

COVERED WITH ANSWERED PRAYER

Some Monday mornings I am still unsure about a topic for my mid-week message. Whenever I find myself in this situation I always pray and ask God to reveal to me what message He wants shared for that week. This was the case for me early Monday morning as I was preparing breakfast for the family. Shortly after I finished praying, I opened the fridge door to discover God answered the prayer in a “splashing” way, so to speak. A partially drunk cup of Tim Horton’s tea was sitting on the top shelf of the fridge. This is not a typo I have made here. This was a cup of tea that my wife had not finished over the weekend. If it had been a large double-double coffee, then it would have been finished pretty quickly.

I was trying to be careful as I was reaching for some fruit inside the fridge, but I must have slightly knocked the cup and before I could react, my shorts, socks, and the front of the fridge and floor were covered in tea. As I got down on my hands and knees to clean up the mess covering the front of the fridge and floor, I realized God had just given me an answer to prayer for my mid-week message.

I have come to be known as a messy person by my wife and daughter. It is quite obvious to both of them whenever they, at times, look at food stains covering my shirt and pants. Sometimes they spot remnants of my peanut butter and jam sandwich from lunch having stained my shirt. Other times they will see a coffee stain covering a portion of my shirt because I missed my mouth taking a sip. Last week they also saw a stain on my white shirt from my efforts at making chili. A day hardly goes by when my clothes are not covered with food stains.

It is not just food stains that can cover us but also those that come about as a result of sin. We remember how Adam and Eve found themselves covered with the stains of sin after they ate the fruit from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Stained with shame and guilt, Adam and Eve covered their nakedness with fig leaves and tried to cover their fear by hiding from God. We know they had to leave the Garden of Eden because they were covered with the stain of sin, but in an act of care and compassion God made them proper clothes out of animal skins. God also expressed this same care and compassion by covering the stains of our sins with Jesus’ blood on the cross so that we could be forgiven and have our relationship restored with Him.

Since the time when Christ covered our sins on the cross, some people have chosen to cover themselves with a veil preventing them from seeing and

reflecting the glory of God. This is a point that the apostle Paul made to believers in his second letter to the church in Corinth. Paul reminded his readers of the time when Moses covered his face with a veil when carrying down the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai after spending time in the presence of God. Moses put the veil on to keep people from being terrified by the brightness of his face and seeing the radiance slowly fade away. Paul used this illustration of the veil to describe how people can be before they turn to have a relationship with the Lord. Paul described how attitudes such as pride, or a hardness of the heart, or a refusal to repent can act as a veil separating people from believing in Christ fully. Paul continued with the illustration of the veil to describe those who eventually turn to the Lord:

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So, all of us who have had the veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord -who is the Spirit- makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image. (2 Cor. 3: 16-18)

Hopefully we have fully removed that veil which might be separating us from seeing and reflecting the glory of God in its fulness. When we have fully removed this veil:

- We start becoming more like Him, by gazing at the nature of God with unveiled minds.
- We begin to be transformed morally and spiritually by gazing at the truths of Christ with unveiled biases.
- We understand how wonderful Christ is and our need to follow Him, by looking at His life through unveiled eyes.

Let's make sure we have removed all veils that might be covering our hearts and minds so we can see and reflect the glory of the Lord in our daily living.

God covered my need for an idea for a midweek message by relying on my messy nature. As I was about to finish typing the last line to this message, I noticed a stain on my shirt I must have acquired eating lunch earlier. I am sure my wife and daughter will not be surprised to see it when they get home.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean