

SOCKS AND SOLES AND OTHER SOULS

In the lead up to Christmas my wife often complained that I was borrowing her black socks and stretching them out by wearing them. I wish I could say her complaint was unwarranted, but it was legitimate. The problem was I could no longer find matches to any of my black dress socks. Even though Nadine's black socks were casual in style, they fit the purpose well enough whenever I had to dress up for ministry.

After many legitimate complaints I figured I would be getting some black socks of my own for Christmas. I tried to find my wife some new socks before Christmas too, but where I normally get them, they were out of stock. Nadine purchased some from Amazon for herself, but when they came in, they were very thin on the bottom, so she sent them back. A few days ago, I happened to notice a pair of my new socks on Nadine's feet. I was about to complain when I realized I could not say they would be stretched out because her feet are much smaller than mine.

We have quite a collection of socks in our house right now. It begins with a pile of socks that we have no matches for. Every time we do a load of laundry and find a sock without a match, we look through the pile to see if we can find its mate. Unfortunately, it seems like the pile keeps growing rather than dwindling. We not only have quite a collection of mismatched socks, but various styles and varieties as well. For instance:

- Some are dress socks while others are athletic.
- Some come higher up on the leg while others stop at the ankle.
- Some have sayings written on the bottom while others have grips so as not to slide.
- Some are casual and others have cute images on them.

Despite the variety of socks we have, their purpose is to cover the soles of our feet in order to provide us with protection, warmth, and comfort. My thought process with respect to socks and how they cover our soles, eventually led me to think about another soul we have that needs proper caring for.

Sometimes we need to be reminded how our souls need spiritual food and caring just like our physical bodies do. Jesus pointed this out during a conversation He had with a Samaritan woman at a well. After this woman drew water for Jesus to drink, He began sharing with her the water that He provides for one's soul.

Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life. (John 4:13-14)

This was most likely the first time that anyone had talked with this woman about the difference between physical hunger and thirst as opposed to spiritual. Jesus was encouraging her to satisfy her soul's spiritual thirst and hunger just like she was addressing her physical thirst by drawing water from the well. Jesus shared with her that a relationship with Him, the true living Word, as well as a hunger for the written Word, the Bible, would satisfy the needs of her soul and spiritual well-being.

After I reflected upon this passage addressing the needs of our souls, I decided to return to what started this journey which was socks. I took some of the benefits socks provide for the soles of our feet and applied some of these aspects to our souls. Questions I began asking included:

- Just as socks should have a proper match, do we take the time to properly match our souls with Jesus?
- Just as holes appear in the toe and heel of our socks, are there any holes in our souls that are preventing them from being properly filled by Him and His Word?
- Just as some socks are meant to be casual, are we becoming too casual in meeting our spiritual needs?

Because of a gift given to me at Christmas, I now have the socks I need to provide warmth, comfort, and protection to the soles of my feet. The gift given to us at Christmas in Jesus coming into His very own creation in order to be our Savior and fulfill our spiritual needs is doing this for my soul too. Let's make sure the lesson from the socks gets us reflecting whether we are properly caring, not just for the soles of our feet, but also for our other soul, too.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean