

GIVING US HIS BEST

Two Saturdays ago, Coral and I went over to Tim Hortons to sip on some coffee while we each did some work. A few tables away from us was someone being interviewed for a position there. After he finished his initial conversation with the manager, he was handed two binders to read through before meeting with her again. I peered over at him a few times and could see the effort he was putting into reading each page in the binders.

The very next Saturday I spotted this same person working behind the counter. I ordered my coffee and sat down to do some work and about 30 minutes later this employee came out to clean the tables and empty the trash containers. What caught me by surprise was that while he was cleaning, whenever he saw a customer entering or leaving, he would run to the door and hold it open for them. He did so each time with a smile and either welcomed or thanked the customer for coming. I am sure this was not included in the training manual he read the week before.

When it came time for me to leave, he stopped his cleaning and held the door open for me. When I thanked him for doing so and commented on how it is rare to see an employee go to such efforts, he responded by saying, **"I just want to give this job, and each customer my very best."** I was impressed by what he said, and how his actions and attitude expressed this.

The very next night Coral and I returned to Tim Hortons to sip coffee and do some work at one of the tables. Sure enough, this same employee was on and came out to do a very thorough cleaning of the seating areas and washrooms while we were working away. Even though it was his fifth day in a row working at his new job, he was still giving it his very best.

We often see this with people when it comes to starting something new. Perhaps we had that same approach and attitude when we started a new job, or something else new in our lives. We often see over time however, that this attitude of maintaining our best begins to dwindle.

Somebody who never changed when it came to giving us His best was Jesus. We see this in the very first miracle He performed at the wedding in Cana by turning the water into wine. When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, he commented, **"A host always serves the best wine first. Then when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best wine until now."** (John 2:10)." In His very first recorded miracle we see how Jesus did

not hold back when it came to giving us His best. This did not change during the three years of His public ministry.

When we read the stories of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we are reminded how Jesus gave us His best once again in these moments. Peter described what Jesus did for us best when he wrote:

Christ suffered for our sins once and for all time. He never sinned, but He died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)

Peter shared how Jesus gave us His best on that Good Friday and Easter Sunday by:

- Living each day leading up to it by saying no to sin and temptation so that He could be the best one to die for our sins.
- Giving us His best, by taking on our worst behaviours and sins so we could be forgiven through His sacrifice on the cross.
- Giving us the best relationship we can ever have in our lives by restoring our relationship with our Heavenly Father now that we are forgiven.
- Giving us the best view of our futures by not having to fear death, and knowing that through our belief in Him we will be raised back to life too, and spend eternity with Jesus.

Jesus always gave us His best and continues to do so now that He is in His rightful home in heaven. As believers, we may have started off giving Jesus our best when we first started following Him, but have we continued to do so over time? Do we still give Jesus our best when it comes to our time, our worship, our gifts and offerings, living as Christ tells us in how we treat others, and our service? If not, then may this Holy Week be a time we recommit to doing so. He took on our worst on that Good Friday, so that we could experience the best life that He has to offer. Let's make sure we are showing our appreciation by maintaining our best for Him, on a daily basis.

I don't know if the employee at Tim Hortons that just started will be able to keep up his best. His approach in his very first week was very impressive to say the least. Little did he know at the time his best would be an inspiration for a mid-week message.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean