

# My thoughts #3

January 15, 2023

This week Ray and I are in Florida. We have had a nice week together. The kids are working hard at home so things will go smoothly while they are here next week. Sophie had a little birthday party with the cousins and a friend. Sophie will be 6 next week. She is beautiful. Sophie loves dolphins so all the kids watched Dolphin Tales and Leidy made a dolphin cake... so fun...





HAPPY BIRTHDAY SOPHIE



The kids are all excited to come to Florida. Rayden and Mercy love it here. While mom was getting packed they tended Clarity. Mercy gave Clarity a foot massage while Rayden was imitating a maraca, playing music to “sooth” her... too cute!



Ray and I have had a lot of fun. I love Bully Netting. It is a fun adventure and always a good time because in order to go out bully netting, the sea has to be calm with perfect weather. We bully net at night in a small flats boat with lights attached to the bottom of the boat to look for lobsters. We go over to a little bay that has grass on the bottom where the lobsters come out to feed at night. It is shallow water and can easily

be stirred up. Whenever we have a calm day, meaning the wind is blowing less than 7 miles an hour, we can go bully netting that night. However, there are several things that can contribute to the water being stirred up and not being clear. Rough weather earlier in the day, a big fish swimming through, Ray trying to turn the boat around can all stir up the sand and silt making it difficult to see.

Ray was driving the boat and I asked him to just float for a minute so I could look for lobsters near the mangrove trees. The water was a little murky but as I watched, all the sand started to settle. In a couple of minutes, the water became clear and we were able to see clearly. I thought about this experience this week.

Sometimes it feels that we are looking at life through murky/ clouded water. Sometimes It is hard to see clearly what we are looking for. Sometimes we can even start doubting if what we are looking for is even there. It can look like the bottom of “our ocean” is stirred up and is difficult to see through. I have thought about our faith and how it can become murky or clouded.

At one time or another it is possible that we may have questions or doubts about the teachings of Jesus Christ. Elder Uchdoft, an Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints said “First doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith.” Sometimes we need to have the faith to just hold on a bit until we can see Heavenly Father’s hand in our life and situation and things will become clearer to us. We live in a time of diminishing faith where many feel distanced from heavenly influences. We need to draw closer to our Savior.

I love this scripture in John. The Savior asks if the twelve will leave him. I love Peter’s response. Truly where is there to go?

### **New Testament**

John 6:67-68

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.

### **New Testament**

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

### **Book of Mormon**

Alma 32:21

21 And now as I said concerning faith- faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.

What is interesting is that the ocean floor does not change when I cannot see it, the lobsters are still there. The same is true with Jesus. At times that our faith seems doubtful, clouded by circumstances or murky water around us, we need to know that our

Savior is still there, unchanged by the circumstances. We just need to give it a minute for the sand to settle.

There are also so many beautiful things that we can miss while we are waiting. I have thought about this and I am trying to see all I can, while waiting to see a lobster. Last night while we were bully netting, I tried to focus on everything that was beautiful around me, not just the lobsters that I wanted to see. We saw lots of small fish, crabs and an octopus. It was amazing.

I really hope that we can focus on faith and see the beautiful things around us during difficult times. I love my Savior Jesus Christ.

With Love,  
Leslie





Rayden is pretty amazing! He loves working puzzles! He is such a happy little guy. I really miss the kids when I am gone.

