



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 30, 2021

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VACATION ON ANNA MARIA ISLAND ON LONG KEY, FLORIDA AND MY UNCLE WAS GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO TAKE US GUYS IN THE FAMILY ON A FISHING EXCURSION. I HAD NEVER CAUGHT ANYTHING IN THE OCEAN BEFORE AND I HAVE NEVER BEEN KNOWN AS AN AVID FISHERMAN EVEN THOUGH I ENJOY IT VERY MUCH.

THE BOAT CAPTAIN THAT WE HIRED WAS YOUNG BUT KNEW THAT IT WAS A LOT OF FUN TO CATCH A MACKEREL FISH CALLED "THE KING FISH". THEY CAN GET UP TO 45 POUNDS AND ABOUT 4FT LONG. HE TOOK US ABOUT 5 MILES INTO THE GULF OF MEXICO AND THE DAY WAS PERFECT - IT WAS A FOGGY OVERCAST DAY, AND THE WATER WAS CALM. WE WERE ABLE TO FISH FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS CATCHING SNAPPERS, SEABASS, AND GROUPERS WHILE THE LINES WERE OUT WAITING FOR THE KING FISH TO BITE. ONE FINALLY DID AND MY UNCLE WAS ABLE TO REEL IT IN (IT TOOK ABOUT 9 MINUTES FOR HIM TO GET IT IN). IT WAS ALMOST 3FT LONG AND 25 POUNDS.

A FEW MINUTES LATER ANOTHER ONE HIT THE LINE AND MY DAD WAS ABLE TO START REELING IT IN, BUT ITS TEETH SNAPPED THE LINE WHICH IS COMMON. A FEW MOMENTS LATER I WAS STANDING NEXT TO ONE OF THE POLES AND IT STARTED "ZIPPING" AND I GRABBED HOLD OF IT AND BEGAN TO REEL IT IN. I WAS VERY EXCITED; I WAS READY FOR A GOOD BATTLE. I WAS REELING THE BIGGEST FISH I EVER CAUGHT FOR ABOUT 10 SECONDS WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE PULL ENDED. I THOUGHT MY LINE HAD SNAPPED BUT WHEN I REELED THE LINE ALL THE WAY IN, ALL THAT I HAD CAUGHT WAS A GIANT FISH HEAD (KEEP IN MIND I WAS NOT FISHING WITH A GIANT FISH HEAD ON MY HOOK).

I ASKED THE CAPTAIN, "WHAT HAPPENED?"
HE SIMPLY ANSWERED, "LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING "BIGGER" GOT IT."

EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE I AM ABOUT TO CATCH A GIANT FISH, I AM REMINDED THAT THERE IS ALWAYS A BIGGER FISH IN THE SEA.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20 SAYS, "BUT OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, AND FROM IT WE AWAIT A SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. . ."

I THINK SOMETIMES, EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW HEAVEN AWAITS THE REDEEMED IN CHRIST, WE GET FIXATED ON THE HERE AND NOW AND LIVE OUR LIFE AS IF THIS IS ALL WE HAVE, EVEN THOUGH THERE IS SOMETHING BIGGER AND BETTER THAN ALL THAT WE COULD IMAGINE.

TOO MANY TIMES WE LOSE FOCUS ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD BE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING; REACHING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST – NOT FOR THIS LIFE ON EARTH, BUT FOR THE ETERNAL LIFE SPENT WITH CHRIST IN HEAVEN.

AS MUCH AS CATCHING THE "KING FISH" WOULD HAVE BEEN A HOOT, I AM THANKFUL THAT IT REMINDED ME THAT THERE IS SOMETHING BIGGER AND BETTER YET TO COME.

SO, UNTIL THEN, I CAN SMILE HOLDING A FISH HEAD IF IT HELPS ME KEEP FOCUSED ON THAT WHICH IS TRULY IMPORTANT; DOING ALL THAT I CAN FOR THE KINGDOM TO COME – NOT THIS FALSE KINGDOM THAT KEEPS US CONTENT IN THE SMALLER FISH. .EVEN THOUGH CATCHING SMALL FISH IS A LOT OF FUN :)

PASTOR ANDY

