

Were They Crazy?

When I was in college, I remember that there were students who would not start wearing winter coats, gloves, or hats until there was snow *on the ground* – no matter how cold it got. Some of those same students would bring out the summer clothes as soon as there was a 'spring thaw' and wear those clothes even if the temperature dropped below freezing soon after and stayed that cold for weeks. Were they crazy, were they wishful thinkers, or were they exhibiting the human tendency to be stubborn and impatient?

Wishing for something different than what we have is not a bad thing. Many people have achieved important milestones and been empowered to do great things by seeing the world as it *could* be in the midst of how it is with all its warts, weaknesses, and grave wrongs along with its wonders. Our struggle is often how to live and work 'in the midst' of the 'now' while seeking something different in the hope that it will be better. We must understand the now first with all its reality – good and bad. Just as we must learn the basics of anything, be it running, engineering, painting, mechanics, architecture, or music before we can use the basic principles of the thing to do it well and perhaps, create something marvelous or new.

Stubborn and impatient are another matter. There is a difference between stubborn and steadfast or persistent. To be stubborn is to be selfish. You think or do what you want even when there is good evidence you are wrong or others may be hurt. Steadfast or persistent are more selfless. Others are considered, and one is reliable, trustworthy, and is willing to keep trying in the face of obstacles. Impatience can be the student who wants to be the star athlete but will not go to practice, or the architect who cannot wait for the foundation to be laid so their new building design can come to life, but knows the building will fall down without that foundation, so makes sure it is done well rather than taking shortcuts.

As we continue observing lent, Lord, help us to overcome stubbornness and seek to be steadfast in our walk with you. Also help us harness impatience so we see the small treasures to be found in each day, while also striving to change those things that keep any person from reaching their full potential as a child of God living for your glory.

This week, remember in prayer:

- **People dealing with COVID-19.**
- **Nigeria – On February 26 at least 279 school girls, ages 10 & up, were kidnapped in northwest Nigeria. The girls were released on March 2.** There may be some 40 more who are still being held. The government claims no ransom was paid. Kidnapping for ransom is a growing problem in Nigeria. The recent kidnappings in northwestern Nigeria are likely the work of bandits. However, Boko Haram attacks (generally in northeast Nigeria) continue as do attacks by Fulani herders. The effects of COVID-19 are also being felt. There is still no further word on the Chibok school girls.
- **The families separated at the border.** Some of the children have been away from their parents for 3 years. This government is now working hard to reunite them. **At least 611 children**, who were taken from their parents at the U.S. border, remained separated from their parents in January. A number of these families have been united in recent weeks. Pray for all these separated and reunited children; their families; those who are trying to reunite them.



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