

## THE MYSTERY

On Sunday morning I was reminded about one of the greatest mysteries in life. This may surprise you, but I am not referring to the mystery as to why my beloved Toronto Maple Leafs lost in the first round once again on the previous night. Sunday morning's mystery actually had to do with why so many socks come back without a match after being put in the wash.

At one point in my life, I thought women knew the answer to this mystery and it was just us men who did not. Perhaps this mindset came from having watched an episode of a television show where a room full of husbands all had mismatched socks on and their wives were smiling at one another like they knew the secret. In the past I always blamed my wife for why there were so many socks in my drawer with no matches because she did the laundry. The other reason why I was of this mindset is up until the past year or so my wife did most of the laundry so naturally, she must know the answer to this mystery. I am getting a new perspective about this mystery now that I have been doing more of the laundry lately.

When we were getting ready for church on Sunday morning, Nadine opened her sock drawer to discover most of them were missing. She brought this to my attention, so I pointed to the end of the bed where there were several of her clean socks laying there with no matches. She tried putting on a pair of mismatched socks that we men have become accustomed to wearing but because they were of two different lengths she did not find them to be comfortable. She did not share with me at that moment the answer to the mystery, so I realized right then and there it still remains a secret where socks go missing after being washed.

On Monday morning after I put on a pair of mismatched socks, it was time for me to pray and ask God for inspiration for this week's message. He reminded me of Sunday morning's mystery which led me to begin looking up references to "mystery" and "secrets" in the Bible. I did not find the mystery to missing socks in my research, but I was reminded through one of Paul's writings that God does not want it to be a secret for us to understand what He expects us to know and do. I found this in a section of Paul's first letter to Timothy where he helps him to understand faith in a way so that it will not be a mystery of how to please God.

**Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)**

Paul reveals here that in order to live a life pleasing to God it is vital to believe even though Jesus took upon Himself a human body, He is also divine in nature. Jesus' divinity is vindicated by the Spirit at the time of His resurrection from the grave and His ascension back into heaven. Having the right understanding and belief in Jesus is just the first step according to Paul in knowing how to live a life pleasing to God.

Paul also shares with Timothy in this letter the importance of depending in Christ to help us know how to live a life pleasing to God. Paul reveals how Jesus has shown us ***through His example*** how to live a life in a pleasing way to God, and through the power and help of the Holy Spirit we have the ability to do so as well. Paul shares this information with Timothy in order that it is no mystery to him or others what we should be doing in order to live a life pleasing to God.

When it comes to the mystery of socks, we wonder where the match went missing. A comment, or perhaps a criticism, I hear often from people is, it is a mystery to them why they do not see a perfect match between a believer's professed love for Jesus, and how they are living their faith for Him on a daily basis. To these people there appears to be a mismatch between a believer's words and actions. Would a family member, co-worker, neighbour, or friend have this same observation about us and how we are living our faith? If so, it is no mystery as to what has gone missing. We have slipped away from relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to help us pattern our lives the way Jesus did. Let us put this mistake in the wash to be cleansed by forgiveness and start once again working with the Spirit so we can be a matching pair with Jesus.

I still do not know the mystery of where socks go missing when put in the wash. I also do not know the mystery of why the Leafs keep disappointing me in the first round of the playoffs. At least faith does not remain a mystery. I am thankful and truly blessed for that.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean