



Pastor Hanke's Blog

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The Place You Never Wanted to Leave

Bible Reference: Matthew 17:1-7

I always thought the place I would never want to leave would be California. I was programmed to think that way from shows like *Saved by the Bell*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, and many others that revealed this world I only dreamed of. These places were obviously superior to Blue Springs, MO.

Chicago was my first stop in the process of finding the place I never wanted to leave. I went there for college, and made many wonderful memories as I got to spend time with my Aunt, Uncle and cousin, whom I dearly loved. Chicago had its moments of glory and times I didn't want to leave, but it also had bottom of the mountain moments I would love to forget.

My next stop was St. Louis as I began Seminary. I did not anticipate that this would be a place I never wanted to leave. Like Chicago, St. Louis had its good moments, but it also had many others I was ready to part from. (Little did I know...but that is jumping ahead. Let's continue with the story.)

My anticipation was high when I said I wanted to be outside the Midwest for my internship (vicarage). I hoped I was going to land on one of the coasts, but instead I landed in the south—Chattanooga, TN. Definitely not where I thought I was going to go. Chattanooga had a ton of moments I never wanted to leave, but in the end I was ready to move on, finish up my seminary work, and become a pastor.

Then it finally happened—I got the chance to interview with a church in California. I was convinced this was the place I would *never* want to leave. I even convinced Mindy not to worry; that she was going to love it too. And California...well it had its moments like all those other places, but it never lived up to what I imagined it would be as I watch those shows as a kid. Disappointing.

Our reading this week talks about the place you truly never want to leave, and it is not the perfect destination spot, rather it is on top of a hot mountain. What made this mountain so great was that Jesus was there. Peter, James and John got away from the pains of sin and saw the glory of God! They never wanted to leave! I believe those moments happen for all of us. They are not just in one part of the country, but they can exist everywhere, even on a dusty, hot mountain. This week we will talk about why they didn't want to go back down the mountain, what the Glory of God is, and how we can look for those special moments in our lives. See you Sunday.

God's Peace,
Pastor Will