



## sermon notes

The Gospel in *101 Dalmatians*

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Pastor Ryan LaRock

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### Where faith meets Disney

- When we open our hearts to Jesus Christ, the curse of sin and death is broken (*Snow White*).
- We serve a God who stops at nothing to pursue us and who longs to bring us home (*Pinocchio*).
- We don't have to fight evil alone. God breathes the Holy Spirit into our lives and we are called to suit up in truth (*Sleeping Beauty*).
- Dealing with the past is not so much about running from it, but drawing newness from it (*The Lion King*).
- Our Prince of Heaven came to influence us and to win our love (*Aladdin*).
- God melts our frozen hearts when we accept God's love and grace (*Frozen*).

### The distorted lens of wickedness in *101 Dalmatians*

- *101 Dalmatians* gives ownership of the story to the dogs.

*The righteous know the needs of their animals, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.*

Proverbs 12:10 (NRSV)

**Both Roger and Pongo meet their matches in Anita and Perdita, respectively. They are married, and Pongo and Perdita are expecting puppies.**

- Cruella De Vil, a lover of all things material, especially fur coats

➤ Wickedness, embodied, is blind to \_\_\_\_\_.

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.*

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.*

James 3:13–18 (NIV)

- Wickedness \_\_\_\_\_ God's intent for Creation.

**All 15 puppies are kidnapped by Cruella's henchmen, and the humans are at a loss. It is, however, the community of dogs (among other animals) who have the most success in spreading the word about the missing puppies.**

**101 Dalmatians is a story from the perspective of the margins.**

- Jesus challenges us to hear the voice of the “\_\_\_\_\_.”

*Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”*

*Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”*

*Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.* Matthew 15:21–28 (NIV)

- We have to reclaim justice for those whose voices have been defined for them.

**No sooner has word gotten out than the animals organize a rescue plan to retrieve the puppies from Hell Hall.**

**101 Dalmatians is a story of Christian hospitality.**

- Christ’s hospitality creates space for the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.* Matthew 11:28–30 (NIV)

- Christian hospitality is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Christian hospitality sees each individual as a \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Gospel Life in a nutshell**

- The Gospel is not all \_\_\_\_\_.
- Selfish ambition is counterproductive to God’s desire for our lives.
- Have an open heart for meeting people in their unique \_\_\_\_\_.

Major Sources: (1) *The Gospel According to Disney: Faith, Trust and Pixie Dust* by Mark Pinsky; (2) *Diversity in Disney Films: Critical Essays on Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality and Disability* edited by Johnson Cheu.