

## **REMINDED OF THREE THINGS**

My daughter and I have become big fans of F1 racing these past few years. Rarely do we miss watching a race together even if the start time is as early as 3:00 a.m. like it was in China this past weekend. We have our favorite racers we cheer for, but they did not end up on the winners' podium this past weekend. The top two places were captured by Mercedes' drivers Kimi Antonelli and George Russell with Ferrari driver Lewis Hamilton coming in third position.

Lewis Hamilton drove for Mercedes for twelve years before switching over to Ferrari in 2025. When he was with Mercedes, Lewis Hamilton won 84 races and 6 world championships. Even though he switched to Ferrari, Toto Wolff who manages Mercedes still has a soft spot in his heart for Lewis Hamilton. This was very much evident last weekend seeing Toto Wolff's expressions watching his two current drivers and his former one together on the winner's podium. There was a huge smile on Toto Wolff's face when he was interviewed and he said on camera how he could not be more pleased by seeing these three drivers together.

After Toto Wolff shared his preference of seeing his top three drivers all together, it reminded me how we sometimes think in terms of three. For instance, I watched a television show recently where the character was interviewing for a job at a video store and was asked to name his top three movies of all time. Because he was nervous during the job interview, the character struggled. I am sure none of us would struggle coming up with our three favorite movies of all time. We equally could come up with identifying our three best vacations of all time, or our favorite three meals we enjoy. Of course, my congregation would have no trouble naming for anyone their top three sermons I have preached.

While we sometimes look at our favorite things when it comes to three, we often hear people say unpleasant things come in threes as well. Over the years I have had so many people share with me how funerals seem to happen in threes. I have also had people share with me how they have noticed this too when it comes to things breaking down in their house or car and having to put out unexpected expenses for repairs. I wish this was the case with the Toronto Maple Leafs only having three seasons with missing out on winning the Stanley Cup before hoisting it for the next three years.

All this focus on threes got me reflecting on the crosses on Golgotha and how there were three of them on the Friday Jesus was crucified. In John's gospel we are told:

**So, they took Jesus away. Carrying the cross by Himself, He went to the place called the Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha). There they nailed Him to the cross. Two others were crucified with Him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. (John 19:17-18)**

While John provided details on there being three crosses and Jesus centered in between the two others, Luke tells about the conversations each of these people had with Him that day.

**One of the criminals hanging beside Him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are You? Prove it by saving Yourself-and us, too while you're at it. But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." (Luke 23: 39-42)**

John's reference to the positioning of the three crosses and Luke providing for us the conversations each had with Jesus poses three questions for us to ponder at this time:

- Are we keeping Jesus at the center of our lives as reflected in the intentional position of His cross?
- Are we turning to Christ as the one criminal did in his time of dire circumstance and asking Jesus to remember us?
- Do we tend to blame Jesus and put demands on Him when facing dire circumstances like the one criminal did?

We often say things come in threes. It will not be very long before we revisit Golgotha on Good Friday where the three crosses were placed. Let's take the time between now and then to reflect upon these three questions. Let's also take time to reflect upon the top three things we love about Jesus when it comes to following Him. I am sure such a list will prove very enlightening.

Keep safe and God bless,  
Pastor Dean