

## GOOD NEWS IN THE MIDST OF BAD NEWS

***Jesus traveled through the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And He healed every kind of disease and illness. (Matthew 4:23)***

As we progress deeper into this second wave of COVID-19 it seems like the news is getting worse:

- *Hearing reports on the high number of cases each day,*
- *Listening to the number of deaths,*
- *Stating that the health care system is at a tipping point,*
- *Modeling data projecting infection rates could rise to 6,000 daily by mid-December if restrictions are not put into place,*
- *Receiving updates that some areas of our province are moving into the red category and experiencing further restrictions,*
- *Medical experts wanting the province to go back into a complete lockdown like we saw in March and April,*
- *Restaurants and other businesses saying they won't survive another shut down,*
- *Situations worsening in other provinces and the United States and Europe,*
- *More outbreaks in our Long-Term Care facilities putting the most vulnerable at risk,*
- *The Government of Canada having to put more money into COVID-19 recovery plans increasing our level of debts.*

With a pandemic like this comes a steady stream of reports that are filled with bad news. The more bad news we are exposed to, the more depressed and discouraged we can become. In the midst of it we have to find some "good news" to lift our spirits. I found my good news this morning.

A person I have gotten to know at the place where I get gas has been expecting the birth of their first child. For four weeks now every time I have gone into pay for my gas, I keep asking how he and his wife are doing with the delivery date drawing closer and closer. Every time I asked him the biggest smile would come across his face as he would say, "***I just can't wait to get the call that we need to go to the hospital***". On Tuesday morning I went inside to pay for my gas and this expectant father wasn't there. I asked the person who was at the cash register if the baby had come and sure enough this couple is now blessed with a

baby girl who was born at a healthy weight of over 8 lbs. I couldn't be happier for this couple and their good news. Hearing about their good news reminded me that all is not bad in the midst of the news we are receiving during this pandemic.

We need "good news" in the midst of bad news. This was exactly what Jesus provided to the people during His public ministry. As Matthew's gospel tells us, when Jesus travelled through the region of Galilee teaching in the synagogues, He shared the "Good News" about the kingdom. The "Good News" that Jesus shared is that the kingdom of Heaven has indeed come into this world, that God is indeed with us and cares for us. Jesus taught this "Good News" and then displayed it by healing people of their physical illnesses and also of their spiritual ones too. Jesus' words and actions were received as "Good News" by many people at the time because they offered to them freedom, hope, peace of heart and eternal life with God.

In the midst of "bad news", we need to be reminded that there is still "good news" out there. As my example from this morning showed, sometimes we must be intentional in seeking and finding some good news to uplift us. If I had not intentionally asked the person at the gas station if that couple had the baby yet, I would not have been blessed with hearing the good news and being uplifted as a result. In order not to let all the bad news we are hearing right now as a result of this second wave get us down and depressed, we need to be intentional about staying close to the "Good News" which Jesus offers. Let's make sure right now we stay close to the Good News by:

- ***Not missing a Sunday service whether it be in-house or on-line,***
- ***Reading our Bible on a regular basis so that we are blessed with some "Good News" reading,***
- ***Praying on a daily basis and staying close to Jesus who is the source of all that is good.***

By being intentional about experiencing the "Good News" these ways, it will assure us that God is indeed with us, that He cares for us, and that He is keeping our hearts at peace. Christ's "GOOD NEWS" is the best way to keep us persevering and hopeful as we endure the bad news that keeps bombarding us through this pandemic. Let us all keep intentional at being blessed by the GOOD NEWS.

Keep Safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean