

Something in Common

On Sunday night, as I drove back onto my street after taking my daughter back to university, I noticed something I had in common with many of my neighbors. It was evident how many of us spent time during the weekend raking up leaves and placing the bags out front for collection the next morning. The snow that fell the previous weekend caught many people off guard when it came to their leaves. When the snow eventually melted many people were out raking up whatever remaining leaves they had. I had 12 bags to place out front of my house. The neighbor beside me had 6 bags while the two living across from me each had 15 and 18 bags respectively. At the one end of my road many of the people had 25 bags or more in front of their homes. I do not know many of my neighbors by name or much about their lives but one thing we all shared this past weekend was a desire to clean up our yards of all the leaves.

It was not just driving down my street that I was reminded how I shared some things in common with others. When I went into Tim Hortons on Friday morning a couple sitting there called me over while I was waiting for my coffee. I had seen them there many times before but had never really engaged in any lengthy discussions with them. They asked about my daughter and mentioned how they shared something in common with one of her best friends. I discovered their grandson happens to be dating one of my daughter's best friends. I was anxious to share this experience with my daughter, so I called her at school and told her about what she shared in common with this couple. The interesting thing was this couple was in Tim Hortons again on Saturday when I went in with my daughter. It was easy for her to start up a conversation with them knowing they shared in common knowing the same person.

Sometimes it is interesting to see what we may have in common with others. We have probably also experienced the opposite scenario with somebody and realized that we have nothing in common with them. And other times we find we have more than we realize in common. I sometimes find it interesting to discover how some spouses and siblings share very little in common with one another. As a pastor I am reminded every Sunday that something I share in common with my parishioners is not only our love for God through Jesus Christ but also our desire to live our lives with faith in Him. The more we learn about our Christian walk and faith, the more we discover that something we should share in common with our Lord and Savior Jesus is having the same interests and attributes that He does.

Jesus shared that an attribute we should have in common with Him would be the desire to strive toward becoming more perfect. He expressed this desire in His Sermon on the Mount:

**But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.
(Matthew 5:47)**

We will not be perfect and flawless on this side of heaven like Jesus was, but according to Him that should not stop us from striving toward having this attribute in common with Him by desiring to being more Christ-like in our actions. As we strive to share this in common with Jesus we should discover as we mature in our faith that we are becoming more like Him. With this understanding in mind, a question I think we need to reflect upon is **what actions and behaviours** do we identify that we are sharing in common with Jesus right now in our faith journey? For instance:

- Do we share in common with Jesus the desire to always show respect and reverence toward the Father?
- Do we share in common with Jesus a desire to do the Father's will?
- Do we share in common with Jesus a desire to worship and pray in our Father's house every Sabbath?
- Do we share in common with Jesus a desire to show love, care, forgiveness, and respect toward others?
- Do we share in common with Jesus a desire to witness?

The more we grow and mature when it comes to our faith, the more we should be seeing signs that we have more in common with Jesus as seen in these actions. If we are not seeing this in ourselves, then may my weekend of recognizing some of the things I have in common with others be the starting place for us to strive to be more like Jesus.

Keep safe and God bless,
Pastor Dean