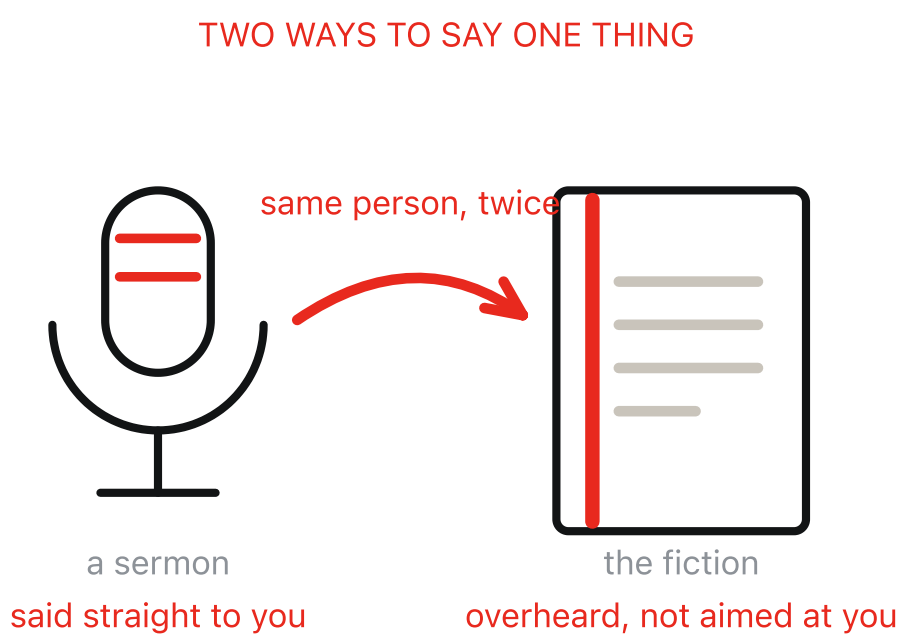
GUIDE

Why is there a sermon in a podcast about a demon?

Shameless Prayer was preached in Southern California in 2019 and now sits in the feed beside the books. Same person, two ways of saying a thing: one says it straight, one lets you overhear it.

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So you came for a short book about a demon who runs into a dog, you went looking for the podcast, and the newest thing in the feed is a sermon. That is a fair thing to be confused by.

Shameless Prayer was preached in Southern California in 2019, at First Pres Granada Hills. It went into the feed on 4 August 2026. It is a sermon the whole way through, and it is not an episode about the books.

Is it the same project?

Yes. One person, two ways of saying a thing.

A sermon is direct address. You have sat down, or pressed play, and agreed in advance to be spoken to. So the subject can be named out loud, and this one names it before you have even started: the title tells you what it is about.

The books never do that. Nobody in The Demon and The doG announces the subject. The demon is telling the story, the demon is getting it wrong, and the reader is left to notice on their own.

Then why write fiction at all?

Because a sermon only reaches the people who already sat down.

That is the whole reason for the other side. A reader who will put down anything that sounds like a lesson will happily eavesdrop on a demon complaining about a dog. The idea gets in sideways, or it does not get in.

It is not the cleverer method. It is the method for a different room.

So why put the sermons here at all?

Because pretending they are not part of it would be strange. The person writing the demon spent years as a pastor and works as a hospital chaplain, and the sermons are the plainest record of what he actually thinks. If you have read one of the books and wondered whether there is anything underneath it, an episode is the quickest way to check.

It also means nobody has to guess. The fiction will not argue with you. A sermon will tell you where it stands, and you can decide from there.

Do I need to listen before reading?

No. They do not depend on each other in either direction.

A child reading The Demon and The doG needs nothing from the podcast, and would not sit through a sermon anyway. An adult who has finished a book and wants to know who wrote it will get more from one episode than from any author biography.

If you are a parent deciding whether to hand a book over, the sermons are useful for one narrow purpose: working out whether the person who wrote it is somebody you are comfortable with. That is a reasonable thing to want, and it deserves evidence rather than reassurance.

Why an episode from 2019?

Because it was preached, it was recorded, and then it sat there. Putting a 2019 sermon into a 2026 feed is not a comeback and it is not a strategy. It is a thing that already exists being made available.

The year is on it on purpose. Nothing here is being passed off as new.

What it does not do

It does not explain the books. There is no episode where the demon gets decoded and the moral is read out, and there will not be one, because a book that needs a companion sermon has failed at the only job it had.

Two things, running alongside each other. One says it, and one lets you overhear it...

This is one part of **faith fiction told from the other side**, the idea behind both books and the podcast.



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Books by Bryant Benitez, pastor and hospital chaplain. Faith-based adventures for younger readers, with the faith in the plumbing, not painted on the front.