



Pastor Hanke's Blog

January 27, 2019

Passing Through the Midst

Bible Reference: Luke 4:16-30

Who or what is chasing after you these days? It could be a job that just doesn't fit you. It could be one of your children who can't seem to get it together. Maybe it's a relative or a friend always asking for money, or a car that has issue after issue. It could be illness that never leaves you alone, fear that pops up at all the wrong times, or an addiction that plagues you. There could be numerous things "chasing us" at any given time.

One of the toughest challenges I face in ministry, or what is often chasing me, is when others are being negative. I know we have to be realistic, but being realistic and being negative are not the same thing. You can have one without the other. If I had my way, people would be optimistic rather than pessimistic and negative. I know we are all built differently, but as Christians, even when life looks bleak we can live with the hope that Jesus gives us. That is what I choose to do, and I wish more people would make that same choice.

Jesus faced the tough reality of what (or who) would chase Him His whole ministry—doubters who wanted to kill him. In our Gospel reading this week we see how an angry mob drove Jesus out of town and led Him to the top of a cliff with the intent to kill Him. But the Bible also says Jesus left "passing through their midst." Think back to the crossing of the Red Sea and how God allowed the people to pass through the midst of the waters. I know God gives us His grace to pass through the midst of what is chasing us too. This weekend will take time to work through that means, and ask how we can continually live like people passing through the midst of what is chasing us.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will