



Good Things Come to Them That Wait: A Lay Leader's Perspective

Greetings, Aldersgate Family!

I hope this finds you and all you love safe and healthy. I am guessing each of us has developed a routine to help us cope with the restraints COVID-19 has put upon us. I highly recommend adding walking to your daily regimen, if possible. Actually, my dog Boston makes it impossible for me not to walk. He is insistent on having that privilege.

Recently, Cindy Crosby, knowing my predilection for dog walking, emailed me, advising there was a nesting duck in the prayer garden. She wanted to be sure Boston in his doggie exuberance didn't discover mom and her eggs and inadvertently cause them harm. Last Sunday a group of us met at church to walk around it and pray. I took a peek at the duck while I was there. Sure enough, Lucy (*that's the name of the duck courtesy of Cindy*) was still there nestled on those eggs. I thought "Wow! she has been there so long - through good weather and bad with all sorts of activity going on around her. How faithful she is!" Later that same evening Cindy emailed me to tell me Lucy's eggs had hatched. That feathered mom was surrounded by lovely ducklings. Her faithfulness had paid off!

Did you know that it takes about 28 days for duck eggs to hatch? Lucy must have been bored some of that time, maybe scared, lonely or cold. But she never abandoned post. She was faithful to the welfare of her offspring. As I thought about it, I realized that being faithful often comes with inconvenience, even sacrifice. Remember, Ruth was faithful to her mother-in-law to the extent she accompanied her to a foreign land. Paul was faithful to Christ even though he was imprisoned for that faithfulness. God rewarded their faithfulness didn't He? Ruth met and married Boaz and inherited a better life because she sacrificed her personal comfort for Naomi's. Paul saw the Gentiles embrace Christ. His efforts forever changed the world, from a prison cell even. Beyond that, he was able to experience great joy in the worst of circumstances.

The Bible isn't full of superheroes. It is testimony that flawed people, like you and me, can do amazing things, if we do them for the right reasons. It is the sacrifice part of this equation that is so hard. Yes, it is tempting to "duck" the obligations that come with faithfulness. Yet, blessings and comfort eventually will "hatch" in our lives, if we take a lesson from Lucy. Remain faithful, even when it's not convenient or comfortable to do so, because good things will come to those who trust Him and His timing.