

RUNNING OUT OF...!

Last Thursday I had a few things I needed to print off from my computer. When I clicked to print, a message appeared saying the printer was out of black ink. Thankfully I had a replacement cartridge of ink and replaced it. I clicked to print again, and this time I got a message saying the printer was out of paper too. Thankfully, I still had some paper left to put in the tray. I hit the print key again waiting to see what I might be out of next. I know I was running out of patience by this time. Sure enough, one more thing appeared. My printer was out of alignment, and I needed to perform a scan before I could resume printing again.

My printer was not the only thing telling me last week that I was running out of something. At basketball practice on Saturday, we were missing one player to scrimmage, so I stepped in as the fifth player. After running up and down the court for several minutes my assistant coach could see that I was running out of breath. Not even my mask covering my heavy breathing could prevent others from seeing this. Then on Sunday night my daughter showed me the math test she got back. Thankfully she got every answer right except one. As I looked over the math she is doing in Grade 10, I realized it is out of my ability and comprehension to be able to help her with some of it.

The theme *being out of* certainly came up often for me this past week. Discovering we might be out of ink or paper is not a major deal, but there are situations and scenarios in life when we might feel overwhelmed by running out of something. It can be worrisome to run out of things like:

- money
- strength and energy
- options and possibilities to turn things around
- food on our shelves and in our pantries
- patience with our family or certain individuals
- hope and optimism

It is never pleasant to run out of these or so many other things in life. A lot of people not only lose their patience in these situations but also their sense of hope. Thankfully with Jesus in our lives we ***never have to experience running out of hope.***

The many miracles that we see Jesus perform in the Bible should be proof enough that we never run out of hope with Him around. Take for instance the first recorded miracle when Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. The bride and groom had run out of wine for their guests. This would have caused this couple shame and embarrassment since showing guests hospitality was so important in those days.

When Mary became aware they were out of wine she turned to Jesus and sought His help. Mary did not fully know how Jesus would solve the problem here but trusted Him to deal with the crisis as He deemed fit. Mary's faith and trust in turning to Jesus when she discovered they were out of wine proved to be well placed. Jesus not only provided them with more wine, but it turned out to be the best that was served at the wedding.

Another miracle Jesus performed was for a woman who had run out of all options for healing when it came to her chronic bleeding problem. She had run out of most of her money going to various doctors to cure her. She had also run out of options of being healed by the medical community after 12 years. She had not run out of hope though. When Jesus came to her village, she believed if she just touched His robe, she would become better. As soon as she touched the robe, the bleeding stopped, and she was healed of this condition. Jesus confirmed that it was her faith that made her well. How fortunate for her she did not run out of hope and decided to turn to Jesus.

Shortly thereafter Jairus discovered this very same thing. His twelve-year-old daughter was gravely ill and dying. Just as Jesus finished talking to this woman who had been healed from her chronic bleeding, Jairus received news that his daughter had died. At this moment, he thought he was out of hope. Jesus said to him, ***Don't be afraid. Just have faith.*** When Jesus arrived at the house of Jairus, He took hold of the hand of the little girl and told her to get up. She sat up, and immediately began to walk around. Jesus encouraged Jairus not to give up hoping, and he discovered that his hope was well placed in Him.

These are just three miracles that Jesus performed in the Gospels. In the case of the newly married couple, they ran out of wine. For the woman with the chronic health issue, she ran out of means to be cured by the medical community at the time. Jairus thought he had run out of time to help his

daughter when news came of her death. No matter how minor or major a crisis may seem to us, we ***never have to run out of hope if we turn to Jesus and seek His help.*** Just like Mary did at the wedding, may we always trust that Jesus will do what He deems best. Just like the woman who suffered for 12 years, may we never lose hope and keep persevering. Just like Jairus, may we never lose faith knowing nothing is impossible for Jesus. We might run out of other things like I did with ink and paper for my printer, but thankfully hope is something we never have to worry about running out of with Jesus in our lives.

God Bless and Keep Safe

Pastor Dean