

## KNOWN FOR

When I go into Tim Hortons for my morning coffee, I have become known for always ordering a large double-double. It has come in handy for me being known in this way. Sometimes the person on the counter will see my car pull into a parking spot and will already have my coffee ready for me when I enter. Other times the employees will see me waiting in line and make my coffee at the same time they are filling orders for people in front of me, so it is ready for me when I do get to the register to pay. I am not blessed in these ways every time I go in, but it is nice to experience these perks as "the large double-double guy" there.

It is not only at Tim Hortons that I have become known for my purchase choices. Some days, before I stop into Tims, I will go over to Sobeys in order to see if any items have been marked down overnight. Sometimes I will find pre-made salads, or seasoned vegetables, or even marinated chicken breasts reduced anywhere in price from \$2.00 - \$10.00. After making my rounds through Sobeys looking for these deals, I seem to have lately come upon the same cashier to ring in my items. I do not know whether she recognizes me because there is a big smile on my face knowing less money will be coming out of my wallet, but she is starting to refer to me as her "discount guy". Whenever I approach she now smiles at me and says, "How much am I discounting for you today?" I don't mind her referring to me as "the discount guy," especially when I look at the receipt afterward and see how much I have saved. My church family has known for quite a while about my frugal nature. They have chosen to refer to me as "the cheap pastor" rather than as "the discount guy." Both descriptions are pretty accurate, though.

On Tuesday morning after stopping into both places, I began thinking about how I have come to be known in these ways at each establishment. I understand it has taken consistency and repetition on my part at both of these establishments in order to become known for these things. All of this reflecting on how we become known for certain things got me thinking about a hymn we sang at church this past Sunday. The hymn we sang is called, "Man of Sorrows, Wondrous Name" and in its five verses, it identifies the following things Jesus as our Savior is known for:

- In verse 1, how He came down from heaven to help us overcome our dilemma in needing forgiveness for our sins,
- In verse 2, how Jesus stood in our place to secure our forgiveness through His sacrifice on the cross,
- In verse 3, how He has provided us with full forgiveness,
- In verse 4, how He has returned to heaven exalted high,
- In verse 5, how one day He will come again as our glorious King.

What stood out to me most on Sunday as we sang this hymn were these words used to describe Jesus as Saviour at the end of each verse:

**Gracious Saviour! Loving Saviour! Blessed Saviour! Mighty Saviour!  
and Wondrous Saviour!**

When we look at this list it is truly amazing that we have a Saviour in Jesus known for all of these attributes. The one thing about Jesus is these are qualities that are consistent in Him and never change. I hope that we have come to recognize and experience these very things about Jesus as our Saviour. If we have not however, then this season of ***Lent is the ideal to come to know Jesus in each of these ways.*** Just as consistency and routine is required for people to come to know us for certain things, these same efforts are needed on our part in order to know Jesus in these ways. If we make a more consistent effort on our part to be at worship, to read Scripture, and to pray during this season of Lent, by the time Easter comes we will truly know Jesus as our Saviour in all the ways described in the hymn.

There are benefits for me as I mentioned earlier to be known in the ways that I am at Tims and Sobeys. There are abundant blessings however to know Jesus in all these ways as Saviour.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean