

## LET'S HEAR SOMETHING GOOD

The inspiration for this week's message came about on Monday morning while I was driving to Tim Hortons to keep up my reputation for being known as "the double-double" guy. I like to listen to the radio while I drive and normally, I have it on a sports talk radio station. Lately I have also been tuning into a certain FM station that plays lots of 70's and 80's music that I grew up listening to. I had it on the FM station Monday morning hoping I might hear the daily contest they have whereby a listener has to answer 10 questions in 60 seconds in order to win \$100.00.

My timing was not right on Monday morning to catch the contest but thankfully I was tuned in for something even more special. The radio host asked his audience to start calling in and share on the airwave something good that was happening in their lives. When I heard the host make this request, I thought it was an incredible idea because we all need to hear stories of good things happening.

The unfortunate reality in these days and times is we tend to be bombarded with stories about something bad happening rather than something good. We see this reality in the news stories involving human suffering brought about by:

- acts of nature such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, etc.,
- acts of conflict and war,
- acts of violence directed towards individuals,
- acts of discrimination and racism,
- and acts of injustice and greed.

It is hard to find in some broadcasts many, if any, good news stories. This can also be the case in our conversations with friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Whenever we get the chance to catch up with them and ask how they are doing we sometimes discover that they have been going through challenges and difficulties at work, home, or with their physical and emotional well-being. We listen in these moments with compassion and love and realize how much they need to hear something good. Maybe that is the situation we find ourselves in right now too due to a difficult situation.

As I contemplated this on Monday morning, I was reminded how John the Baptist was in need of hearing something good in the midst of a difficult moment for him. John the Baptist was very faithful to his calling to prepare the way for the Lord. He preached a message of repentance and encouraged people to turn away from their sins and be baptized. John the Baptist was arrested by Herod, and while he was in prison, he started to have doubts about Jesus. He sent his disciples to go see Jesus and ask if He truly was the Messiah or should they keep looking for somebody else. Jesus realized John the Baptist was in need of hearing something good so this was what He told John's disciples:

**Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard - the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. And tell him, "God blesses those who do not turn away because of me. (Luke 7:22-23)**

Jesus knew that John the Baptist needed to hear these good things being done by the One he prepared the way for in order to have his spirit uplifted and to remove the doubts he was having. Jesus finished His advice by reminding John the importance of seeing the blessings and good things God was still doing in the midst of his struggles.

Just like John the Baptist, we can struggle emotionally and spiritually as we go through difficult seasons in our lives. In these moments of struggle may we pause and reflect upon all the good things that Jesus is doing for us. I am always amazed whenever I listen to people talk about some of the hard things they are experiencing in life, how they are still able to share the good things their faith in Jesus is doing for them.

When we are in need of hearing something good, we can turn on a certain FM radio station and hope to catch a good story being shared. That might be a hit or miss depending on the programming schedule. What is a sure hit however is tuning into prayer to hear God share with us the many good ways He is blessing us.

**Keep safe and God bless,**

**Pastor Dean**

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