

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



HUNG OUT TO DRY

Watching the tea towel slowly drifting in the breeze, the old saying "Hung out to dry" came to mind. I guess we could all look back through life and recall that feeling of unexpectedly being labelled as the perpetrator while you were sure you were the victim. The sibling squabbles, your words of self-justification, "But Mum! He started it!" But because Mum had arrived at the "wrong time", in her eyes, you were the culprit, as the "Real Culprit" left with Mum's approval and a backward smirk that said, "Loser – Hung out to dry!"

On further investigation as to the origin of the saying, I discovered it most likely refers to a time before refrigeration, referencing the hanging and smoking of meat to ensure the preservation of goodness, longevity, nourishment and life.

Being "Hung out to dry" can have positive outcomes depending on how it is handled. I know a situation where a person was "Hung out to dry," causing loss of employment and personal hurt. When encouraged by friends and others to seek retribution, he responded, "That's not going to help anyone. I don't understand why, but maybe this is how God wants it to be." This reaction to the situation helped the victim's faith in God's ever-present love and care to grow stronger; others saw acceptance of God's will in action, and at least one person rededicated his life to God.

This "Hung out to dry" experience could be said to have had outcomes similar to those of meat drying mentioned above. It helped nourish some people's relationship with their loving God, leading to enjoying a longer and fuller life surrounded by God's preserving love.

One could well say Jesus was "hung out to dry". He hung on the cross and paid the price for all the times we deliberately or thoughtlessly failed to act as God asked, the times we turned our back on God's expectations, the times when God said, "This is the way to act", and we said, "Nah! I've got to get even with"! God doesn't think about getting even with us. Instead, he remembers, My Son hung on that cross so this person (maybe you) can always come back and live a full life in and under my love. Do you feel like the tea towel on the line? Talk to Jesus about it. He knows what it feels like – plus some.

With the prayer, you don't get too knotted up by the turbulent winds of life.

Kevin.