

TWO SHADOWS

***“How precious is your unfailing love, O God!
All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.”
(Psalm 36:7)***

I saw a unique experience for me one night recently as I was walking our dog Daisy. The moon was exceptionally bright that night as I walked with my back to it. I noticed it was casting not just one but two of my shadows. I can't recall another time when the light from either the moon or the sun cast two shadows. Maybe it has happened to me before and I didn't notice it. I definitely noticed my two shadows that night. The first moment I spotted them there was a smaller shadow just ahead of me followed by a much larger shadow directly ahead of it.

When I saw this, it reminded me of our life following Jesus. There Jesus is walking ahead of us and we are following Him in His shadow. After staring at this image for a few moments I turned the corner with Daisy and the two shadows changed in their appearance. The much larger shadow was still directly ahead of me, but the smaller shadow was now beside me no longer walking within the longer shadow. This change in location of the smaller shadow got me thinking how sometimes we choose not to follow Jesus and walk outside the shadow of His presence instead. By the time I turned the final corner and headed home, gone were the two shadows which were now replaced with just one.

As I said, if the moon and sun had ever cast two of my shadows before I never realized it. This moon-filled night reminded me of the two choices we can make in life:

- 1) To walk in the presence of Jesus' shadow and follow Him
- 2) Or to walk outside of the presence of His shadow.

The psalmist David encouraged us to walk in the shadow of God's presence. We first see this advice from David in *Psalm 17: 8*:

Guard me as you would guard your own eyes. Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

The shadow of God's wings was used by David as a figure of speech to symbolize God's protection by guarding us just like a mother bird would protect her young by covering them with her wings. David used this figure of speech to point out in this psalm how God protects us by guiding us through difficult circumstances in life.

David used this figure of speech again in Psalm 36: 7.

“How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings”.

Here David not only spoke about experiencing God's protection but also of His unfailing love in the shadow of His wings. These two psalms point out to us the blessings and care we experience if we choose to walk in God's shadow.

For the past nine months, Covid-19 has cast a shadow of fear, uncertainty, death, loss and worry upon us. Its shadow has reached all corners of the world and all aspects of life. Covid-19's shadow has cast itself on the young and the old, the healthy and the unhealthy, the rich and the poor, and the most powerful and the most vulnerable. Its shadow has been powerful over us, but it is nothing in comparison to being covered by God's shadow. As David pointed out in these two psalms, even in a difficult circumstance like we are facing right now, we can find protection, comfort and hope being in the presence of God's shadow.

Do you remember what I was reminded of with the appearance of my two shadows? It was a reminder of how we sometimes walk in the shadow of our Lord's presence and other times we choose to walk outside of it. As COVID-19 has cast its shadow, what decision have you been making through this time?

1) To walk in the shadow of God's presence

OR

2) To walk outside of His shadow and try to get through this on your own?

This is a choice we need to make with each step we take in life. Remember it was as I choose to turn a corner and go in a different direction that the second shadow turned from walking inside the other shadow to walking

outside of it. Some days we may be very good at choosing to walk in our Lord's shadow and other days we may choose to be outside of it. This journey we are on right now walking with the shadow of COVID-19 all around us is unlike any time we have experienced. If we have not been constantly doing this before, now more than ever, we need to choose to walk in the protection and care of God's shadow each day. This choice will give us the hope, the strength, and the peace we need to keep going and persevering.

When I started off walking Daisy that night, I never imagined I would see two shadows and be reminded of our journey with God. When I experienced this, I was not surprised, because when we walk in God's shadow we are constantly reminded of His presence and care.

God Bless and Keep Safe!

Pastor Dean

P.S. I can't remember if Daisy had two shadows.