

The Laity Minute by Kelly Price

I enjoy our Wednesday night Bible Study. We choose a chapter or passages to discuss at length. These discussions tend to include relevant and practical applications to our lives today. Of course, it is always fun to see everyone and engage in some useful and reflective thought in the process. And, it doesn't hurt that I often get to eat my supper while attending virtually.

During a recent Wednesday night session, my 8-year-old niece Scarlett called right as I logged on to the Bible Study. A long time ago, I promised her that no matter when she called or what I was doing, I would always answer. No ifs, ands, or buts. So, when she called right at 6:00 p.m., I answered her Facetime call. I messaged Rev. Ginger and told her I was taking Scarlett's call and would be right back. So, I put myself on mute, turned the volume off, stopped my video, and turned my attention to Scarlett.

I told her I was logged on to Bible Study and that I needed to go back when we were finished talking. She asked me a few questions like who was on there and if her "Docee" (my Mom) was on there, too. So, I told her who was there and that yes, Docee was on the call, too.

She then asked me what the other people on the call were doing. Since I am the World's Best Aunt and tend to do just about anything she asks of me, I looked at everyone who was on the call. As many of you know, Zoom places everyone in little boxes, sort of like the Brady Bunch opening theme song. So, I could see everyone talking, but I had no idea what they were saying since my volume was off. All I could see was facial expressions and body language. I told her that people were smiling, and being attentive. I said a few looked contemplative and others thoughtful.

It was pretty interesting to see people talking about the Bible but not knowing what they were saying. I could see mouths moving, smiles, and lips puckered due to deep thought. I observed eyes which showed happiness, heartbreak, enlightenment, and learning. Body language conveyed hands moving while passionately telling a story, leaning toward the camera to listen more intently, and relaxed demeanors which showed they were comfortable.

It made me think about how we convey our feelings about the Bible or the church when we are talking to others. If someone you were talking to about the church could mute you, what would they see? Could they see your joy? Or would they see sadness? Could they feel your love for the church or could they see negativity? Sometimes our actions can be the most telling.

As I told Scarlett everything I saw on the Bible Study that night, she said, "Oh, are they talking about Jesus?" I laughed and replied, "From the smiles I am seeing, I would say yes, they are." With that, she looked at me and said, "Well, he is the Savior, you know."

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.