

GETTING WHAT WE WISH FOR

Before she went to bed on Sunday night my daughter was hoping that Monday was going to be a snow day resulting in school being cancelled. Sure enough she got what she wished for. We let her sleep in when we learned school was cancelled. Just as I sat down at my computer to type this message around 10:00 a.m. on Monday morning I heard my daughter get up and scream with excitement that she got what she wished for. Each one of us has this tendency to wish for certain things to happen. For instance:

- Leaf fans wish their team could play to their actual potential on a consistent basis, but we do not see that happen enough
- my parishioners wish to hear a good sermon every Sunday, but I will have to let them tell you if that happens or not
- we may wish for the doctor to report good news after a series of tests and check-ups.
- we may wish for God to answer our prayers in a certain manner and time frame
- we may wish to take a trip or vacation to a certain destination
- or we may wish for somebody to call or pay us a visit sometime

The list of the things we wish for is endless. Our wish list can vary day to day, and there may be some items on it that remain consistent. Some days we get the things that we wish for, but other times we do not. Those are not the days we let out an excited scream of joy like my daughter did that morning. On the days we don't get what we wish for we let out a sigh of frustration or find ourselves frowning and disheartened due to the disappointment. Not getting what we wish for is never easy for us. If this kind of day tends to become repetitive and consistent, then it can greatly impact our emotional and physical well being. Something else it can affect is our view of God. We see how this happened with Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve seemed to have everything they could ever wish for living in the Garden of Eden. They certainly did not have to worry about fashion trends. They could eat the fruit from any tree in the garden except for one. They walked in fellowship with God and there was no sin, violence, or illness at that time. What more could they have wanted or wished for? One day Eve

began to wish for the one thing they did not have and that was to be able to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of what was good and bad. Satan made Eve begin to question God's goodness and motives by not giving her what she wished for. Because she questioned God's goodness in this moment, Eve sinned and then Adam followed suit and did so as well.

This illustration shows us the **dangers** that can happen when we begin to question God's goodness whenever we do not get what we wish for, or things do not work out in the way we desire. We begin to wonder in those moments:

- If God really loves us?
- If God is punishing us?
- If God is ignoring us or forgetting about us?
- If God is truly good?

We sometimes begin to question God's goodness when we do not get what we wish for. If we ever find ourselves going down this path of thinking, may we remember what Jesus tells us about the Father in Mark 10:18:

"Why do you call me good? Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good."

Jesus' response here was to the rich young man calling him "Good Teacher", before asking what he must do in order to inherit eternal life. With His response, Jesus was not only revealing His true identity, but confirming for us that God's character is always good. It is so important for us to remember this whenever we begin to question God when things do not work out as we wish. Just like you, I do not always have things work out the way I wish. On those days I experience this, if I find myself beginning to question why, I always remind myself that regardless of what has happened God is good. In fact, just above my kitchen sink I have a sign that reminds me of this. It says: **God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.** By reminding myself of this truth daily, it helps me deal with life's disappointments when things do not work out as I had hoped. Instead of sinning or withdrawing from God in those moments, I lean into Him more, knowing He is good, and I appreciate having Him in my life. By doing this, it helps me to be truly thankful when I do get what I wish for.

In fact, just like my daughter I got what I wished for on Monday too. My neighbour who is a Montreal Canadien fan was out snow blowing his driveway early Monday. I hoped that he might come over and snow blow my driveway, but I have made a few comments to him about his choice of team lately, so I did not want to ask. About an hour after he finished, I took my dog Daisy outside and saw that he had cleared my driveway for me. I got what I wished for. Some days we get what we wish for and other days we do not, but one thing that does not change is **God is good all the time!** Obviously, it even applies when a Leaf fan has a Montreal Canadien fan as a neighbour.

Keep safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean