

## WHAT I FIND

I went to Shoppers Drug Mart on Thursday to pick up a prescription for my mother, and when I got out of the car, I happened to find a nickel in the parking lot. It had been a while since I found any money on the ground. I used to find a lot of pennies left on the ground, but now that they are no longer in circulation that is not the case for me anymore. Naturally, the reason why I picked up the nickel and put it in my pocket was in order to clean up the parking lot and not for the gain it would provide to this cheap, frugal, Presbyterian minister's savings account.

Little did I realize at the time I picked that nickel up that God was using it to make His presence and help known to me a few days later. Early Monday morning I was beginning to ponder what my mid-week message would be. As I always do, I prayed and asked God for inspiration. After doing these weekly messages for almost three years now, I need all the inspiration I can get.

I was thinking about a few ideas for the message while I was walking our dog, Daisy. When we got back home, I came up our front steps and found another coin on the ground, just like I did on Thursday. This time it was not a nickel, but rather a penny. I had gone up and down those same steps probably five times the day before. If it was there, I did not see that penny any of those times. Yet, there it was, waiting to be found by me on Monday morning much to my surprise considering neither Nadine nor I carry any pennies with us anymore.

When I found the penny, I instantly remembered how on Thursday I had picked up the nickel thinking about how I no longer found pennies anymore. I realized right away this was all of God's doing in order to make His presence known to me and remind me He is always there to help me even when it comes to finding inspiration for these messages. If anyone is wondering if I picked the penny up, of course I did, for the same reasons I gave for the nickel.

With prices going up as they are I would not mind finding a few more nickels, dimes, quarters and loonies on the ground. While it is rare for me to find nickels or pennies on the ground anymore, I do find a lot of subtle signs like

this from God allowing me to see His presence and help in my life. During these past three years I have shared from time to time some of the subtle ways God has spoken to me and helped me to see He is there.

I am so appreciative of how God gives these subtle signs to us so we can see His presence and care for us. The question we need to ask ourselves is whether we are finding them and picking up on them when they do happen? Our ability to do this is dependent on how well we know and love God. David came to understand this as he grew in his understanding and love for God. In **Psalm 139** David revealed **four important attributes** that we need to know about God in order for us to see the subtle signs He may give us to make us aware of His loving care and presence. The four attributes he revealed were:

1. That God knows everything about us.

**O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. (Psalm 139:1-3)**

2. That God is always present with us.

**You go before me and follow me. I can never escape from Your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. (Psalm 139:5, 7-10)**

3. That God's character has gone into creating us.

**Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous— how well I know it. (Psalm 139:14)**

4. That God is constantly thinking about us.

**How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! (Psalm 39: 17)**

David came to know and love these four very important attributes about God. By knowing God in each of these ways **David had a sense of assurance and confidence** because he knew no matter what blessing or challenge a day might bring, God was very much present and that he was never far away from His comforting presence.

It truly is very reassuring knowing like I did when I found those two coins that they were signs that God's comforting presence is never far away. I find by seeing these signs each day I never feel overwhelmed by situations that may arise in ministry, coaching basketball, parenting, or in other aspects of my life. I know that God is very much near and will be there to reassure me with his help when I need it, even if it is coming up with an idea for a mid-week message on Monday morning.

In this season of Lent, let's make sure that we fully come to know these four attributes about God in our heart of hearts. Once we have done this, then let's be on the lookout to find the subtle signs that God is sending to show us His comforting help and presence. It may not be a nickel or penny we may find, but once we see that sign, we will know and smile realizing God is very much present.

And, if anyone does happen to see somebody picking up a coin from a parking lot, it might just be this friendly, cheap, and frugal pastor doing his part to clean up the parking lot.

Keep Safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean