

Daily View

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

May 19, 2020



Glacier Bay, Alaska. August, 2014

It was a cold day...

Christie went to get something out of the refrigerator one day and couldn't open it. She called for me and I joked that she needed to work out, maybe lift some weights. *Ha ha, very funny.* I grabbed the handle of the frig and I couldn't open it either, so the joke was on me. We tried everything in our power to open it, but it wouldn't budge. This may still be the most mysterious thing that has ever happened during our married life. We could not figure it out. Like all refrigerators, it usually opened with minimal effort, but not this time.

I can't remember how we found out or figured it out but I remember the look on Christie's face when our son, Davey, confessed that he had super glued the refrigerator door shut. There was that look that all parents can identify with: a look of utter disbelief, followed by "what were you thinking?" That, of course, was a rhetorical question but Davey decided to answer; he said, "I heard mom was on a diet, so I thought I would help her out." I think I told Davey to run because the mood was getting really icy in the kitchen.

We had to use a knife to cut through the glue to get the frig opened. Then, we had to replace the rubber seal. After the emotions settled down, while we still wondered why Davey would do such a thing, we also had to marvel at his patience and determination as he carefully applied SuperGlue to the entire rubber seal around the refrigerator door. He didn't miss a spot. Of course, we didn't buy his explanation, although we gave him credit for thinking on his feet.

Is there a spiritual application? How about Zechariah 14:6?

On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost.

Probably a better one is that we eventually let Davey off the hook. I don't remember the specific punishment we applied; it's hard to discipline a kid when you're angry on the outside

but cracking up on the inside. We probably grounded him for life, but we finally pardoned him. Just like God pardons us.

Whatever we did, he was still our kid; we didn't send him away or lock him out of the house. A logical consequence would have been to forbid him to ever eat anything from the refrigerator again; but we didn't do that either. We let him live in our house, open the frig and eat meals that Christie fixed.

In hindsight, this is a humorous story. But I realize that I have "super-glued" my share of refrigerators, figuratively speaking, and it's not funny. Do you ever look back on your life and say, "that was a ridiculous thing I did back then; it's as if I was a different person. Why did I act that way?"

Fortunately, we have a God that lets his children off the hook when we acknowledge our sins. He does that simply because we are his children. I love the heart-warming assurance of I John 3:1,

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are (NASB).

I love that little extra pinch of grace: "*and such we are.*" And I can't think of a passage of scripture that brings more peace of mind to me than I John 1:8 to 2:1:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (ESV)

This passage tells me of my need for forgiveness and that God forgives me — and it reminds me that I need to forgive others.

* I got permission from Dave and Angie to tell these stories. Sometimes preachers make points at the expense of their wife and kids, and that's tacky, if they don't know it's coming.