

EVIDENCE IN THE FOOTPRINTS

I shared with you in a mid-week message a while back how I went out one morning to get my neighbour's garbage bins that were on the road, and he came out of the house at the same time. It led to a little trash talk between neighbours, but he appreciated the fact that I wanted to help him out by taking his bins in. Last week it was my wife's turn to do the same for our neighbour.

Nadine saw that our neighbour's bins were out on the street as she came home for lunch after finishing at the client she cleaned for that morning. Before bringing in our bins, Nadine went next door and took in our neighbour's recycling bins and trash container. I did not know she had done this for our neighbour until four days later. He sent a text message on the Friday thanking her for doing that for him.

When she received this thank you, Nadine wondered how he knew it was her and not me who brought the bins in. Neither he nor his wife was home at the time when she did this. I said to her that I bet he saw her footprints in the snow on his driveway once he got home. When Nadine texted him back to ask how he knew it was her he confirmed that he could tell it was her by the size of the footprints left in the snow. It is easy to recognize Nadine's footprints because she wears a size 2 youth boot. Not many kids with that size of feet would carry somebody's recycling bins in, but my wife certainly would, as a kind deed to a good neighbour.

The incident was a reminder to me how the footprints we leave can be a source of information about us. Snow, sand, and dirt can be just a few surfaces in which we leave our footprints. A quick search on the internet reminded me that footprints can also be left on countertop surfaces, chairs, and even people. There would be some interesting and perhaps disturbing stories how footprints got left on those surfaces. I was also reminded how footprints are still left on the moon from the earlier moon landings.

Footprints here do not last as long as on the moon, yet they can still be very revealing. The question I thought might be interesting to consider this week in my message is ***what are our footprints revealing to us and others right now?*** To help us in examining the footprints we are leaving, consider these questions:

- Are our footprints revealing that we are walking closely with God right now, or rather far apart from Him, or in the opposite direction?
- Are our footprints revealing that we are walking with clarity and purpose right now, or in uncertainty and confusion?
- Are our footprints revealing that we are walking with strength and confidence right now, or in fear and worry?
- Are our footprints showing we are walking in the direction of helping others, or avoiding situations to be of help?
- Are our footprints showing we are walking with somebody else, or basically alone for the most part?
- Are our footprints showing we are walking in the ways of God, or in the ways of the world?
- Are our footprints showing we are walking on the promises of God, or on shaky and uncertain ground?

This is just a starting point for us to consider when it comes to examining our footprints in order to see what they are revealing to us and others right now.

As I began to consider these questions, the poem "[Footprints](#)" came to mind. I encourage you to Google the poem after you finish reading this message. It is a very enlightening reminder of how when we are going through some of life's most difficult of moments, we may only see one set of footprints in the sand. We may question where God was in these moments. The person in the poem who wondered this discovered the reason for seeing only one set of footprints was because God was carrying them through those tough moments in life.

It was not only this poem that came to mind as I considered the questions listed above, but also two very familiar hymns. The first hymn that came to mind was "Just a Closer Walk with Thee." The refrain from this hymn is very powerful and encouraging for us in our daily walk:

Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus is my plea, Daily walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I hope our footprints right now show this is what we are doing each day in the steps we take. The other hymn I thought about was "In the Garden!" Once again, the words we sing in the refrain to this hymn are important to be reminded of:

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own; And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.

These are very challenging and difficult days in which we are living for many different reasons. Now more than ever I think it is very important for us to ***examine our footsteps*** in order to see how closely we are walking with the Lord. We can try to walk through these days in own footsteps but if we do, we will find ourselves overwhelmed and struggling at times. Instead, if we choose to place our footsteps alongside our Lord, we will feel less overwhelmed and more able to overcome whatever challenges we may encounter in our daily walk.

By examining the footprints left in his driveway, my neighbour was able to figure out Nadine did a kind deed for him. By examining our footprints, we will be able to see the blessed and wonderful deeds our Lord does for us each day to help us face our struggles.

Keep safe and God bless

Pastor Dean