

This is the Day...Monday

May 9, 2022

Watch Your Step

“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.” (Psalm 37:23-24)

My childhood home in Gastonia was located on a side road in a neighborhood, off of Garrison Boulevard. We had neighbors on both sides and across the street. But, behind our house there was a large expanse of woods. I am not sure exactly how many acres it encompassed but I know that I could walk for at least two miles in those woods, all the way to Robinwood Lake. Not far into the woods from my house there was a nice creek that had cut through the woods and meandered down the hill. I spent many days in that creek, catching crawdads, petting frogs, and just wadding through the cool water in the heat of the summer. But when I was eight years old, something interesting happened in that creek.

One summer morning, I was following my normal routine of having breakfast and heading outside to play as early as possible. As I walked through the backyard, heading toward the woods, something very unusual occurred. I was not paying attention to my steps, and I noticed something soft under one of my feet. As I looked down, I saw that I had actually stepped right on top of a big frog! Thankfully, he was not harmed. But then I looked around the yard and saw that he was not alone. There were frogs everywhere! Big fat bull frogs, little green tree frogs, and the normal sized brown frogs. They were hopping around all over the backyard!

When I heard Mom coming outside to head for work, I shouted for her to watch her step! But before she could prepare herself, but before I could grab her hand, she also stepped on a big, fat frog and stumbled forward to the grass. As she gathered herself, Mom yelled, “Where did all these frogs come from?”

Isn't it amazing how each day can bring its own set of challenges and stumbling blocks in our lives? It is hard to know what to expect as we begin each day. Our plans for a normal, productive day can quickly be redirected as we experience the unexpected. Sometimes the changes bring trials and sometimes they are changes that make your day even more special. That is just how life works. Who would have ever expected a backyard full of frogs? Mom called it another plague, but I called it heaven. We later found out that a construction company had released some cleaning products in the creek which caused the frogs to head for my house. It was a great surprise for me to have all those new friends in my own backyard!

On this day which God has given you, expect the unexpected. Life is filled with changes that can pull the rug out from under your day or make your day special. We can't control the changes, but we can control the hand that we choose to hold for support so that we do not stumble and fall. Whatever today brings, watch your step! You never know when the frogs might show up.