

I KNEW MOST ANSWERS, BUT...

Last week I had to do an online quiz consisting of 23 questions. To pass this test, I had to get 18 answers right or achieve a grade of 78%. I was pretty good back in Divinity College when taking quizzes. My average then was usually in the high 80's or low 90's, but 25 years have passed. I have not taken many quizzes since then so I knew getting at least 78% could be a challenge.

Thankfully, before taking the quiz, there was a website where I could read about some of the information that might be asked. I studied and prayed equally as much before taking the test. On Thursday morning I clicked onto the quiz and began answering. Each question was multiple choice, and I had to click on the correct response. Some of the questions I knew the answer to immediately. I breathed a sigh of relief whenever these questions appeared. Some of the multiple-choice questions were very difficult because more than one option seemed to be the right response. I thought hard before clicking on those responses but afterward I would second guess if I made the right choice.

By question 15 I was beginning to wonder if I had already failed. I wished at that moment they had an on-going tally on the side telling me my current score. At least if I had already failed, I would not have to keep going. It was a tense 15-20 minutes completing all 23 questions. When I completed the final question, a message appeared saying, **"We are now tallying your answers!"** I took a deep breath and waited for my score. Shortly after this, the screen changed and my score appeared. I got 20 out of the 23 correct, or 87% percent on this test. Yes, it had been many years since I last took a test, but I am still maintaining my former average even 25 years later.

I was so excited I had to tell somebody. I sent a text to my daughter telling her she would be proud to know her dad can still score 87% on his tests. She messaged back and said, **"Rockstar work!"** I have not received a compliment like that before, but I took it. Naturally I had to reply saying, **"Pretty impressive considering I have only had one coffee for far this morning."** I then rewarded myself with my second large double-double for the day.

It felt good to realize I knew most of the answers to the questions on that quiz. On the other hand, I realize there were three questions that I did not have the right answer for. In this instance I am okay that I did not know the answers to certain questions. There are times in our lives, however, when we do want to

know the answers to the questions we have. This is often the case when our lives begin to unfold in ways we did not expect or plan.

This was the case for John the Baptist. He felt very fulfilled living out his calling preparing the way for the Lord by preaching in the wilderness, calling people to repent, and baptizing those who did in the Jordan. Circumstances changed for him when he was arrested and put in prison by Herod. While he was in prison, he began having doubts about Jesus and whether He was truly the Messiah. John needed answers to his questions about Jesus in this difficult moment in his life, so he sent his disciples to ask this question on his behalf. Jesus was not offended by John's questions and provided an assuring answer for him:

**Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen – 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.’”
(Matthew 11:4-6)**

Our Lord welcomes the questions for which we seek answers. ***Like John the Baptist did, we can take our questions to Jesus when life seems to turn in unexpected ways for us.*** When we do this, Jesus can provide us with the answers we need in that moment to provide us with assurance. There will be times however when He may not provide us with an immediate answer to our questions. We need to understand in these moments that it is not because Jesus does not know the answer but rather the timing may not be right for us to hear His response. When this is the case in our lives, let us make sure that we do not doubt our Lord in these moments, but rather keep living our lives trusting Him with our unanswered questions in life.

I am glad that I was successful with last week's test. This week a new test begins for me being a Leafs fan. That quiz has just two questions. First, how many times will I jump on and off the bandwagon this year, and second, will this be the year I finally celebrate my team winning the Stanley Cup. I do not know the answer to either yet, but if the answer to the first is 87 times like my score on last week's test, I would not be surprised.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean