

WATCH YOUR SHOES

Besides helping me with many of my ministry tasks, my wife Nadine also does house cleaning for several clients. This past Friday afternoon she was cleaning at the home of a client she has had for several years. This client's daughter happened to be visiting when Nadine arrived but was soon leaving to travel back to her home in Buffalo after having spent the past few days here.

While Nadine was still there, the daughter packed up all her things and left to drive back to her home in Buffalo. When Nadine finished, she went to the door to put on her shoes but did not see them. She began searching around the house and could not find them anywhere. Even the client joined in the search for the missing shoes, but he could not spot them either. Nadine ended up driving home in just her socks.

It was around 6:00 p.m. when Nadine received a phone call from her client to inform her that the shoes had been found in Buffalo. Apparently, the daughter has shoes that are similar to Nadine's and mistook them for being hers. I believe God knew this was going to happen to Nadine. The reason why I say that is Nadine went shopping at Walmart earlier that week for a new pair of shoes before they were replaced with winter boots. Nadine does not shop for shoes very often. I think God prepared her for what He knew would happen on Friday by at least ensuring Nadine had a new pair of shoes to wear while her old pair spends some time in Buffalo.

This incident got me thinking about shoes and in particular references made to them in the Bible. The Bible makes clear to us that God was the very first fashion designer when He made clothes for Adam and Eve after He had to banish them from living in the Garden of Eden. We are told that God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and Eve but there is no mention if sandals were included in this wardrobe.

References to sandals and shoes pop up at some interesting spots in the Bible. For instance, in Exodus 3, when Moses began to approach the burning bush, he was told to take off his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. Then in Exodus 12, God gave instructions for the Hebrews to eat the Passover meal while fully dressed, wearing their sandals, and carrying their walking sticks in their hand. This would be a sign of faith on the Hebrew's part

believing God would soon deliver on His promise to lead them out of Egypt. Then in Ephesians 6 we find the kind of footwear we need to be wearing in order to stand firm against all of the strategies of the devil. Paul tells us in **Ephesians 6:14-16:**

Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.

While Paul goes on to mention other pieces of God's armour we need to put on, the *shoes are meant to encourage us to experience the true peace that comes from a relationship with God through Christ and to witness this Good News to others.*

These are just some of the references to shoes and sandals found in Scripture. Now that we see the spiritual meanings attached to our shoes it is important for us to begin to watch our shoes "so to speak" to see what they may be revealing to us about our walk with the Lord. As we watch our shoes are we seeing:

- **the moments when God is having us walk on holy ground?**
- **that we are walking in faith believing God keeps His promises to us?**
- **that we are experiencing the strength to resist the devil's attacks?**
- **that we are experiencing the true and lasting peace that comes from God?**
- **that we are walking in Jesus' sandal prints as He leads us?**

If we are watching our shoes in a spiritual sense, then these are some of the things we should be noticing in our walk with the Lord. Let's keep watching our shoes very carefully in our daily walk with the Lord to ensure we are experiencing all of these blessings in our steps.

Nadine's shoes will eventually return when the daughter comes back to visit her father. For now, they are in Buffalo, but they are still being put to good use by providing us with this important lesson.

Keep safe and God bless

Pastor Dean