

DEPENDING ON THE SHOES I WEAR

Our dog Daisy is paying very close attention to what shoes I put on lately. If I happen to put on my old running shoes, she gets very excited and runs to the back door thinking I will be working out in our pool area. The reason why she gets excited is because there are usually lots of chipmunks for her to chase around our pool area. Even if there is not one initially for her to chase, if she stays patient, one usually appears, and she sets chase. If I put on my newer running shoes, then she assumes it is time for her to go for a walk. When she sees me put these shoes on, Daisy will usually jump off the couch, stretch her back legs, and come over to have her leash put on. If she sees me dressed up on a Sunday morning and start putting on my dress shoes, then Daisy usually puts her head back down and falls asleep. It has been interesting of late to see the various reactions I get from Daisy depending on the shoes I put on.

I am sure we all have shoes we put on for different occasions. We may have a certain pair of shoes we prefer to walk or exercise in. We may have some shoes that we wear with a particular outfit. We may have other shoes for cutting the lawn or working in the garden. We may have certain shoes we tend to wear depending on the season. The fact that we are in summer right now brings out certain shoes and sandals that we do not wear in other seasons. We may have certain shoes that we purchased to wear to work, or when we dress up to go out to the theater or church. Some of us may have a lot of shoes we like to wear, and others keep just a few.

Back in Biblical times, I imagine most people had just one pair of sandals that they would wear until they wore out. One of the interesting things we discover in certain passages of Scripture is how the wearing or removing of sandals reveals a lot about a person's attitude toward God. One example where we find this is when Moses began to approach the burning bush. As he got closer, Moses heard this warning from God:

**"Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground."
(Exodus 3:5)**

It was God's command here for Moses to remove his sandals as a sign of respect and reverence. Moses did as God desired and approached Him with the right attitude and the respect deserving of our sovereign Lord. Nine chapters later God commanded Moses to tell the Hebrews to put on their sandals as opposed to removing them before they ate the Passover meal. Here were God's instructions:

These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. (Exodus 12:11)

Following God's instructions to be fully dressed and wearing their sandals as they ate the Passover meal would be a sign of faith on the Hebrews' part that God would fulfill His promise to deliver them from the Egyptians.

These two examples with respect to the wearing and removing of the sandals are meant to reveal two aspects in our relationship with God:

1. Are we giving God the proper respect or are we approaching Him frivolously?
2. Are we showing trust and faith in Him as we walk through life?

Some of us may be wearing sandals right now because of the time of year. What are our sandals, or whatever shoes we are choosing to wear revealing about our relationship with God right now?

- Are we approaching Him like Moses did at the burning bush, or keeping our distance from Him right now?
- Are we respecting His decisions for us, or are we angry and showing some disrespect toward God as a result of what is going on in our life right now?
- Are we walking in faith right now, or more in fear, and carrying doubts?

It would be a good opportunity right now for us in this season of wearing sandals to see what it might be revealing to us about our walk with God. We know that it is our all-loving God's desire for us to walk closely with Him, giving Him the respect He deserves and showing complete trust in Him. If this is not our walk right now, maybe it is time for us to adjust our sandals or change them so this can be our journey with God.

During this spring and summer Daisy seems to be keeping a close eye on the shoes I put on to see how it may impact her. It is funny to see, and I have to be careful at times not to give her the wrong impression. It seems Daisy is not the only one keeping a close eye on the shoes I am wearing. God may be keeping a close eye on us, too. Let us make sure we keep this in mind.

Keep safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean