sup>7</sup> so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also *were* James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men."
- Peter was out fishing all night to no avail. Jesus entered the boat and the carpenter told the fisherman what to do with the net. Peter did not argue, but trusted the advice of Jesus. The catch of fish was amazing enough to cause Peter to drop to his face in humility when witnessing the awesome power of Jesus. The end result was Peter face-first in the fish that swamped the boat.
- Christianity and the evangelism that comes with conversion should leave the Christian smelling like fish. Peter saw water and Jesus saw fish. When we as the saved are preaching Jesus to the lost, the see baptism, but Jesus sees conversion. That is the spirit of evangelism, when we are not afraid of the smell of fish.

### 6. A Christian's Leadership: Smells like Sheep

- There was a publication in 1997 by Dr. Lynn Anderson called "They Smell Like Sheep". The focus of the book was leadership in the church family. The writer makes a 225 page effort to communicate the fact that leaders of the church must be involved with the sheep in order to be the shepherds that God has called them to be. The leaders in the church of Christ must smell like sheep because they have been involved in the lives of the sheep.
- We learn this from the Great Shepherd Jesus Christ.

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- John 10:11-15 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> “He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*. <sup>13</sup> “*He flees* because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. <sup>14</sup> “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, <sup>15</sup> even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
- Isaiah 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry *them* in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing *ewes*.
- Revelation 7:16-17 “They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”
- When Christians are seeking to lead among the people of God, they will smell like sheep, for it comes with the territory.
  - 1 Peter 5:1-2 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God among you...”
  - Acts 20:28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

### 7. Something Smells Like Smoke: A Christian’s Fear

- The greatest fear of the Christian should be that if they do not take it serious, hell could await as a consequence.
- Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup> Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup> And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- Matthew 10:28 “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
- Philippians 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
- 1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from all appearance of evil.
- The Christian’s greatest fear is that they will not continue to have a healthy fear of God. Something smells like smoke; it is the Christian’s fear.

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Humility, reception, generosity, commitment, evangelism, leadership and fear are seven principles that Christians must have. Perfume, Pigs, Incense, Barbeque, Fish, Sheep and Smoke should be reminders to us of our obligations in Christ and His church. Remember to follow your nose when it comes to Christ.