

'Salt and Smiles'

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by Rebecca Enney

"I reckon these fries need a little more salt." said Uncle Floyd. "Could you please pass the salt Francis."

But Francis did not respond. He was kind of off in his own world, not paying attention.

"Francis!" shouted Gator. "Pay attention and pass the salt!"

"That was rude!" shouted Barabas to Gator. But finally, Francis DID pass the salt.

Uncle Floyd raised his eyebrows at the bad humor that was obvious around the table. It had been building all afternoon. He went to sprinkle some salt on the fries, but, guess what happened?!

The top on the salt shaker was loose and fell off and landed right on the fries, along with about a TON of salt!



There was a moment of stony silence. But then someone, I think it was Francis, had one of those kind of like a pig snort eruption. You know, they sound like this: (demonstrate!) It happens when you suddenly think something is terribly funny, but maybe you should not laugh, but then it just comes out anyway.

And then Gator began to snicker. And Barabas began to giggle. And then Uncle Floyd began to outright laugh and they all laughed in earnest! And things were good again!

Uncle Floyd cleaned up his fries and they were, maybe a bit saltier than usual, but all was fine.

Laughter and salt are a bit alike. The fries definitely needed salt, but a whole salt shaker was obviously way too much!

The bad humor at the table obviously needed some good humor, but if Francis and Gator and Barabas had laughed TOO much, it would have felt like they were making fun of Uncle Floyd. That would NOT be funny.

Just the right measure of laughter or a smile can definitely help a situation that is about to get worse. The trick is to learn just where that correct measure is.

The Bible lesson this morning talks about how this community of Christian believers need to remember to be kind to each other, especially when things may be getting worse.

So, when you see someone who needs a smile, you can give them one of yours. They cost nothing!! Often times, smiles are just the right measure of kindness!

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