

MAKING AN EFFORT TOWARD PERFECT

While I was out Saturday morning doing some errands, I received a text from my wife saying: **If you are stopping for your coffee this morning I would sure like it if you brought me a tea!**

She knows me too well. Of course, I was going to stop into Tims and grab a coffee before coming home. When I got to the counter my coffee was already made and waiting for me. I told the employee how I would be in serious trouble if I did not come home with a tea for my wife. It was not busy, so he said to me, "I am going to make her the perfect cup of tea!"

I watched closely as he set out to make the perfect cup of tea. Naturally he started off with the tea bag and filling the cup with hot water. He did not fill it to the top but instead came over and added the milk and sugar next and carefully swirled it around the cup. Then he went back over and topped up the cup with more hot water. When he put the lid on, he began carefully writing a message on it.

Usually I will see the initials "dd" on my lid indicating it is a double-double. Sometimes they will put a smiley face on the lid when they know I am getting a tea for Nadine. This time he wrote out the words "smile" for Nadine to see. When he handed me this perfect cup of tea, I thanked him for doing so and asked whether he had any ideas on how to make me the "perfect husband" too. I don't think the answer to that one can be found on a Tim Hortons' menu. When I brought it home and shared the story with Nadine, she truly appreciated this employee's efforts at making her the perfect cup of tea.

Reflecting upon this event from Saturday got me thinking about our own efforts at trying to become more perfect. Scripture reveals how Jesus is the best example for us of the perfect life lived according to the Father's plan. As a child, Jesus was obedient to His parents and amazed the religious leaders at the Temple. As an adult, He served His Father through His preaching and healing. As we will once again remember during Holy Week, He obediently allowed our sins to be placed on Him at the cross to fulfill the Father's plan for our forgiveness and salvation.

Luke's Gospel in particular focuses on how Jesus lived the perfect life according to the Father's plan. Luke was writing his Gospel for a mainly Greek audience who often discussed the meaning of perfection and the need to improve oneself and become an example for others. As believers, we too should be living our lives according to God's plan just like Jesus did by obeying Him in every way so that we can bring wholeness and holiness into all we do. Where Jesus never disobeyed His Father and sinned, unfortunately we sometimes do. Even though we will never be perfect on this side of heaven, that should not stop us as believers from striving to become more perfect. Jesus actually encourages us to *strive* toward this goal when He says in **Matthew 5:48**:

But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Ways in which we can aspire to become perfect are:

1. To become more like Christ in our character,
2. To be more perfect in seeking holy living and separating ourselves from the world's sinful values,
3. To become more mature as believers and to strive toward holy living,
4. To show grace and forgiveness to those who have hurt us (*for some our hardest task*),
5. To love others as completely as God loves us.

Our tendency to sin must never stop us from striving to become more perfect and mature in our living so that we too can be living each day like Jesus did by obeying our Father in every way.

An employee at Tim Hortons attempted to make Nadine the perfect cup of tea on Saturday. I know a guy if any of you are looking to have a perfect cup of tea made for you. I know a Saviour too that can help us strive to become more perfect. I am still looking however for somebody to help me be the "perfect husband." My morning double-double at least helps me not to be a "grumpy husband."

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean