

## ONE GOOD DEED DESERVES ANOTHER

In a message I wrote a few weeks ago I shared how a new employee at Tim Hortons was giving his best effort by being thorough when it came to cleaning the store and running to hold the door when customers arrived and left. On Sunday night I twisted my daughter's arm to agree for me to get her an ice cap from Tims to help motivate her as she began studying for her university exams. Part of my motivation for getting her to agree to do so was so that I could treat myself to a late night double-double.

When I arrived, this same employee happened to take my order. When I met him the first time, he shared with me how he had been assigned to work six days in a row that first week. As he was making my drinks, I asked him if he had to work six days in a row again this week. He stopped making my drinks and I could see he was thinking carefully what his shifts actually were. Not being able to recall what his shifts were, he ran into the back and looked at the schedule without finishing making my drinks. He looked just as confused when he came back as when he left. He went to the manager on duty and said, **"I didn't know I had to work on Wednesday too. I would have completely missed that shift if I had not looked."**

I considered the reminder I gave him to look at his schedule as my good deed in return for him making the effort to hold the door open for me a few weeks earlier. It should come as no surprise to anyone that I was back at Tim Hortons on Monday morning to get another large double-double. This time it was a female customer entering the store ahead of me who did a good deed by holding the door open. When she entered, she went in the wrong direction to get in line at the front counter and ended up behind me instead. Having experienced a good deed from her I insisted she get in line ahead of me since she arrived first.

We both waited in line behind a construction worker who is doing some work across the road from Tims. He had a big order of coffees and donuts for his coworkers on site. When it came to pay, he tried to do so with a credit card that is not accepted at Tim Hortons. This customer standing in front of me said she would cover the cost for him even though the amount was quite substantial. I was impressed to see, having already done one good deed that morning, her willingness to do more.

I was part of and witness to some good deeds in those two visits. It is always nice to see this kind of behavior on display. Sadly, it is not as common as it should be. Too often in these and other settings we come across people not giving consideration at all to holding open a door, or

showing a bit of kindness, or helping out somebody in need. Sometimes a person might only be willing to do this for a friend or somebody they know. As believers, showing kindness and care is something Jesus wants us to do consistently whether we know the person or not. This is something Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said to His listeners:

**"You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you. In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:43-45)**

A few verses later Jesus says that if we only show kindness to our friends, then we are no different from those who have not become true children of God. Showing kindness and care is something Jesus calls us to do as children of God. This expectation is reflected as well when He summarized the commandments in this way: **'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'**

If we truly love God as much as we claim that we do, then we need to show this by putting the same effort into displaying acts of love and kindness consistently toward others. When I see kind deeds on display, I do not know whether that person believes in Jesus. However, their display of care should cause us to reflect on whether we are being consistent in our calling. I was reminded a few days ago how blessed it is to see kindness offered and reciprocated. Hopefully we are not waiting for kindness to be offered to us first. Kindness must begin with someone. Why should it not begin with us as children of God? We sing a benediction piece at church called "Let There Be Peace on Earth." The first words to the song are:

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

I think these are great words to be reminded of each day, but I wonder if it would also be helpful to add these words afterward:

**Let there be kindness too, and let it begin with me.**

It would be nice to see a lot more of both in our world today. If we want to see more kindness and peace, it has to begin somewhere, so let's make sure it begins with us as children of our Heavenly Father.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean