

Simone wonders about Christmas

Christmas for a cat must be a lot different than Christmas for us humans. I thought about that after Simone complained about the Christmas tree and presents in the house where Simone lived. But Simone is one smart cat, and started to understand what Christmas is really all about. Maybe Simone came to understand Christmas even better than a lot of humans.

This conversation happened late one afternoon, in December, when I saw Simone through the window and went outside. Simone started the conversation.

The words I said **look like this.**

The words Simone said **look like this.**

I'm upset.

What's the matter?

My humans. They're really weird. I thought you could help me understand my weird humans.

What's going on?

Well, to start with, they brought a dead tree into the house. Then they put toys all over it. Then when I played with the toys, they kicked me out of the room where the dead tree and the toys are, and said in an angry way "Stay out!"

(What do you think was going on in Simone's humans' home? I thought I knew and so I told Simone what I thought.)

That was a Christmas tree, and what you call the toys are actually decorations to make the tree look nice. They aren't toys to play with.

That's what my humans said. Have you been talking to them, and they told you to tell me not to play with the toys?

No, I don't even know who your humans are.

Well, they're mean, I can tell you. And not just about the toys on the tree. They put bigger toys under the tree, with coloured strings on them, and they know I just love playing with string.

(Do you know what these big toys and coloured strings are? I do, and I told Simone about it.)

The strings are called bows, to look pretty, and the big toys are presents to give to people.

That's what my humans said too. They said there was one for me, but I can't have it yet.

Simone, your humans are just getting ready for Christmas. Having a pretty tree and nice-looking presents is our way of doing that.

What's Christmas? I heard my humans say that word too. I think I know, but I forgot.

(I wasn't sure how to explain Christmas to a cat, but I started to try, and Simone caught on right away.)

Christmas is sort of a birthday for Jesus.

Jesus. That's the nice human who told the other humans how to have that special feeling about, you know, about....

About God? (Simone is shy to say "God" because God is so very, very special.)

Yes. I think you humans need to have feelings about ... God ... so I guess it's good to remember Jesus' birthday. But what a weird way to do it!

Why do you call it weird, Simone?

Instead of making things pretty and giving away toys, I think you should celebrate Jesus' birthday by singing about God, like I like to do, and by doing the things Jesus said to do when we know about ... God ... the way Jesus told about God.

Well, Simone, maybe it's okay to have pretty toys and gifts to remember Jesus' birthday, as long as we remember even more the God part of what Jesus said and did. And, know what, Simone? Lots of humans do sing about it, and do things Jesus said to do, to make Christmas be about God, and not just about presents.

Not when they kick a cat out a room, they don't!.

Simone walked away after saying this. It looked like Simone was still upset, but I also think Simone understood more than it looked like, because Simone is one smart cat, and sometimes likes to tease me by saying something smart-alecky and then walking away.

Anyway, here's a prayer about Christmas you can say if you want to, by yourself, or with someone else.

*Thank you, God,
for knowing about Jesus,*

*and what he taught, dear God,
about you.
Help us remember you
when we have fun at Christmas.
Help us remember other people, too,
especially the people
we can do something nice for,
the way Jesus told us
it's a good and happy thing
to do something for others.
Amen.*

*Want to hear more **Simone** stories? come to Esquimalt United Church for our Sunday Service starting at 10:45 a.m.
500 Admirals Road, Victoria, BC*

P.S. It is not every Sunday that Ted Bristow has the children time, so if you are in luck you might hear a Simone story the Sunday you come. Otherwise you have to come back the following Sunday and see if Ted is there.

Free to use in Family, Church or Childrens gatherings, Copyright 2003 Ted Bristow