

DRESSED FOR THE VIBE AND ATMOSPHERE

When I attended my movie premiere back in June, my daughter and wife provided me with their suggestions about what I should wear. This past Wednesday night I was scheduled to be in Toronto for a very important event. I know many of you think I was asked to attend a showing at the Toronto International Film Festival based on my acting skills. For some reason, my phone has not been ringing with offers for me to take on new roles.

The event in Toronto happened to be a music concert that my daughter bought tickets for. On the afternoon of the concert, I received a text message from my daughter informing me I had to wear either green or brown to match the vibe and atmosphere of the event. I began looking in my closet to see what I had in those two colors. I noticed pairs of brown and green pants on the top shelf that I had not worn in a while. I tried on each pair and discovered I could not do up the button to either. I did not stop to ponder what message that might be sending to me. I finally found a pair of green pants with an elastic waist that fit. I felt even better when I had to add a belt so that the waistline fit snugger.

I then focused on choosing a top that might fit the vibe and atmosphere. The concert was to be held at an outdoor venue, so I had to consider the weather in choosing my top so as not to be too hot, nor too cold that evening. Thankfully my tops still seem to fit me better than my pants. I ended up dressed all in green looking like Kermit the Frog, but at least my outfit matched the vibe for the event. When I picked my daughter up at university to drive her to the concert, she too had a lovely green top to match the vibe of the event. Several hours later we found ourselves at Rogers Stadium enjoying the concert. Not everyone was dressed in green or brown, but my daughter was thrilled that we chose our outfits accordingly and she thanked me afterward for making the effort I did.

I admit it is far easier for me to pick out clothes for church on Sunday than for my movie premiere and concert events. The experience I had ensuring I was wearing the right clothes for this event reminded me of the story Jesus told when somebody arrived at a wedding banquet dressed in the wrong clothing. It was customary back in Jesus' days for guests to be provided with wedding clothes to wear to the banquet afterward. It would be unthinkable on a guest's part to refuse to wear these clothes provided because it would be insulting toward the host. Jesus shared in this parable that when the king came in to

meet the guests at the banquet, he noticed a man who was not wearing the proper clothes provided for him and he was removed from the event as a result. The wedding banquet clothes that are referred to here by Jesus reflect the righteousness needed in order to enter God's Kingdom. Through His death on the cross, Jesus has provided these clothes of righteousness for everyone to choose to wear in order to experience eternal life which is represented here by the King's banquet.

This same point of us being provided with new clothes to wear to reflect our desire for holiness and righteousness was also mentioned by the prophet Zechariah:

Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel. So, the angel said to the others standing there, "Take off his filthy clothes." And turning to Jeshua he said, "See, I have taken away your sins and now I am giving you these fine new clothes. (Zechariah 3:3-4)

Just like I had to choose before the concert whether to put on clothes that matched the vibe and atmosphere of the event, ***we too must consciously choose to wear the clothes Jesus has picked out for us to reflect the vibe of desiring holy and righteous living.*** Choosing to put these clothes on each day is not only a reflection of our love, faith and trust in Jesus, but also of our desire to follow in His example of pursuing righteousness and holiness. Regardless of whether we put a lot of thought into what we will be wearing or just grab whatever is clean and handy, let's make sure ***as believers we never lose sight of including in our outfit our desire to wear righteousness and holiness on our sleeves and hearts.***

My outfit at the concert definitely matched the vibe and atmosphere of the event. As I mentioned earlier, my daughter appreciated the effort I went to in doing so. Let us keep this in mind when we pick out our outfits to wear each morning. Jesus will appreciate too when we put on the clothes that match the vibe of righteous and holy living.

Keep safe and God bless

Pastor Dean