

A Walk in the Word

Small Bites

Day 6: SMILING FACES (030225)

Scripture: Acts 27:30 - In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.

Observation - In the midst of a huge storm, Paul and 275 others were hoping to survive. Those without faith pretended to lower anchor but really lowered lifeboats.

Application/Analysis: Fear is something else. It leads us all to make decisions that in a calm rational moment we would likely not make. And it brings out the worst in our character in the sense of lies, deception, cheating, stealing or whatever else we think we need to in order to survive the situation. Smiling faces is a phrase from the 1970s which describes a person in such a dilemma. It literally means that someone like you or me would pretend to be or do something all the while deceiving others in order to get our desired outcome. How often do we do smiling faces with God? We tell him what we think he wants to hear or we act like we are walking according to his will all the while knowing that we are in submission to something else. C'mon, He is God. He already knows...the smile doesn't fool him and we cannot escape reality by pretending. Just like those on the ship, we would fail if we pretend to the Lord. He said to cast your cares on Him(1 Pet 5:7), He said to give Him your burdens, fears, pain, trouble, tribulations, fully knowing that we would have them. He wants this in pure honesty and sincerity so that He can get you through it by his grace, love, and mercy. Notice I said, "get you through" not "remove" it. This is because it is how God grows us and moves us closer to Him. So I do encourage you to smile in the face of challenges because we have a God who cares and will deliver us through the storm. Trust Him, He will hear you and He will answer you.

Prayer: Father, thank you that you hear us when we call you and you answer us and meet our needs according to your will. Help us to be honest and confident with our needs and not be fearful or embarrassed because we have them. In Jesus name - AMEN!

Takeaway: TRUST, TRUST, TRUST!!! That is the key. Tell God the truth, and trust in His solution to your problems. He will not let you down.