

Yappy Dogs

I was power walking down a street in my neighborhood the other day and had an encounter that started a chain of thoughts. More about that in a moment; first let me ask – when was the last time you took a walk in your neighborhood? When was the last time you took a walk anywhere? You’re sitting behind a computer at the moment. Have you been outside at all today, apart from in your car? Why not minimize the screen on your computer, stretch those muscles and haul them outdoors for a moment. Take some deep breaths and thank the Lord for His amazing creativity. Go ahead, I’ll be here when you get back, I promise.

Now that you’re back, more about that walk. Coming upon a small front yard enclosed by a strong chain link fence, out of nowhere shot one of those yappy little dogs. I like dogs, even little ones. But when I saw this dog I wanted to cringe. It’s the yappy thing. When those little dogs get excited, they make the most annoying noise, that high pitched, incessant, demanding bark. It doesn’t even qualify as a bark, does it? You know the sound I mean. You’re hearing it in your head right now.



Powering past the length of the yard, the dog followed my every step, maintaining the yap, demanding attention, getting more and more excited. But when the yard was traversed, the yapping stopped almost immediately. My response was a train of thoughts. First amusement (“what a stupid sound for a dog to make” “what was all the excitement about” “the little guys always want excess attention” and so on). The thoughts continued on to a point that came home to me.

Sometimes I’m that yappy little dog! And so are you, I’ll bet. How many times do we get so agitated about something on the other side of a strong chain link fence? Some unsuspecting circumstance comes into our lives, something that may have nothing to do with us, but it comes onto our radar, we misunderstand the intention and we get all yappy! Now, I’m pretty laid back, but even I get yappy some times. More often though, I do the Charlie Brown thing – “Good Grief” and plunge into sullenness. Are you more yappy or sullen?



There are definitely things we need to get excited about. We need to make noise about injustice, and cruelty. But so often the things that bring out our bark are on the other side of the strong chain link fence in our lives and need no more than a moment’s prayer to put them into perspective. Would you care to post a yappy experience that we can all appreciate? Tell us about a time you were anxious by misperception. Keep it brief, keep it real. Then go for a walk.