

HOW I KNOW

Two weeks ago, we went out for brunch after the Sunday service with my mother and when it came time to pay the bill, I had to go up to the front counter to do so. When I got there, I happened to overhear a conversation some of the waitresses were having. The one waitress was suggesting that their restaurant should really promote pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Her colleagues were confused as to the connection between Shrove Tuesday and pancakes. She began to explain to them and after doing so looked over at me and asked, "You knew that didn't you?" I smiled and said yes but did not reveal how I knew because I wanted to wait and see if a certain something was mentioned. It did not take long for what I was hoping for to be mentioned. When her colleagues asked her how she knew this she replied, "At church when I used to go and serve at some of the pancake suppers there!" I smiled when I heard this and replied, "That is how I knew too!"

It is nice to see how some people still know things they have learned while in church. It is so easy for us to forget certain things we learned in the past. I am constantly reminded of this whenever I am asked by my daughter for help with her homework. I shared with you a few months ago how I had to teach myself again how to do functions and trigonometry in order to help her with math. I used to know how to do it in high school and university, but the years have not been kind to me remembering how to do this kind of math. I found the same thing with French when my daughter was taking it in Grade 10. I was really good at it in my high school years. It took me a little time to figure it out, but I was pleased how I was able to help my daughter understand certain tenses in French better.

Just as we have learned at school, we have also experienced this over the years at church. Over the years we have heard many sermons preached and have had various lessons taught to us in Sunday School and sitting in the pews. How much do we still know and remember over all of this time? Are we able to recall certain truths and teachings from our years at church like the waitress at the restaurant was able to do? For instance, do we truly know in our heart of hearts and with complete certainty:

- that **we do not have to let worry dominate our thoughts** because our Heavenly Father already knows our needs,
- that **we do not have to walk through the valley of the shadow of death alone** because our Shepherd is there to guide and lead us,
- that **no situation or problem is ever hopeless for us because nothing is impossible for our Heavenly Father,**
- that **our faith in God through Christ is our greatest asset and blessing** as we live each day in this fallen world,
- that **God is still in control despite all the chaos and uncertainty** we are seeing in our world right now,
- that **God is with us** each moment of every day,
- that **God is on our side**, and nothing can separate us from His love?

I am sure you may have heard sermons and teachings on each one of these truths and so many more over the years. How well we learned them at the time will be revealed when we face storms in our lives. This point comes out at the end of Jesus' teachings in His Sermon on the Mount. This sermon is the most famous one Jesus preached and covered many different topics over several days.

At the end of the sermon Jesus told the parable of two builders who each wanted to build a house. One built his house on solid rock while the other built his on sand. **The different foundations were meant to represent how people learn and apply Jesus' teachings when they hear them.** The builder who built his home on solid rock listened to Jesus' teachings, placed them in his heart, and applied them to his life. His house withstood the storm. The builder who built his house on sand also heard Jesus' teaching but did not place them in his heart nor apply them to his life. As a result, his house did not endure the storm. The storms we face in life will be an indicator to us how well we learned these truths about God at the time and put them in our hearts. I pray each one of us still knows the lessons and truths about God we have learned through the years and as a result is able to stand firm through the storms we are facing right now or at some point down the road.

If we have been more like the builder who placed his house on sand and have not placed these lessons in our hearts, then **the best place we can begin to change this is by taking time each day to be still before God.** This is what

we are told to do in **Psalm 46:10: BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!**
By spending time being still before God in prayer or in worship each Sunday at church, it will help us once again come to know the important truths I highlighted above about God. Spending this time getting to know Him better again will hopefully make us realize how important it is to know these truths and place them in our hearts so they can bless us on the stormy days as well as the calm ones.

A waitress knew the connection between Shrove Tuesday and pancakes because of what she learned in church. I have been blessed to know a lot of things about how well my faith is placed in the Lord through many sermons I have heard and preached at church. I have also learned the connection between pancakes and Shrove Tuesday through church. I have also come to learn the hard way that eating two pancakes on a Shrove Tuesday is usually my limit.

Keep Safe and God Bless,

Pastor Dean