



Happy Adventure

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. – Proverbs 3:5-6

Life is easy when everything makes sense. Round pegs fit into round holes and square pegs fit into square holes. The sun is out and flowers wave, “Hi.” When a bluebird lands on your shoulder singing, “Zippity doodah, zippity day!” When Andy waltzes down the fishin’ path whistling a fun, catchy song (does anyone know that song, by the way). That’s when life is easy. You smile because you feel that God is smiling.

But unless you barricade in a fallout shelter and never pop your head out, life doesn’t stay easy. Oh, sure we are given times of “sunny days” but the clouds seem to always be building on the horizon. The older I get the more these times of easy come in spurts. Around holidays or family events. During celebrations and vacations. But they don’t seem to last. Just come every once in a while.

Please understand. I am a positive person. I’m not depressed or an angry at a “world going to hell in a handbasket” type of person. I find joy in almost every day. I laugh all the time. I enjoy being around people and they seem to have a good time around me. I enjoy life and am very blessed. Blessed beyond what I could ever imagine or deserve.

So how does an optimist survive in a world that doesn’t seem geared for “easy”? How can someone be surrounded by grey clouds and still smile? How can a person laugh in the midst of these crazy times? Am I crazy (may be debatable)? Am I naïve? Do I pretend to live in a fairytale world and ignore the “big bad wolves”?

It is also easy and simple. I have not been called upon to “fix” the world around me. I have not been given the power nor the job of setting up this world for what it deems success. I am just me. A man striving to be more like Jesus today than I was yesterday. I follow Him and His leading. His footprints in the sand. I listen for His voice among the noise. I watch for the Holy Spirit’s moving and follow Him. My job is not to fix the world. Never has been for any of us. Jesus will do that someday. My job is to glorify Him and take that next step. I may not see far into the future but I see and believe (faith) the One Who holds it. He who said, “Let there...” He who said, “Follow me...” He who says, “Come...”

I don’t have to have all the answers. I’m not God. I don’t have save people to myself. I’m not Jesus. I don’t have to “police” the culture. I’m not the Holy Spirit. Once you come to the reality of that truth, you find yourself free. Free to worship. Free to love. Free to talk about our amazing Savior.

And I've found that people, especially unbelievers, are attracted to that. They want to know about hope that I have (1 Peter 3:15). They want to know why I seem different and live for a different purpose (Matthew 5:16). They tire of what we are against and want to see us living for what we are for. Anyone can argue, especially in this culture. But to see each day as an opportunity to walk with my God and Savior wherever He leads. That's truly living. And everyone wants to know how to truly live.

So stop trying to be something you weren't meant to be. Stop looking around in anger at a world that is not Christ-like. It never has been. And you can't make it believe in Jesus. All we can do is be more like Jesus today. That's it. To see, love and embrace like Him. To tell others the truth in a way that invites them to the Truth. When you do that, you'll occasionally find that robin on your shoulder. You'll catch yourself whistling. But even if you don't and the clouds billow, our God is bigger. He made those clouds. He has also placed you right where you are with reason and purpose. You're not alone. You and God walk together.

No. Life may not be easy. But our Savior says, "Trust Me. I've got you and we're going on an adventure...together." So don't try to make it all fit into your brain. It can't. It wasn't meant to. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." He will. Just take the next step. It's ok. He's got you. You don't have to see the solution to the problem when you walk in faith with Jesus.

And that, my friend, is where an excellent adventure begins.

From My Heart,

Billy