SIGNS EVERYWHERE

During the past months I have been noticing a lot of signs on display for candidates running in the municipal elections. On some lawns I have seen multiple signs indicating who that homeowner intends to vote for as mayor, for council in their ward, and even their choice for school trustee. These signs have not only been displayed on people's lawns, but I have spotted them at intersections around town where the candidates know a high volume of traffic might see them. A few candidates have also purchased billboard space promoting their candidacy. Signs of this week's municipal election were also evident to me when I came home to find campaign literature left in my door or in my mailbox. I have even had a few text messages appear on my phone from candidates looking for my support.

We often see a saturation of signs when it comes to an election regardless of whether it is municipal, provincial, or federal. After the election is over most of these signs will be taken down, but others will continue to be displayed. For instance, we will still see signs on display boards advertising upcoming events. We will also see signs in front of grocery stores like No Frills advertising some of the specials that can be purchased that week. For-sale signs will still appear on people's lawns as well as signs indicating an open house that will happen that weekend. We will also see signs on people's lawns that their grass has just been sprayed, or advertising that some contractor has just installed a new roof or furnace. If anyone comes to my front door, they will still see a sign indicating that Montreal Canadiens fans must come to the back door and not use the front. Many signs will remain, but now that the election is over all of the political signs that have been prominent these past several weeks will be coming down.

As I thought about these political signs having to come down it reminded me of Jesus' disciples asking Him what signs would be seen indicating His second coming. Perhaps the reason it reminded me of this is because somebody asked me recently this same question. In Mark 13:24-27, Jesus shared the signs that would indicate His return:

At that time after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in heaven will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. And He will send out His angels to gather His chosen ones from all over the world- from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

Based on Jesus' description here, the signs will be quite clear for all to see on the day that He does return again. Jesus also made it clear that only the Father knows the time when this will take place.

Until that day, what is important for us as believers is to watch for the signs each day of our Lord's ongoing presence in our lives. This is something that David came to understand and saw as a true gift that flowed from knowing God. He described the impact of seeing signs of God's presence in His life in these verses from the Psalms:

You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You go before me and follow me. You place Your hand of blessing on my head. I can never escape from Your Spirit! I can never get away from Your presence. 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 139:3,5,7,9-10).

David was able to see signs of God's presence everywhere he went. Seeing these signs provided David with comfort, assurance, and strength daily. The more we come to know God better like David did, the more we too will be able to see signs of His constant presence in our lives and experience these same blessed assurances.

With the election now over, we will see many of the signs in support of various candidates begin to come down. As we see this begin to unfold, may it remind us, as we await Jesus' return one day, to keep looking for those signs on an everyday basis that reveal God is with us.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean