

DISAPPOINTED IN ME! DISAPPOINTED IN MYSELF!

I have shared with you on previous occasions besides being known as the "large, double-double" guy at Tim Hortons I have also become recognized at Sobeys by one cashier for being the "discount" guy. It is an easy reputation to come by when one is a frugal, cheap, Presbyterian pastor such as me. On Friday I stopped into Sobeys to pick up a few items for supper, and when I got to this cashier, she was shocked that I had no discounted items included in my basket. She actually said to me, **"I am disappointed in you!"** To be honest, I was just as disappointed in myself. It was not from a lack of trying, but sadly I disappointed this cashier, as well as myself with my shopping efforts on Friday.

As I walked to my car thinking about this incident, I was reminded of the time when the disciple Peter disappointed Jesus as well as himself. It happened on the night when Jesus was betrayed and arrested. Earlier that night He warned Peter:

"I tell you the truth, Peter- this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me. (Mark 14:30)

When Peter heard this, he told Jesus he would never disappoint Him in this way. Shortly afterwards, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and He asked Peter, James, and John to follow Him and keep watch with Him. While Jesus prayed, Peter and the other two disciples fell asleep instead of doing what was asked of them. Jesus was disappointed with them when He returned from praying and said to Peter:

Simon, are you asleep? Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

Jesus went off to pray a second time and once again He was disappointed to find Peter and the two others asleep, instead of praying. Jesus was disappointed in Peter here that he did not do what was asked of him. As a result of not praying, Peter was about to be disappointed in himself later that night. When Jesus was taken to the high priest's home after being arrested, Peter followed at a distance and sat in the courtyard waiting. When Peter

was asked whether he was one of those with Jesus of Nazareth he denied so three times. Immediately, Peter remembered Jesus' words from earlier that night and broke down and wept.

Peter was disappointed with himself that he lost this battle with temptation by sinning in this manner. Sometimes we too come out on the losing end in our battle with temptation and are disappointed with ourselves for sinning. We not only disappoint ourselves by sinning, but because sin has far-reaching consequences we can end up disappointing others too. We need to remember how Jesus encouraged Peter to pray in order to have the strength to win this battle against temptation. If Peter had obeyed Jesus and prayed in that moment, he could have avoided disappointing himself and Jesus in this situation.

If we are becoming disappointed with ourselves for saying yes to temptation, then we need to start adding prayer to our daily spiritual regiment. A good prayer to start with each day is the Lord's Prayer. One of the things we are asking for in the Lord's Prayer is for help not to say yes to temptation and to be rescued from the evil one. We may say I already pray this prayer every Sunday at church, but we should be praying it on a **daily basis**. Temptation is a daily battle for us so doesn't it make sense for us to be praying the Lord's Prayer every day in order to have God's strength to resist. Saying the Lord's Prayer on a daily basis will go a long way in helping us not to disappoint ourselves or others by sinning.

I disappointed the cashier as well as myself on Friday at Sobeys. Come Monday I was back in fine form. I came to the cashier with several items that were discounted, and by the time I was done the receipt said I had saved 50% off the total purchase. I was pleased not to disappoint her nor myself on Monday.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean

