

MY TIME WHEN TIME FAILED ME

Time is failing me right now. More specifically, my Toronto Maple Leafs watch is failing to keep proper time right now. During the course of each day, it seems to fall 5-10 minutes behind proper time. Frequently I have to check the proper time and reset my watch. My watch obviously needs a new battery. I imagine some of you are thinking it is not the battery but the fact that it is a Toronto Maple Leafs watch which is why it is falling behind. Some of you probably have a few good comments to send to me right now like:

- *Dean, your watch is just reminding you that the Leafs will fall out in the first round of the play-offs again!*
- *Or Dean, your watch is telling you that you have to fall back to 1967 to the last time they won a Stanley Cup.*
- *Or Dean your watch is telling you that your team never keeps up with the Leafs Nations' expectations.*

And if any of you are thinking about getting me a Montreal Canadiens watch right now, don't bother because I am not that desperate to know the proper time!

It's the battery, not the fact that it is a Toronto Maple Leafs watch, that is failing to keep proper time. I would go to my favourite jewelry store to get the battery replaced but I can't due to the current lockdown. I can't believe that Doug Ford does not deem it essential that a Leafs fan like me should be able to get a battery replaced in his favourite team watch! I am not blaming Doug Ford for these lockdowns, but sadly, many are blaming him and our federal leaders. There is a lot of blaming going on in the newspapers and on TV right now about how our political leaders and medical officers have been handling this pandemic. You have probably read or heard some of the blame and complaints:

- *The Prime Minister is being blamed for a lack of vaccines, delays, and not being stricter on international travel coming into Canada.*
- *Federal officials are blaming provinces saying they are holding back too many vaccines in reserve and not getting them into people's arms.*
- *Doug Ford is being criticized by doctors and medical experts for not listening to proper advice and not locking things down further.*
- *Certain media are blaming government officials for not doing a cost and benefit analysis of the costs associated with the lockdowns.*
- *People are complaining about why golf courses have to be closed and why the Premier thought that closing playgrounds was a good idea.*

Every day I hear politicians, medical experts, media pundits and people in general blaming our leaders for the current situation we find ourselves in. The reason why

we blame others is WE PERCEIVE WE ARE BEING FAILED, SO WE FIND SOMETHING OR SOMEONE TO BLAME. Think of my watch as an example. I perceive the battery is failing me but a Montreal Canadian or Ottawa Senator fan would say it is not the battery but the team on the watch that is failing me.

Some people and somethings will always fail us. That is the reality of life because no one person nor one thing is perfect. Thankfully, God is the exception, and He is perfect. That is why when it comes to describing God's LOVE, we see a constant word in front of it – UNFAILING.

When I flipped through the concordance at the back of my Bible yesterday, I was surprised to discover that 23 different times in the Psalms the word “*unfailing*” is used to describe God's love. A lot of the Psalms are written by David. In 72 of the 150 Psalms there is mention about enemies. In the Bible, enemies are defined as anything that oppresses us or God's way of living. When David faced enemies, he always sought God's help, strength and guidance. Sometimes David had to endure his seasons of turmoil and struggle facing his enemies longer than he may have desired, but he always knew God's love would never fail him. It is this message David wanted people to know from his psalms.

Presently we are facing an enemy in Covid-19. It is an enemy unlike any we have faced in our lives. Right now, many people are focusing on blaming our leaders and our experts for failures and mistakes along the way. A lot of negative energy and emotion can be built up in us by just focusing our attention on who is to blame. Instead, we need to be focusing our attention right now on the One Person, and One Thing that *will never fail* us now or ever – God and His UNFAILING LOVE. If we keep our focus on God's UNFAILING LOVE, just like David, no matter how long or difficult this journey through Covid continues to be, we will be able to persevere and cope by being immersed in *Our Lord's LOVE*. In order to be reminded of this, try immersing yourself in reading the Psalms right now and each time you come across mention of God's UNFAILING LOVE, you will be able to pause and say,

AND YOUR LOVE GOD IS STILL UNFAILING AND KEEPS ME GOING

In a few short weeks the NHL playoffs will start, and we will know if my watch's failing to keep proper time was foreshadowing the Leafs failing to win another chance at a Stanley Cup. If they do win Lord's Stanley this year, Doug Ford better lift the restrictions so I can get my watch battery changed. I would hate to show up late to the parade!

God Bless and Keep Safe

Pastor Dean