

## HIS EYE WAS ON MY TIE

This past Sunday morning I stopped at a Tim Hortons to get a coffee before driving to the church. I typically do not do this before the service on Sundays. From Monday through Saturday I almost always stop at Tims in order to get my morning coffee, but on Sundays I will have my favourite beverage at home and not get one from there until later in the day. Because I did not have time to have my morning coffee at home this past Sunday, and knowing I had to rush off right after the service to drive to London to see my daughter's basketball game, I realized it was my best chance to enjoy my morning beverage. I also realized that if I tried to drive to London without having had my morning coffee it was going to be a very grumpy trip for me. When I went into Tims before the service, I was wearing one of my favorite ties that has 3 crosses on it and these words from **Psalm 19:1**:

### **The heavens declare the Glory of God!**

When I placed my order for a large double-double, I could tell my tie caught the eye of the employee taking my order. I noticed that his eyes glanced down in order to see what it said. This employee has served me coffee on many different occasions before, but I do not think he has ever seen me in my Sunday best wearing this tie. Prior to this he may have thought I was just a regular customer who loves his coffee, but after his eye caught sight of my tie he would realize this regular customer was also a believer who loves the Lord.

Sometimes like this employee did with my tie, we will see somebody wearing a necklace with a cross on it, or earrings in this same shape, or a t-shirt with a Christian symbol or message on it that identifies to us they are a believer. It is not just the clothes or jewellery that we wear that let people know we are believers. I will sometimes notice at a restaurant that a person is a believer when I see them, or the group they are with, bow their heads and pray before they begin to eat. Sometimes in parking lots or waiting at traffic lights I will also notice a bumper sticker on a person's car that identifies them as a believer. Whenever I see these bumper stickers, I am reminded of the story of a police officer pulling a car over after seeing these Christian sayings thinking the vehicle was stolen because the driver was driving too fast and with rage.

Whenever I remember this antidote, I am reminded of how people watch to see if our actions and behaviours as believers match the message, we try to convey whether it is through items we wear, or decals that we may place on our cars. I shared in a mid-week message a few years ago how my actions at a sleep clinic revealed to a technician that I was a pastor. While the technician was attaching various probes to me, I started up a conversation with her. I showed sincerity during the conversation in the questions I asked and before she finished, she asked what I did for a living. "When I told her I was a pastor, she replied, "I knew it. I could tell by the conversation you carried on with me."

People can identify us as believers by our words and actions. It is not just people who are watching to see if our actions match our belief. Scripture shows us how Jesus looks very

carefully at a person's actions in order to see this as well. One example where we see this can be found in a story from **Luke 21** where Jesus watched in the outer courtyard at the Temple as many rich people placed their gifts into the collection boxes. Jesus then noticed how a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. After seeing this, Jesus said to His disciples:

**I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.**

This poor widow's actions that day showed Jesus the love she had for the Lord through the sacrifice she made in her giving, and how she trusted Him to provide for her needs. Stories like this are meant to be reminders to us that Jesus is still watching to see if our actions and behaviours as His followers truly align with our belief. This is important to Him and should be for us as well knowing the impact our actions can have on others with respect to witnessing.

I have often heard it said that the best sermon preached is the one lived. We may not all be preachers and long winded like me, but we can still live our faith in a way that sends a powerful and heartfelt message to others of the importance of having faith in Christ.

On Sunday an employee at Tim's had his eye on my tie and discovered my love for the Lord. Up until that point his eye was probably on how quick I grabbed my beloved coffee each time and walked out with glee. Maybe I should stop in to some other Tim's on Sunday mornings wearing my tie.

Keep Safe and God Bless,

Pastor Dean