

One day, a young boy went to visit his blind, elderly friend, Mr. Janssen. After a pleasant visit, he started walking home. On his way though, he was distracted by the flowers, the butterflies and the birds. He played for many happy hours near the dikes that ran by the road. The dikes were large walls that held back the sea. Every child in Holland knows that if the dikes break, water will rush in and all will be lost.

Hans was so busy playing that he didn't notice the sun setting. When he realized how late it was, he speedily headed for home. On his way though, he heard water trickling. There in the dike was a small hole. Hans knew that left untended, the hole would grow larger and the sea would come crashing through.

He quickly put his finger in the dike and cried for help, but alas, no help came. All night long, Hans sat there with his finger in the dike. He was very cold and very frightened. In the morning, a priest came along the road and heard Hans' moans for help. The priest quickly called for others to come and repair the dike, and he carried the boy home. All the people cheered for Hans, the boy who saved Holland.

Does this story ring a bell? Have you ever found yourself doing something worthwhile, having fun, minding your business and feeling pretty good about life when all of a sudden out of nowhere, someone or something comes along to test your resolve and commitment to crises? Some people call it adversity, but I call it opportunity, because when those situations come, grace and faith must come into play.

There are times that try our souls and test our character. Times when we can't flinch when thunder roars or lightning strikes, we don't have time to fritter away our energy distracted by the flowers the butterflies and the birds.. These are times we must focus solely on the problems in front of us, no matter what their size and try to fix them. So let liars lie, let politicians quarrel, critics malign, and enemies accurse, let the devil do his worst; but see to it nothing hinders you from fulfilling with joy, the task God had given you to do.

He never told you to be admired or esteemed, or asked you to defend your character. He didn't put you here to contradict falsehood (about yourself), or to track down every rumor that threatens your reputation. If you worry about that, you will never accomplish anything; you will be working for yourself.

God may ask you to do something that seems small... ***"Put your finger in the dike."*** Be faithful because down the road, in retrospect you will see how a larger crisis had been averted through your action. Let your aim be as steady as a star. You may be misunderstood, or assigned impure motives; you may be abused by the elements, forsaken by friends, but see to it with steadfast determination, with unfaltering zeal, that you pursue the great purpose of your life. **So, one finger saved Holland?**

His lord said to him, ***'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*** Matt 25:21