

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

July 21, 2020



Main Street Train Station, Disneyland, Anaheim, California

“Cool as a Cucumber..”

When Christie was 7 years old, her parents took her to Disneyland for the first time. Shortly after they got into the park, they put her on the train that circles the park. They thought the train took a short route from its Main Street departure point and then returned to the same spot. They didn't realize that it stopped in each of the four “lands.” When the train made its first stop in Adventureland, Christie got off the train and looked for her parents, but they were still on Main Street.

Christie wasn't scared. Why should she be? Her parents had never let her down. She wandered around a little while, then located a man in a uniform and he took her to Lost & Found. There she sat, biding her time among the toys, jackets and other clothing items, and a couple of other kids.

Meanwhile, her parents were waiting for the train, which seems to be taking a very long time. When the train returned to the station and their only child did not disembark, they were worried. They soon located a security guard who directed them to Lost & Found. Christie was fine and ready to explore the rest of the park, but her parents, understandably flustered and nervous, immediately left the park, to Christie's chagrin.

Knowing her like I do, I can see Christie as that confident, unflappable seven year old. I can see her looking around for her parents then calmly walk up to an authority figure and report that her parents were missing. She's always been cool as the proverbial cucumber in stressful conditions — much better than me.

Keeping your cool under pressure is an admirable trait — and it helps others. Losing control is contagious because if one person is frightened, it can spread through a group like

wildfire. But staying cool is also contagious and inspires others to look for solutions instead of letting fear take over.

Fear is an impulse that arises from uncertainty and insecurity. Christie wasn't afraid because she completely trusted her parents. She wasn't lost; it was her parents who were lost, but she never doubted their love for her so she figured she'd locate them sooner or later. They weren't hiding.

Fear is debilitating and, for the fearful, there is a lot to fear. There are dangerous people in this world. Some terrible, life-threatening disease can be lurking around the corner and, today, many of our neighbors are paralyzed due to fear of getting the coronavirus. And it seems that many people live their lives just “waiting for the next shoe to drop.”

Should Christians live like that? Of course, we should avoid danger if we can help it but living one's life in constant fear is inconsistent with faith in God. The psalmists, even in the face of extreme threats, put their trust in God. Psalm 27:3 says,

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

There are many psalms similar to that one, like this one:

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Psalm 46:1-3

I'm biased, but I say Christie's example as a seven-year-old is the one we should follow and emulate. Remaining cool as cucumber when you're in a pickle seems to be a characteristic all Christians should cultivate. After all, even if you're lost, if you have Christ, you will be found.