

“The Curse Removed”

Okay, I confess, I love to eat! Of course, most folks do. You may not know this but eating is actually good for you. Not eating is actually bad for you. Eating healthy food in balanced proportions is where our target food intake should be. Wow...am I waxing elegant or what? I'm trying to up my game a little bit linguistically since I spent the evening with Mrs. Judy Davies at the Executive Board meeting last night. She always, with such grace and composure, makes me feel a bit uneducated and uncouth I am whenever I am in her presence, though she never does so on purpose. Whenever she and I are in the same room together, it feels like a *Beauty and the Beast* remake...with Mrs. Judy as Belle of course and me as the Beast...just making sure everyone gets the analogy. So, bear with me as I am trying very carefully to mind my “p’s” and “q’s” so as not to offend any by my abuse of the English language.

Okay, I digress away from the topic of eating, but allow me to do so just one more time. Mrs. Judy, for those who don't know, is our Associational Director for our English as Second Language ministry. That's right, she teaches English to those who do not speak it very well. She always encourages me to come and sit in on a class. I'm fairly certain it is not for the purpose of observing the ESL ministry in action, but instead, I think Mrs. Judy is hopeful I will learn a bit of English while I am there.

But, you see, I learned to speak English from Snuffy Smith. Yep, sad but true! Back in the day before computers and cell phones and the internet, we got the local paper and I'd always turn to the “funny pages,” otherwise known as the comic section. My favorite comic was Snuffy Smith, which is actually a classic and has won more awards than any comic strip in the history of comics I think. It's described like this, “Snuffy Smith is a comic strip that stars Snuffy Smith, a bodacious hillbilly, who lives in the town of Hootin' Holler with his tolerant, loving wife Loweezy, their son, Tater and their nephew Jughaid.” Other characters are Paw, Parson and Merry Beth. And from that comic, you get words like, “sho'nuf, mebbe, Cris'mas,” etc. In one comic episode, Merry Beth, who is sweet on Jughaid, says, “Hey Jughaid, you wanna play house?” To which Jughaid replies, “Mebbe, does it involve eat'n?” Aw, now we's back to eat'n again!

But before I gets there, I just wants to appeal to Mrs. Judy, who now understands where I learnt to talk, and alls I gots to say is, if'n Snuffy Smith's English were good enuf to win him countless awards, then I confess I look up to Snuffy as a bodacious country bumpk'n worthy of learn'n from. Now, Mrs. Judy, calm down, I know I just left one of them particples dangling, but it's okay, Snuffy dun it a time or two too, and he got paid royally and was rewarded handsomely. So now that you better understand me, if'n that's possible, let's get back to that eat'n thing, which is the only reason Jughaid would play house with Merry Beth.

It seems that ya'll, ya'll as in all ya'll who are Lakelands Baptists, seem to like to eat a whole lot as well. It ain't jest me. You see, it seems ever time we do something in this association, food generally is thrown into the mix somewhere somehow. Yep, jest look at the pic on the front page. That was Rice Memorial's men putt'n on the dawg at one of our Men's Rallies. Yep, low country boil for 300 hungry men...I mean, how can any human being describe that...it was heavenly... inexpressible! And then, at Women's Ministry Team events and WMU events where food is served ...hundreds, a half a thousand to be exact...uh, that'd be the preacherly way of making 500 sound like a whole lot more, showing up to eat and fellowship. In April, the next Women's Event will be at South Side Baptist where the men in that church will pull out all the stops and pull off the most amazing fish fry on the planet, and the Men's Rally at First Mt. Moriah will see the men shoveling down Brunswick Stew. Shoot, we can't even have a Block Party Trailer training day without sausage, bacon, chicken, ham biscuits and coffee. Ever time I have a meeting of the ALT or the whatever, those team members can't seem to think about the business at hand until they eat, so many of our meetings are at restaurants in the area. And at HarvestFest, my goodness, our churches feed the world it seems. And preachers, and others, fill my lunch time schedule with conversations over food at local meat and threes, much to my delight.

But lest you think we are all gluttons, which we may be, remember, Jesus was often reclining at the table with someone. He was the one who cooked fish for the disciples on the Sea of Galilee when he asked Peter if he truly loved him. And Jesus fed the 5000 and then took up leftovers so nothing would go to waste. Yep, if cook'n outdoors and eat'n was good enuf for Jesus...it's good enuf for me. And it was in the Old Testament that many Jewish celebrations were feasts...meaning food was involved. And it is spoken of in Revelation of one day sitting at the table in glory enjoying what the Bible calls the “wedding supper of the Lamb.” And in Eden, God said, “Eat anything, except from the tree in the middle of the garden, for the day you eat thereof, you will surely die.” Now think about it, before the curse, man could eat anything and it was all good. But after the fall, almost anything we now eat is somehow or other, not good for you. Wow, and all because somebody disobeyed God.

So, I have a feeling, after the curse is removed permanently in glory according to Revelation 22:3, we will get to eat all we want at the wedding supper of the Lamb with no worries about cholesterol, blood pressure, obesity...none of that. And I'm pretty sure, BBQ is gonna be served at that meal...just say'n! Praise God for Jesus Christ, who removed the curse of sin...and every other curse known to mankind. So rejoice and be glad! For while we still live under the curse, we are not subject to the curse, for one day, the curse given in the beginning of time, will be forever

and irrevocably removed.

So if that's the case, we might as well rejoice in the grace that is ours today and enjoy the curseless future that will one day be ours! Anybody want to meet me for lunch...just ask'n!