

A Retro Moment

On Sunday afternoon and evening Coral spent time going through Nadine's and my closets in search of some of our outfits and items from the 90's. Apparently, "RETRO" has come back into style recently amongst teenagers. Coral has the right parents when it comes to "RETRO" since both Nadine and I are in our 50's. Yes, our closet still has outfits from the 90's and late 80's.

At first Coral focused her attention solely on Nadine's closet. It was interesting seeing Coral put on some of Nadine's dress jackets from the 90's. After she put on one of her mom's red jackets Coral looked in the mirror and said, "I look like Hillary Clinton in this jacket". If Coral was wearing dress pants at the time, she would have looked like Hillary.

After we got back from visiting the Rev. Mother Sunday night, Coral went back upstairs in search of more "RETRO" clothes. I was downstairs watching the Leafs lose to Columbus, but I could hear a bit of laughing and giggling going on as Coral was looking through our clothes. Later that night I heard Coral yell, "Wow Dad, I didn't know you had this sweater". I looked and there was Coral wearing a University of Michigan sweater that I hadn't worn in years. It looked good on her. Next thing I heard her telling me was, "It's mine now Dad, thanks". My loss was her gain but if it saves me buying her a new sweater for school in the fall then it is my gain as well.

With clothes we can go back in time. Many of us wish we could go back in time to our lives pre-COVID-19 right about now. Even though it has only been since March that our world has been affected by this pandemic, it seems so much longer to us when life used to be normal:

- Not having to wear masks when we went out.
- Not worrying about gathering with friends and relatives.
- Not having only 50 people at a funeral.
- Going to church on Sunday mornings as opposed to watching it on TV or online.
- Not being able to shake a person's hand or give a hug.
- Not having to think about whether it is safe to return to work or send children or grandchildren to school.
- Seeing fans in the stands watching hockey, baseball, or basketball.

These things that we considered to be aspects of our normal life seem to be part of our distant past. I think all of us wish this pandemic could just be over and we could return to life as normal and how things used to be. Even when a vaccine is found, things will not return to the way they used to be. There will be no “RETRO” when it comes to living our lives after COVID-19. We are being told that we will have to accept a “new normal” to our lives. We are beginning to see some indications of what that “new normal” will be like:

- More people will continue to work from home instead of returning to the workplace.
- Churches will have to continue to offer on-line services for their parishioners.
- There will be fewer retail stores for us to shop at and we may have to buy more on-line.
- Some universities and colleges will continue to offer online courses to students.

These are just some of the things that will be part of our “new normal”. Whatever changes will be part of our “new normal” will not be easy for us to embrace. Part of us will mourn and yearn to have life go RETRO to our previous normal. We will have to learn to accept this “new normal” whatever that may be. Something that may help us adapt to these new changes and realities is these words from Jesus

“FOLLOW ME!”

Think of the disciples who heard these words spoken by Jesus:

- *“When Andrew and John heard these words, they were already disciples of John the Baptist yet left him for Jesus.*
- *When Simon Peter heard these words as well, he left his life as a fisherman.*
- *When Levi (Matthew) the tax collector heard these words, he left behind his life as a tax collector.*

Every one of the disciples left behind their “normal lives” and lifestyles to follow Jesus! They journeyed in faith with Jesus to experience a “new normal” as followers of Jesus. We will be wise to learn from these disciples as we journey into our new normal:

- Like them, simply follow Jesus moving forward.
- Like them, trust that Jesus will safely lead us into the new and unknown.
- Like them, realize that Jesus will be in control of the situations He leads us into.
- Like them, trust that Jesus will provide for us in this “new normal”.
- Like them, know that Jesus will provide us with new realities, new opportunities that will bring us joy in this new normal.

As much as we would like to go “RETRO” and return to our old normal, the reality is there is no heading back and we are moving into a “New Normal”. Let us make sure that we do so following Jesus. With Jesus leading and us obediently following Him, no matter what this “new normal” entails we will get through it with Him.

My daughter’s plan today is to spend a bit more time going through my closet in hopes of finding a few more “RETRO” clothes to add to her wardrobe. I might lose a few more things in my wardrobe, but probably not my old Toronto Maple Leaf sweaters. She is too smart and wise to put these items on. Let’s be smart and wise to put on our faith each day and follow Jesus into our “New Normal”. No looking back, just keep looking ahead at our Saviour who faithfully leads us.

Keep Safe & God Bless,

Pastor Dean