

Enjoy

I have not been enjoying the first week of my preferred Tim Horton's location being closed for renovations. Usually, I can leave my house and grab my morning coffee in about ten minutes time because it is so close to where I live. For the past week I have had to drive much farther in order to get my morning coffee at a Tims location, and it is now taking me 20 minutes to return home with my beverage in hand.

This added time required to get a coffee has also been cutting down on me enjoying more than just one cup from there in a day. Yes, I am guilty most days of running over to my nearby Tim Hortons during the afternoon or after supper and treating myself to a second, and sometimes a third cup of coffee. I felt a bit deprived last week of this convenience.

I have also not enjoyed that the renovations have been affecting the pleasure I receive interacting with the staff and regulars at my nearby Tims. I am still polite and courteous with the employees at the other location, but I am not as engaged in having conversations with them as I am at my preferred store.

I think God was seeing that I was not enjoying my experiences at this other location, so He drew my attention to something an employee said in order to bring some joy back. Last Thursday when one of the employees handed me my coffee, he caught me by surprise when he said, **"I hope you enjoy it."** I have had waitresses say this to me when they have brought food to my table, but I cannot recall having somebody at Tim Hortons ever make this comment to me. I was so caught off guard when he said this, I responded by saying, **"Same to you."**

As I walked out of the store, I realized my response was not appropriate, but his comment got me thinking about how rare it is for me not to enjoy a coffee from Tims. The only time I do not enjoy a large double-double is if it is not hot enough, or they have forgotten to stir it and I do not taste the sugar until I get to the very bottom of the cup. The employee's comment stuck with me over the next few days, and it was during that time frame when I realized God wanted me to hear those words in order to realize how He desires for us to enjoy the things He makes for us.

As our Creator, God desires that we enjoy the many things He provides. One place we see this in Scripture is in Deuteronomy 6:1-2:

These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, and you and your children and

grandchildren must fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you obey all His decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life.

As the Israelites were about to experience the gift God was giving them of entering into the Promised Land, He had Moses share with the people how He wanted them to enjoy the experience to the fullest. The best way the Israelites would enjoy this gift they were being given was to respect and love the Lord their God from generation to generation, and to obey His commandments in how they lived each day. In the New Testament Peter also shared how it was God's desire for us to enjoy the life He has given us.

If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good. Search for peace and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and His ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns His face against those who do evil. (1 Peter 3:10-12)

According to Peter the key for believers to enjoy life requires controlling one's tongue, turning away from evil and following what God declares as good, actively pursuing peace by building good relationships, and being open with Him in prayer. Scripture makes it very clear how God desires for us to enjoy the good things He has given us in our lives. As He provides us with each of these things, just like the employee did with me at Tim Hortons, God is saying to us, "**Enjoy!**"

The question my experience last week at Tim Hortons should inspire us to reflect upon is whether we are truly enjoying the good things that God has given to us? If we are not enjoying the things God has given to us, we are disappointing Him as a result. We would feel disappointed if we gave a gift to somebody and they were not experiencing the joy we hoped it would bring. If we are not experiencing the joy that should come from the good gifts God has given to us, we need to examine Peter's words carefully to see if any of the conditions he has listed are missing from our walk with the Lord. A few changes on our part may be all that we need to bring much more joy to our lives, and a smile to God's face in seeing our happiness.

I still have about nine more days to go until my preferred Tim Hortons location will be reopened. Until then I may not enjoy the added time it takes, and may miss seeing familiar staff and faces, but I still have the pleasure of sipping from a large double-double each morning. Thank goodness for that.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean