

NOT THE WAY SOME EXPECTED THE WEEK TO START

My Monday morning started off the way I expected. After getting up and making my way downstairs, my first task was to get the garbage out to the curbside for pick-up. Then I hooked up our dog Daisy on her leash and got her out. Once I was back inside, I made myself a cup of coffee and sat down at the computer to read my newspaper online. Once I finished that, it was soon time to make breakfast for Nadine and myself. My Monday morning was going the way I expected it to.

It was over breakfast that I learned from Nadine that some people in our neighbourhood were not starting their week off the way they expected. She began seeing on our neighbourhood Facebook page that many people in our area were reporting thefts overnight. One neighbour reported that her son's work vehicle had tools and other items taken from it. Still others were sharing that their vehicles had been broken into. Thankfully we did not experience anything stolen or broken into during the wee hours of Sunday night into Monday morning, but we have had this happen to us a few times during our 15 years at this address. Even though we did not experience any of this, my heart still broke for my neighbours knowing how disappointing, discouraging, and frustrating it can be to discover this is the way their week was starting.

After hearing about this I found my thoughts on Monday morning turning at times towards other ways a day or week may not begin as expected. I thought about times waking up on a Monday morning not feeling well even though I felt fine over the weekend. I remembered times checking e-mails on a Monday morning to discover the week I expected was about to quickly change. The more I recalled examples like these I was reminded of the natural desire we have to want things to remain constant, routine, and familiar in our lives. When this does not occur, it can leave us disappointed and frustrated on so many levels.

As I thought more and more about this, I found myself thinking about the importance and comfort found in turning toward the "**Way**" when life does not go our way. In the Gospels we find Jesus describe Himself in many different ways in order for us to come to know Him. For example, in John 10 He describes Himself as "**The Good Shepherd.**" A few chapters later Jesus

describes Himself in another way by saying "**I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)**". This is a very important revelation from Jesus reminding us He is the One we can trust to take us to the Father and experience all of the benefits that come from being God's children. When life does not go our way or as we expected, it is so important for us to remember to turn to Jesus and seek His help as the best "**Way**" to overcome our setback and struggle. There is a hymn that can remind us to do this called, "**No, Not One!**" The opening words to the hymn remind us why we can turn to Jesus and trust Him when a day does not go the way we expected:

**There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus,
No, not one! No, not one!**

Once we remind ourselves He is the best person we can trust to help us when life does not go our way, we will find inspiration remembering the refrain of this hymn:

**Jesus knows all about our struggles,
He will guide 'til the day is done;
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus,
No, not one! No, not one.**

As I mentioned earlier, it is never easy for us physically, emotionally, or spiritually when a day or week does not start the way we expected. By turning toward Jesus when this happens, we will discover He already knows the cause for our struggles and that He is there to faithfully guide us through this setback.

We cannot avoid things from happening that do not go our way, but what is completely within our control is turning to the One who refers to Himself as "**The Way**" for help and comfort when it does happen.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean